**UCSF Department of Surgery Scientific Writing Course – Winter 2021**

**8 Wednesdays (Jan 13-Mar 3) via Zoom**

**4-5:30 PM**

The Department of Surgery’s Scientific Writing Course is intended for UCSF faculty, postdoctoral fellows and residents *whose research focus is in the biological sciences and clinical/translational medicine.*The course objective is to learn and practice specific ways to marshal the details of a biomedical research paper or grant proposal into a clear, concise, and comprehensible story that will be understandable to an interdisciplinary readership (papers), or meet the agency's review criteria (proposals).

The course covers the building blocks of writing: effective word choice, sentence structure, paragraph structure, organization of ideas, the structure of the parts of a biomedical research paper, and the ins and out of peer review.  The course is developmental—later concepts (for the parts of the paper) build on earlier concepts (word choice, sentence structure, paragraph structure). *Therefore, to benefit from the course, participants are expected to attend all 8 sessions (special arrangements can be made to miss at most 2 sessions).*Two sessions are spent on how to apply those same concepts to writing grant proposals.

Didactic material is based on the assigned textbook, with additional clinical and basic science examples. *Participants are expected to revise examples of unclear writing, including parts of their own manuscript-in-progress, if they have one (time needed for homework: about 1 -1.5 h per class meeting).*

*There is no fee for researchers in the UCSF Department of Surgery*. Enrollment is limited to 20**.**

To apply for the course **please complete the application below and submit a writing sample (described below) by Dec 1, 2020** to: pamela.derish@ucsf.edu.

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                           **I.** **APPLICATION FORM  (please fill out completely)**

Date:

Name:

Degree(s):  \_\_\_ MD,      \_\_\_\_ PhD,      \_\_\_\_ other (please specify)

Native language(s):

Type of research that you do (e.g., clinical, basic science, behavioral):

Position at UCSF:    \_\_\_ faculty, \_\_\_ post-doctoral fellow, \_\_\_ resident,  \_\_\_\_ other (please specify)\_\_\_\_\_

Department:  \_\_\_\_ Surgery                     \_\_\_\_ other (please specify)

Research director:

Research director’s department and division:

How did you hear about the course?

\_\_\_ Mentor \_\_\_ Word of Mouth \_\_\_\_ other (please specify)

\_\_\_\_\_This is my last chance to take this course because:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_I may have to miss the following classes (dates):

\_\_\_\_\_Writing Sample attached.

\_\_\_\_\_Writing Sample e-mailed separately (required in order to be considered for the course)

Anything else I should know about your application (e.g., if you’ve applied before and could not get a spot, please indicate here):

**II.  WRITING SAMPLE**

I must receive a writing sample to consider you for the course. This sample should be **2 paragraphs of a Results section** **of a scientific research paper that *you have written 100% by yourself****.* If you do not have a sample of a Results section, you **may substitute an abstract** (entire abstract please), but again, *it must be 100% written by yourself*.  The writing sample allows me to determine if the course will be a good fit for you.

**The sample should**:

  \* Preferably be for a paper you are working on now or will work on soon.

  \* Show the best you can do on your own.   (Do not send a first draft.)

Please save it as a Word document, attached to your e-mail when you send me your enrollment form, or send it as a separate e-mail **by Dec 1, 2020**: pamela.derish@ucsf.edu.