



IPH | Institute of Public Health

Intensive Short Course: Bill Miller - Scientific Writing September 23-25, 2024

Lecturer:

William (Bill) Miller, MD, PhD, MPH, is a Professor in the Department of Epidemiology at the [Gillings School of Global Public Health](#) at the [University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill](#).

Bill is an infectious diseases epidemiologist and was also trained as an infectious diseases physician. His own research has focused on HIV, sexually transmitted infections, and substance use. He is editor-in-chief of the journal [Sexually Transmitted Diseases](#) and until recently was associate editor of *Epidemiology*. He is the past president of the [Society for Epidemiologic Research](#).

Bill has taught scientific writing for more than 20 years. He has taught writing for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Centers for AIDS Research, and the HIV Prevention Trials Network. He has also led global writing workshops in Germany, Malawi, China, and Vietnam.



Course Description and Learning Objectives:

This course is designed to improve the participants' scientific writing. The focus will be on manuscripts for publication, but the principles apply to all forms of scientific writing. The objectives of this course are to:

- Understand the components of typical scientific publications and maximize the potential for communicating a study's results effectively.
- Improve the writing style to enhance communication, focusing on writing clearly and concisely.
- Identify ways to improve the participant's writing effectiveness.
- Understand the editorial and review process of journals, including responding to reviews and giving strong reviews as a reviewer.

Audience:

This course is designed for researchers, clinicians, public health professionals, and doctoral and masters students who wish to publish in English-language academic journals. The course will be taught in English.

Prerequisites:

1. **Participants should bring their own manuscripts that they are working on:** just started, drafts completed, or nearly finished - any status is acceptable. Participants without a manuscript to work on can consider bringing a grant application or conference abstract.
2. Pre-course assignment (complete details will be made available to confirmed participants): Identify two papers of interest to you in the scientific literature that have the following characteristics:
 - A paper that was particularly well-written
 - A paper that was poorly written

Preliminary Schedule:

	Monday, Sep 23	Tuesday, Sep 24	Wednesday, Sep 25
Mornings (9:00-12:00)	It all starts with a question: Developing your research question	Writing for clarity	Getting the writing done!
	Why we write; Manuscript structure		Editorial Process: what to expect
12:00-13:00	Lunch Break		
Afternoons (13:00-16:00)	Research question exercises and discussion; Discussion of manuscript examples	Clarity exercises and discussion; Applying what you've learned to your own manuscripts	
	Short talks, Long talks, Job talks; AKA the challenge of giving a talk at the end of the day	Own manuscripts continued; Peer review and feedback	

Location: Charité Campus Mitte (exact location tba)

Fees and Registration:

- ECTS points: 1.5
- Course Fees:
 - € 255 reduced fee (students, Charité researchers, BSPH alumni)
 - € 375 regular fee
- Please register using the following link: <https://forms.office.com/e/NM6yLZR Vip>