

Course Syllabus The Grant Generating Project

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Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, GGP Fellows should be able to develop and describe an integrated research project or program relevant to primary care research. This will include being able to effectively communicate a research agenda in various formats from written to oral for a range of audiences with varying levels of research experience.

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Demonstrate increased competency in scientific communications
- Apply techniques and methods to develop a scientific protocol in health research that is appropriate for submission to a funding agency

Instructional Method

This is a blended learning course meaning that portions of the course will be completed online at the Fellow's convenience and portions will be conducted in-person (either face-to-face or virtually) with the Course Directors and Faculty Mentors. Fellows are expected to be active participants for the in-person sessions as well as the online discussion forums through NAPCRG Connect. Online materials will be provided through the NAPCRG member portal learning management system.

Course Evaluation

Evaluation will be based on completion of each online module, participation in the in-person sessions and completion of the milestones.

Course Administration

To ensure flexibility to address changing circumstances, our in-person sessions will enable people to attend virtually if need be. You will need a mic, camera and reliable Wi-Fi. We strongly encourage Fellows to attend NAPCRG even if it is a virtual conference. If you face travel restrictions in 2026 or 2027, we will allow participants to attend virtually. **Note that all times are EST.** GGP Fellows who complete the course will have access to that year's material after the course completion. If a Fellow has not self-selected a mentor, one will be assigned. Mentors should be met with formally at least 6 times during the year. Specific questions can be addressed by making an appointment with a Course Director or an assigned GGP Faculty Mentor.

Virtual Meetings

August 5, 2026 – 12:30 – 2:00 pm EST – Orientation/Touchpoint

October 21, 2026 - 12:30 – 2:00 pm EST –Q&A

March 24, 2027 - 12:30 – 2:00 pm EST – Q&A

May 12, 2027 - 12:30 – 2:00 pm EST – Q&A

Online Course Schedule

Note that all Inaugural Fellows should repeat the first six modules using feedback from the first in-person session. Milestones marked with an “*” indicate recommended meeting topics/times/materials for mentor feedback.

Suggested Dates	Module Title	Module Details	Milestones
Aug 19 <i>Repeat by Jan 27</i>	1 Effective Writing Strategies	How to conceptualize a research problem, overcoming writers block, critical thinking, organization, avoiding jargon	1-page conceptualization of research
Sep 9 <i>Repeat by Feb 17</i>	2 Knowledge Translation / Dissemination	understanding the dissemination phase of evidence production and how this impacts protocol writing	Identification of end-users, decision about research partners, draft of dissemination plan
Sep 30 <i>Repeat by Mar 17</i>	3 Development of Research Question	defence/explanation of research paradigms, building the research question and understanding the difference between question, objectives, link with hypothesis	Research objectives and preliminary research questions*
Oct 21 <i>Repeat by April 14</i>	4 Conducting Literature Reviews	concept vs problems, identifying gaps, keys to literature reviews, building a search strategy	Literature review for protocol, finalized research objectives and questions
Nov 11 <i>Repeat by May 5</i>	5 Writing the Methods Section	identifying methods that answers research question, use of theoretical models and framework, different sections, justifications	First draft completed protocol with background, objectives, research question(s) and methods*

Suggested Dates	Module Title	Module Details	Milestones
May 19	6 Other Grant Sections	understanding spin, understanding what your study will and will not contribute, having a plan b for negative results etc.	Limitations and Implications sections
Jun 23	7 Building a Timeline	how to develop a timeline and calculate resources, calculating time needed	Timeline attached to protocol objectives and methods with feedback incorporated*
Jul 28	8 How to Create a Budget	building a budget for Canada and the US granting opportunities	Budget attached to protocol objectives and methods
Aug 25	9 Creating a CV	Biosketch and CV's	CV/Biosketch Description of where the protocol will be submitted with title of grant and abstract/summary
Sep 29	10 Adapting to Granting Agency Requirements	modifying the revised protocol to a specify granting agency application with specific modules for AI/ML applicants	Complete grant application with all sections required by the granting agency and description of funding opportunity you are applying for*
Oct 20	11 Reviewing Grants	Instructions on how to review a grant	Send your protocol to your assigned reviewers. Complete the review of the grant from one of your peers to bring to the in-person session.

Session II: NAPCRG Pre-Conference Course November 20, 2026, Toronto, Ontario
Session IV: NAPCRG Pre-Conference Course November 13, 2027, Vancouver, BC

9:00 – 9:30 Introductions and Icebreaker

9:30 – 11:00 am Peer-Review Activity (*Inaugural GGP Fellows*)

Each Fellow will be assigned a partner who is another Fellow. They will each receive the draft grant protocol of their assigned partner at the beginning of the day – PLEASE BRING A HARD COPY OF YOUR PROTOCOL. In this exercise, they are expected to draft the blank tables of results or table of expected themes (depending on methods) from the draft protocol they are provided with. They will spend 45 minutes each (for a total of 90 minutes) reviewing and asking their partner for any information that they felt was missing or unclear for producing the blank tables/anticipated results. The author of the protocol is not allowed to “present” their grant but only to respond to the questions from their partner. This will highlight logic/information gaps that still exist in protocol and the research objectives/questions.

9:30 – 11:00 am Peer-Review Activity (*Graduating GGP Fellows*)

Fellows will meet with Course Director(s) and Faculty Mentor to hear about their experiences obtaining funding. This will be followed by an open Q&A for any outstanding questions before protocol submission.

11:00 – 11:15 am – bio break

11:15 - 12:30 pm Peer-Reflective Consultations (Participation of all Fellows)

Fellows will break into groups of three. Each triad will engage in a reflective exercise that follows the same 30-minute structure. At the end of the first 30 minutes, the next fellow will become the presenter. Every triad will be a mix of inaugural and graduating GGP Fellows.

1. A 7-minute presentation will be given by Fellow 1 that briefly states their research objective and then presents what challenges they have faced in developing their protocol. During the presentation, the other Fellows will listen and cannot interrupt the presentation or ask questions of the presenter.
2. After the presentation, Fellow 2 and Fellow 3 will take turns asking questions of Fellow 1 for a total of 10 minutes. The presenter will answer questions as briefly as possible.
3. Fellow 2 and Fellow 3 will then discuss the challenges as they understand it while Fellow 1 listens for 10 minutes. This gives an opportunity for the presenter, Fellow 1, to reflect on the interaction without the pressure of having to respond to ideas at that time. The task for the “consultants”, Fellow 2 and Fellow 3, is to generate ideas, solutions, opinions, options, etcetera. Fellow 2 and 3 should NOT

ask questions of Fellow 1. The task for Fellow 1 will be to listen to the reflecting conversation and note ideas that might be worth trying.

4. In a final step, Fellow 1 will reflect for 3 minutes to Fellow 2 and 3 on his/her experience of listening to their conversation and to identify three things that stood out for her/him.

This exercise is repeated until each Fellow in the triad has a chance to be the presenter.

12:30 – 1:00 pm – Bio break/lunch

1:00 – 2:30 pm Dragons’ Den aka Sharks’ Tank (Participation of all Fellows)

In the afternoon each of the inaugural Fellows will “pitch” their grant application idea in a Dragons’ Den format. The Fellow will present a 3-minute “pitch”. This will be followed by one question each from the “Dragons” for maximum of 6 minutes. The “Dragons” will declare if they would have funded the “pitch” or allowed it past the LOI stage (6 minute). At least one “Dragon” will be a course faculty who is an experienced researcher with the graduating Fellows acting as “Dragons”. Unlike the famous TV Dragons, they will be a source of constructive feedback. Inaugural Fellows will take turns as a note taker for the Fellow who is pitching their grant idea.

2:30 – 4:00 pm Peer Review Panel / Mock Study Section (Participation of all Fellows)

Each Graduating Fellow will have an expert reviewer assigned to their grant as well as one of their Fellows. Fellows will be divided into two groups to run a mock peer review / study section (if enough Fellows). The reviewers will score the grant and provide reviews to be discussed at the meeting. This will be Chaired by the Course Director(s) with Inaugural Fellows taking turns to act as scientific officer. If possible, a community member will provide feedback on each grant. The Graduating Fellows will be asked to vote on each application and will have access to the grants during the committee discussions. The feedback from the reviewers, the other Fellows and the scientific officer will be provided to each Fellow one week after the in-person session.

4:00 – 5:00 Course Assessment

The day will wrap up with an open Q & A session for the Fellows to the Faculty and Course Director(s). The Fellows will be expected to incorporate the feedback in their protocol. Graduating Fellows will complete written surveys and discuss what they appreciated about the course and what needs to be changed or modified for the following year. Achievement of learning objectives will be evaluated.