

DATA FOR HEALTH INITIATIVE

Scientific Communications

As part of the Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative, the CDC Foundation offers scientific communications (SC) training. The training aims to enhance the scientific writing and communication skills of current and future in-country public health officials, equipping them to effectively publish and disseminate their findings through scientific manuscripts, abstracts and presentations to support public health action.

WORKSHOP MENTORS AND PARTICIPANTS

The training is delivered in a workshop format. It engages in-country subject matter experts who serve as writing coaches and mentors for SC workshop participants. Mentors regularly deliver SC workshops in manuscript and abstract writing, literature review, the manuscript submission and revision process, ethics and data visualization. Other topics include visual communication (e.g., how to craft posters and slides) and oral communication (e.g., how to deliver presentations). The goal of the training is to strengthen governments' capacity to communicate data effectively to their stakeholders.

SC training participants include residents from field epidemiology training programs, and staff from ministries of health, universities and non-governmental organizations, whose job responsibilities include drafting manuscripts and abstracts or developing presentations.

MENTOR SKILLS REQUIREMENTS

Education

- Doctorate, medical degree, or equivalent in a scientific field (such as epidemiology, biology or medicine) from an accredited university in-country or abroad
- At least two years of teaching experience

Skills and qualifications

- Knowledgeable in scientific research, writing and publishing (preferably in epidemiology)
- Experienced classroom trainer
- Experienced mentor (e.g., has supervised students' writing projects such as dissertations)
- Published author (two or more first-authored scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals)
- Currently residing in the country where the training occurs

TRAINING COMPONENTS

Phase 1: Training-of-trainers (TOT) workshop

Mentors attend a four-day TOT workshop where they review and teach back the content of the SC workshop that they will later facilitate. They also learn the concepts of adult learning, instructional strategies, coaching and mentoring.

Phase 2: SC course delivery

Mentors conduct the SC workshop for selected participants. The delivery of the course typically occurs one month after the TOT. A CDC Foundation expert is present to assist and evaluate the mentors during the course delivery.

Phase 3: Mentorship

During the workshop, each mentor is paired with course participants for the mentoring phase. Mentors work closely with their mentees, coaching them as they draft and submit their manuscript in national and international peer-reviewed scientific journals and national public health bulletins, or submit their abstracts or presentations to conferences.