

CTSC 5761 Evidence-Based Medicine for Clinical Researchers

Faculty: Victor M. Montori, M.D. and M. Hassan Murad, M.D.

Credits: 1

Quarter: Spring

Prerequisites: CTSC 5300, 5310 and 5600

Overview

This workshop-formatted course addresses a critical need of clinical researchers seeking an easier translation of their research findings into improved quality of care and patient outcomes; that is, an understanding of how the users of research need to know how to translate clinical research evidence into practice. At the end of the course, students will be familiar enough with the principles of evidence-based medicine to formulate how these apply to the planning and conduct of research. Students will be able to discuss such emergent topics as comparative effectiveness research, patient-important outcomes, practical vs. mechanistic trials, surrogate markers and composite endpoints, stopping trials early, and quality of evidence implications for clinical policy. This course is especially helpful to students who have conducted research and have completed the design of one or more studies.

Objectives

- To learn to incorporate the needs of evidence users (stakeholders such as patient, care giver, clinician and policy maker) into their own future research
- To appreciate that studies are not “good or bad” but rather a gradient of confidence in the results exist
- To be able to articulate the rationale for this gradient based on study risk of bias/applicability and independent from the results

Evaluation

Students are required to be in class and ready to discuss the day’s topic at each session. Half of the course grade will be based on participation and attendance. The remainder of the course grade will be based on a student-prepared, journal-ready essay based on a new problem or a new solution to an identified problem in the planning, execution, dissemination of clinical research, or in the path to implantation of research findings into clinical practice. Students will be asked to present their essay to the class and instructors.

Students should expect to spend approximately two to four hours of time per week on this 1-credit course.

For specific dates and times this course is provided, please see the [quarterly detailed course schedule](#).