

## Instructional Offering Jan - Mar 2018

### Office of Faculty Development, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

#### “Biomedical and Scientific Writing: A Course for Junior Faculty”

**Instructor: Dr. Sarah Poynton, Dept. Molecular and Comparative Pathobiology, JHU SOM**

#### **Description**

Excellent publications are the foundation for competitive funding proposals and promotion. However, there is no in-depth course currently offered at the Johns Hopkins University SOM targeted to these learners. The OFD, with support from TM, has previously offered biomedical and scientific writing courses for junior faculty in 2014, 2016, and 2017, taught by Dr. Sarah Poynton. The courses have been well appreciated, and a course is needed for 2018.

The course will encompass classes and assignments to promote excellence in biomedical and scientific writing. Classes will comprise didactic elements, small group work, and class critique. Each assignment will comprise writing a section of a research paper, and reviewing a section written by a class partner. All texts will be reviewed and edited by the instructor. During the course, each participant will write the first draft of a research paper for submission to a peer-reviewed journal.

#### **Objectives**

The course will (i) significantly increase the participant’s skills in writing a research paper for submission to a peer-reviewed journal, (ii) strengthen the participant’s skills in giving constructive critique to their peers, and (iii) address publication ethics.

#### **Behaviors impacted**

(i) recognizing differences between good and excellent scholarly writing, (ii) understanding the importance and mechanisms of presenting work from the audience’s perspective, (iii) writing an informative title, effective abstract, persuasive introduction, clear methods and results, and stimulating discussion, (iv) implementing basic editing skills, (v) giving and receiving constructive critique, and (vi) successfully navigating the peer-review system.

#### **Length**

There will be 8 classes, each of 2 hours duration, thus a total of 16 hrs of participant/instructor contact time.

#### **Dates, time, and location**

Dates: Class will meet on Tuesdays. Part I: Jan 16, Jan 23, Jan 30, Feb 6. Part II: Feb 27, March 6, March 13, March 20.

Time: 12.00 noon – 2.00 pm.

Location: Room 801, Edward D. Miller Research Building, Johns Hopkins East Baltimore Medical Campus.

#### **Operational support**

None needed.

#### **Enrollment**

Enrollment will be limited to eight participants.

#### **Instructor**

The instructor is Dr. Sarah Poynton, Associate Professor, Department of Molecular and Comparative Pathobiology (SOM) (primary), and Art as Applied to Medicine (secondary). Her publications span peer-reviewed publications, book chapters, and two text books (one published, and one in progress). She is the instructor for the “Biomedical Writing” course in the GTPCI program, and is a member of the Editing Referral Service at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Dr. Poynton received the Ranice W. Crosby Distinguished Achievement Award for dedication to mentoring at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Poynton holds a part time faculty appointment, and will be instructor for this course in addition to her usual duties. Her instructional fee is provided in the “Total cost of the course” section below.

#### **Total cost of the course**

Cost is \$5,104 = 88 hours x \$58 / hour. Time = 16 hrs class contact + 8 hrs class prep + 64 hrs marking (8 hrs/participant)

#### **Comments from students taking Dr. Poynton’s writing courses**

“Materials are great resources that I plan to use throughout my career.” “I love the class interactions. I never feel intimidated.” “We have established that there can be artful writing in scientific articles. I have always thought of writing as a very dry endeavor.” “I very much appreciated the close analysis.” “Thank you SOOOO much for this amazing course...have definitely improved my writing”.