

# Summer School

## The Art of Academic Writing

*“from Grant writing to manuscript”*



*An initiative of University of Ghana & Amsterdam University Medical Center, University of Amsterdam*



Monday, 28 July to Friday 1 August, 2025

VENUE: International House, University of Ghana, Accra, Ghana

## Organizing committee

*Prof. Jemima Asabea Anderson, Dean of International Programs, University of Ghana.*

*Prof. Margaret Lartey, Professor of Medicine, Medical School, College of Health Sciences, University of Ghana*

*Prof. Charles Agyemang, Professor of Global Migration, Ethnicity & Health, Amsterdam UMC, University of Amsterdam*

*Dr. Erik Beune, Assistant Professor, Dept. Public and Occupational Health, Amsterdam UMC, University of Amsterdam*

## Background

The Summer School: "The Art of Academic Writing" is an initiative of the University of Ghana and the Amsterdam University Medical Center (*Amsterdam UMC*), University of Amsterdam. The course focuses on developing faculty members, postdocs, postgraduate physicians with research ambitions and PhD students into independent investigators. The course is one week, full time, on site in Accra, Ghana.

The academic environment is becoming increasingly competitive. Faculty members and postgraduate students are expected to provide high quality scientific output (e.g. publications, reports). These publications do not only help to advance knowledge but have also become an essential criterium for faculty members' career development. The well-known slogan '*Publish or Perish*' says it all! For many faculty members it is a daunting challenge combining the busy tasks of teaching and supervision of students with research and writing scientific publications. Finding effective ways of writing publishable works is therefore crucial for scientific and career success.

## Objectives

The course aims to assist PhD students, postdocs, faculty members, postgraduate physicians with research ambitions in fulfilling this critical niche by providing a crash course on scientific writing and critical methodologies.

The course provides hands-on intensive training and includes:

1. Introduction to academic writing;
2. Critical methodologies on systematic review and meta-analysis; including searching different databases and data extraction;
3. Basic statistical techniques for data analysis;
4. Basic techniques for analysing and interpreting qualitative data;
5. Introduction to grant writing.

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## Outputs/Deliverables

Upon successful completion of this course, trainees will:

- Acquire scientific skills to become more efficient in academic writing;
- Acquire scientific skills in conducting systematic review and meta-analysis;
- Acquire scientific knowledge & skills in conducting quantitative analysis
- Acquire scientific knowledge & skills in conducting qualitative research;
- Acquire scientific skills to develop competitive grant application;
- Receive a certificate on successfully completing the course.

### How to write a publishable paper

This course covers effective ways and steps of writing publishable scientific papers. Upon successful completion of this course, participants will be conversant with effective ways of writing publishable papers. This will be supported with critical methods including:

#### *1. Introduction to Academic Writing*

What makes a paper a good or a bad paper? The participants will receive training and will be introduced to do's and the don'ts including style, and effective ways of writing an abstract, introduction, methodology, result and discussion section. Trainees will be tasked to read a model paper before the course starts.

#### *2. Introduction to Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis*

This course introduces methods to perform systematic reviews and meta-analysis. It covers how to formulate an answerable research question, define inclusion and exclusion criteria, search for the evidence, extract data, assess the risk of bias in various studies e.g. observational studies, and clinical trials, and perform a meta-analysis.

Upon successful completion of this section of the course, participants will be able to:

- describe the steps in conducting a systematic review;
- develop an answerable question using the Participants Interventions Comparisons Outcomes (PICO) framework;
- describe the process used to collect and extract data from reports of various studies;
- describe methods to critically assess the risk of bias of clinical trials;
- describe and interpret the results of meta-analyses;
- conduct systematic review and perform meta-analysis using the Cochrane RevMan.

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Trainees will also be introduced to extensive online research tools, and the best ways to research information on their topics. This will include use of the Amsterdam UMC, University of Amsterdam online catalogue, accessing online academic databases, as well as those available in health and biomedical sciences.

### ***3. Biostatistics and Instructor Led Computer Labs: SPSS***

This course provides the basic concepts in statistical methods and tools for data analysis that will be reinforced through hands-on computer labs using SPSS software. This course focuses on a general introduction to the basics of statistics used in biomedical and public health sciences. During the course, hands-on training on statistical software will be given to the participants.

Upon successful completion of this section of the course, participants will be able to:

- define general statistics with some examples;
- define population, sample, variables (qualitative and quantitative) and data (missing, outlying, and censored);
- understand data such as tables, graphs, distributions and summary statistics (mean, standard deviation, median, quartiles);
- understand association measures between variables (e.g. correlation, regression, relative risk, odds ratio) as well as agreement measures between observers (Cohen kappa coefficient).

### ***4. Qualitative Research Methods in health and healthcare***

This course introduces the basics of qualitative research key methods, study design, analysis and write up. During the course, hands-on training on (computer assisted) coding will be given to the participants.

Upon successful completion of this section of the course, participants will be able to:

- describe and recognize the central elements and essential characteristics of qualitative research;
- develop answerable qualitative research goals and questions;
- describe different types of qualitative data collection methods;
- explain the different methods of qualitative data analysis;
- recognize analytical (coding) techniques and different qualitative analysis software, such as Atlas.ti.
- demonstrate critical understanding of the practical dynamics of qualitative research;

## 5. Grant writing

Acquiring research grants is an epitome of scientific success, but it is undoubtedly a tough nut to crack due to the competition rate. Developing a competitive grant application is very time consuming and requires patience and persistence. Mastering the art of grant writing can go a long way to help you succeed in acquiring sufficient funds for your scientific research. The trainees will be introduced to grant writing, do's and don'ts, setting up research consortium, and major funding bodies such as NIH, European Commission, Wellcome Trust etc and the application process.

Upon successful completion of this section of the course, participants will be able to:

- describe the key steps in developing competitive grant proposals;
- gain insights into do's and don'ts of grant proposals;
- effective ways of setting up a consortium for grant writing;
- conversant with the major funding bodies and the application process.

### Provisional programme, 2025

		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
28 July – 1 August, 2025	8:30-10:30	8:30-9:00 Introduction & Overview (Prof. Jemima Anderson & Prof. M. Larley & Prof. C. Agyemang)	Systematic review and meta-analysis in a real world (Prof. C. Agyemang & P. Aovare)	08.30-9.30 Introduction to databases and search strategies (Mr S. Ankamah)	8:30-9:30 Presentations of abstracts: (4 groups: 5 min presentation, & 10 min discussion). (Dr. Wieger Voskuil & Prof Boele van Hensbroek)	Introduction to Qualitative Research and Analysis (Dr. E. Beune & Dr. R. Awuah)
		9:00-10:30 Trainees' introduction. (Dr. Wieger Voskuil & Prof Boele van Hensbroek)		09.30-10.30 Referencing using Referencing tools e.g. Mendeley. (Mr S. Ankamah)	09.30-10.30 Introduction to basic and advanced statistics (Prof. D. Sarpong & Dr. D Adjei)	
	10:30-11.00	Tea Break	Tea Break	Tea Break	Tea Break	Tea Break
	11.00-1:30	Seminar: Scientific writing challenges in early career (4 groups: 30 min. preparation & 10 min. pitch) (Prof. C. Agyemang, Dr. E. Beune)	Seminar: Hands-on training- meta-analysis (Prof. C. Agyemang & P. Aovare)	11.00-2:00 Seminar: Hands-on training -literature search in database (Mr S. Ankamah & Dr. C. Hayfron-Benjamin)	Seminar: Hands-on training on basic statistics (Prof. D. Sarpong, Dr. Hayfron-Benjamin & Dr. D Adjei)	Seminar Hands-on training - Qualitative methods (Dr. R. Awuah & Dr. E. Beune)
		12:30-1:30 Introduction to scientific writing & some ethical issues (Prof. M. Larley)				
	1:30-2:15	Lunch	Lunch		Lunch	Lunch
	2.15-5.00	Continue: Introduction to scientific writing (Prof. C. Agyemang)	Continue Seminar: Hands-on training- meta-analysis (Prof. C. Agyemang & P. Aovare)	Late lunch (14h)	Continue Seminar: Hands-on training on basic statistics (Prof. D. Sarpong, Dr. Hayfron-Benjamin & Dr. D Adjei)	Continue Seminar Hands-on training - Qualitative methods (Dr. R. Awuah & Dr. E. Beune)
				Groupwork on assignment 'writing a good abstract' (no lectures)		
4.00 – 5.00 How to write a good abstract? (Dr. Wieger Voskuil & Prof Boele van Hensbroek)		3.30 – 5.00 Introduction to Grant writing (Dr. Wieger Voskuil & Prof. C. Agyemang)				
						4.40 Closing (Prof. M. Larley & Prof. D. Sarpong)

## PRACTICAL MATTERS

### When & Where?



Monday 28 JULY TO FRIDAY 1 AUGUST, 2025  
VENUE: International House, University of Ghana, Legon, Accra

### Who

The course will recruit 25-30 trainees per year from Ghana and 5 PhD students from Amsterdam UMC. Trainees will be chosen from the application pool with the aim to create a diverse group with a mix of backgrounds including PhD students, postdocs, physician postgraduates or faculty members with research ambitions. Students from Ghana and Amsterdam are expected to attend in person.

### Eligibility

Candidate must

- Be a PhD student, postdoc, postgraduate physician, or faculty member
- Demonstrate a commitment to a research career.
- Have a basic understanding of research methods.

### Course fee

The fee is \$250.00, including course, lunch, snacks and coffee/tea, and mentorship for maximum of six months. Prospective participants will receive 20% discount (\$50.00) if they register and pay their fees before 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025.

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## Accommodation

Participants need to organise their own accommodation at their own expense. Accommodation is available on the University of Ghana campus on request.

## Application

Application materials must include:

1. Current CV (including mailing address, phone and email address).
2. Concise statement of interest in a research career and how this course would fit in the planning.
3. Support/recommendation letter from candidate's Institutional supervisor or mentor.
4. A signed statement indicating the candidate's willingness to attend the full course.

## Deadline for application: Monday April 21, 2025, 11.00am

Send your application or ask for more information:

\*Students UG in Ghana: Ms Rosemary Tagoe, Study Abroad Coordinator, International Programmes Offices, University of Ghana: [sacip@ug.edu.gh](mailto:sacip@ug.edu.gh).

\*Students in Amsterdam UMC: International Office: [internationaloffice@amc.uva.nl](mailto:internationaloffice@amc.uva.nl)

## Profile of Trainers

### Professor Jemima Asabea Anderson



*Prof. Jemima Asabea Anderson is an Associate Professor at the Department of English, University of Ghana, Legon. She holds PhD and MPhil degrees in English and Linguistics from the University of Ghana and an MA in General Linguistics from Indiana University, Bloomington, USA. She is a member of the Una Europa- Africa Working Group. She is also a fellow, mentor, senior scholar, and reviewer for the African Humanities Fellowship Program (AHP) of the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS). She serves on the Interim Executive Body of the African Humanities Association.*

*She is currently an Assistant Secretary-General of the International Federation for Modern Languages and Literature (FILLM). She has served as Assistant to the Associate Director of the African Humanities Program- (East and West Africa) since 2013 where she mentored several PhD students and post-Doctoral fellows. She has also mentored several doctoral students from University of the Gambia, University of Sierra Leone, and University of Liberia. She serves as a Residency Coordinator for one of the two African Humanities Program Residency sites in Ghana which hosts doctoral students and post-doctoral fellows from Nigerian, Uganda, South Africa, and Tanzania. In 2024 she was a visiting Scholar at University of Potsdam, Germany; From 2014- 2015, she was a Visiting Scholar at Yale University, New Haven, CT, USA. She was also a William Fulbright Fellow at Indiana University, Bloomington, USA and a Visiting Scholar at Justus Liebig University, Giessen, Germany. She was an African Studies Association Presidential Fellow in 2012 and a fellow of the Academy of Korean Studies in 1998. Prof Anderson's research interests are in the areas of Pragmatics and Sociolinguistics. She is a life member of the International Association of World Englishes (IAWE), a member of International Pragmatics Association (IPrA), African Pragmatics Association (APrA) and the Linguistics Association of Ghana (LAG). She serves on several boards and committees both in the University of Ghana and outside the University.*

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## Professor Charles Agyemang



*Prof. Charles Agyemang is a Professor of Global Migration, Ethnicity and Health and Principal Investigator at Amsterdam University Medical Centres, University of Amsterdam. He received his PhD in medicine from Erasmus Medical Centre, University of Rotterdam, and Master degree at Edinburgh University Medical School. His research is focused on ethnic inequalities in cardiovascular diseases (CVDs); and NCDs in low- and middle-income countries. Prof. Agyemang has about 25 years research experience and has authored/co-authored about 400 published papers, and edited several books. He is the PI of the RODAM study – European Commission funded project on gene-environmental interaction on obesity & diabetes among African migrants. He is a fellow of the prestigious European Research Council (ERC) under the Consolidation Award programme. Prof. Agyemang is currently the Vice President of the Migrant Health section of the European Public health Association and Scientific Chair of Global Society of Migration, Ethnicity, Race & Health. He is Section (Global Health) Editor for Journal of the American Heart Association (JAHA) and an Associate Editor for Internal and Emergency Medicine, and serves as an Editorial Board member for several journals. He is member of the WHO taskforce on NCDs in Migrant and was a member and a rapporteur of the Planning Committee for WHO Global Consultation on Migrant Health. He is a member of the Lancet Racial Equality Advisory Board. He is fellow of the European Academy & US National Academy of Medicine.*

## Professor Margaret Lartey



*Prof. Margaret Lartey is a Professor of Medicine and a Physician with specialist training and interests in dermatology and infectious diseases. Prof. Margaret Lartey is immediate past Dean of the University of Ghana Medical School. Prof. Margaret Lartey continues to actively teach medical students and residents in Dermatology and Infectious Diseases and an examiner of both the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons and the West African College of Physicians. Her research areas include the skin and HIV, Pharmacokinetics of Antiretrovirals, HIV Co-infections among others. She has published widely around her areas of interest. She is a deputy editor-in-chief of the Ghana Medical Journal and a member of the Council for Science Editors. She holds international grants and is involved in the training of graduate students both at the Master's and PhD level locally and internationally. She has local and international training in mentorship and is actively involved in career mentorships.*

## Professor Michael Boele van Hensbroek



*Prof Michaël Boele van Hensbroek is a Professor of Global Child Health and paediatric infectious disease specialist, and leads the Amsterdam Centre for Global Child Health, Emma Children's Hospital, Amsterdam UMC. He previously worked in Gambia (1991-1995) conducting research on the treatment of severe malaria in children. He is currently involved in several research projects in Malawi, Uganda, Kenya, South Sudan, Indonesia and Greece in the area of malaria, anaemia, HIV, nodding syndrome, fever, coma and convulsions, and research capacity building. He is a member of (and chairing) several DSMB's and TSC's of international multicentre studies. He chairs two committees focusing on international health at the University of Amsterdam and is the vice-chair of the national Medical and Ethics committee - CCMO (Centrale Commissie Mens-gebonden Onderzoek).*



### Professor Daniel Sarpong



*Prof. Sarpong, trained biostatistician, is a Senior Research Scientist in the Department of General Internal Medicine and Executive Director of the Office of Health Equity Research (OHER) at the Yale School of Medicine, University of Yale. Prof. Sarpong's research focuses on translational research exploring innovative approaches to mitigating biological and social determinants of health disparities in primarily chronic diseases. Before joining Yale University in the School of Medicine, He was a Tenured Professor of Biostatistics, Endowed Chair of Health Disparities, and Director of the Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities (CMHDRE) at the Xavier University of Louisiana. Additionally, he served as the Director of the Community Engagement Cores of Xavier RCMI Cancer Center and the Louisiana Clinical and Translational Science (LA CaTS) Center. During 2000 and 2010, he was Director and Co-Principal Investigator of the Jackson Heart Study Coordinating Center (JHSCC), Director of Data Management, Quality Assurance, and Information Technology, and Senior Biostatistician of the JHSCC at Jackson State University.*

### Dr Wieger Voskuil



*Dr. Wieger P. Voskuil is a consultant pediatrician at the Emma Children's Hospital, Amsterdam University Medical Center in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Here he works as a clinical researcher and Principal Investigator in Global Child Health. He worked and lived in Blantyre, Malawi for 3 years (2012-15), and currently spends about 3 months per year in Blantyre combining clinical activities in the Department of Pediatrics with clinical research at Kamuzu University for Health Sciences in Malawi (KUHeS). His area of expertise is the clinical management and risk prediction of children with an acute illness and forms of undernutrition including severe acute malnutrition (SAM).*

### Mr Samuel Ankamah



*Mr. Ankamah is a medical and health information specialist and an assistant librarian at the University of Ghana and manages the Emmanuel Quaye Archampong Library at the College of Health Sciences, Korle Bu Campus. He also teaches Medical Information Literacy (MSPC 202) courses and some aspects of Academic Writing at the University of Ghana Medical School. He assists faculty and students with access to evidence-based information for their research and academic pursuits. Samuel has several peer-reviewed publications, and his research interests include medical information literacy, bibliometrics, information retrieval systems, and systematic review and meta-analysis*

### Professor Ellis Owusu-Dabo



*Prof. Ellis Owusu-Dabo is currently the Dean of the School of Public Health, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology, Kumasi, Ghana. He was the past Pro-Vice Chancellor & Professor of Epidemiology and Global Health at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology, Kumasi, Ghana. His area of expertise is in Medical Epidemiology and applied public health technologies. As a teacher, he has trained undergraduate and postgraduate students, as well as mentored young faculty at both local and international levels. Prof. Owusu-Dabo is highly driven in his research interest area, mainly non-communicable diseases in low-income country settings. He has secured and managed multimillion United States dollar research grants from principal granting institutions such as the EU, NIH, The World Bank and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation as well as many bilateral organisations. He serves on several boards at both local and international levels, and has a massive network of individuals and*

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organisations he works with. Prof. Owusu-Dabo has published over 200 research articles in peer-reviewed journals. As Perelman International Scholar of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, his passion is in building capacities of next generation scientists and health systems to help solve Africa's health problems through scientific research collaborations.

### Dr Erik Beune



Dr Erik Beune is an Assistant Professor at Amsterdam University Medical Center, University of Amsterdam. He has a background in Interdisciplinary Social Science and in Physiotherapy. He received his PhD from Amsterdam University Medical Center at the Department of General Practice on 'Culturally Appropriate Hypertension Care among African origin populations'. His research is focused on the development, implementation and evaluation of culturally sensitive interventions for CVD risk factors into public health and primary care, for disadvantaged groups and multi-cultural settings. Mixed methods and community based participatory research designs are main methods used. He led several EU funded studies ((pros)-RODAM, EuroDHYAN) and is currently the overall Project lead of the Generation-H project "Multi-component interventions to reducing unhealthy diets and physical inactivity among adolescents in sub-Saharan Africa".

### Dr Raphael Awuah



Dr Awuah holds a PhD in Population Studies (with a focus on population health) from the University of Ghana and was an Exchange Research Scholar at the Population Research Institute, Pennsylvania State University. He has over 10 years of experience in multidisciplinary research projects and global initiatives. Dr Awuah has expertise in social and behavioural research conceptualization and design, management and analysis of quantitative and qualitative data, coordination, and systems strengthening. His interest focuses broadly on the associations between population dynamics and health outcomes. Specifically, his work over the years seeks to contribute to efforts in addressing the burden of non-communicable diseases in communities, and to use a data-driven approach to reduce deaths and serious injuries from road traffic crashes in cities. Dr Awuah is currently the Regional Technical Advisor, Africa on Road Injury Surveillance for Vital Strategies, a global public health organization, where he is responsible for guiding and providing technical assistance to city governments to strengthen road injury surveillance systems.

### Dr Charles Hayfron-Benjamin



Dr Charles Hayfron-Benjamin is a senior lecturer in physiology at the University of Ghana Medical School and a medical specialist in anaesthesiology and critical care medicine at the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital. He holds a Medical Degree (MBChB) degree and MPhil in Physiology from the University of Ghana Medical School, a Ph.D. in Medicine from the Amsterdam University Medical Centre, University of Amsterdam, and dual specialist qualifications in anaesthesiology from the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons and the West African College of Surgeons.

Dr Hayfron-Benjamin also has training in pulmonary and vascular medicine at the Amsterdam University Medical Centre where he did his Ph.D., and currently serves as the consultant for pulmonary function testing at the University of Ghana Medical School. He has been directly involved in the training of medical students, surgical residents, and anaesthesia diplomates (via the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons), and Masters/Ph.D. students. His research work focuses on the biological basis of lung/vascular dysfunction in individuals with diabetes and sickle cell disease.

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## Miss Pearl Aovare



Pearl Aovare is a public health professional with a Master's degree from the University of Ghana and over eight years of extensive experience in health and public health research. She has worked in various capacities within both government and non-governmental organizations, contributing significantly to the field. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of Amsterdam Medical Center in the Netherlands. Her research involves leveraging a Connected Care app, an interactive smartphone application developed and funded by Philips and the Africa eHealth Foundation. This project focuses on improving the health of individuals living with diabetes and hypertension by utilizing the mobile health technology to enhance the management of these conditions. Pearl serves as the Program Coordinator for the Ghana Team on the Generation-H project, an EU-funded initiative aimed at transforming food and physical activity environments, empowering youth, and addressing the growing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in sub-Saharan Africa. She has played a key role in building capacity among health and research professionals. During this year's summer school, Pearl will share her expertise in systematic reviews and provide hands-on training in meta-analysis.

