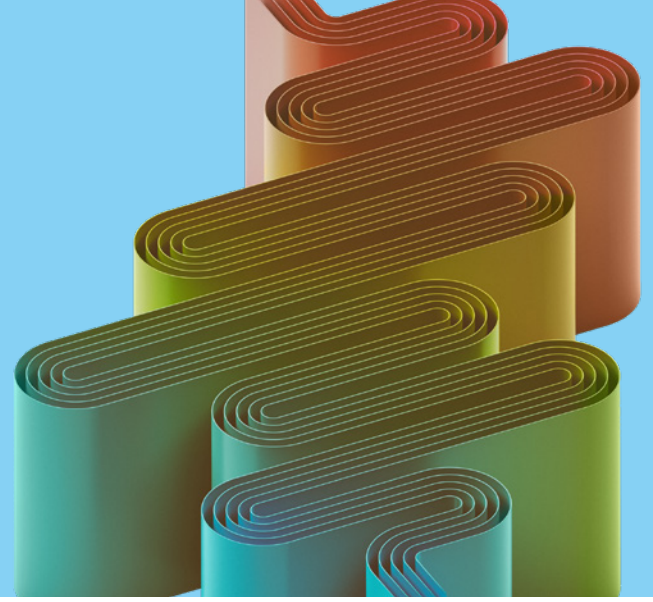


Transforming higher education training



Case study – development group

What is a development group and how does it work?

Each of our programs are built in close collaboration with a group of universities known as the 'Development Group'. Members of this group pay a one-off contribution and then partner with us to peer-review the courses and gain a license to the courses in perpetuity. By joining a group, you'll work alongside fellow experts and the best in your sphere internationally – creating extensive networking opportunities and career enhancing experiences.

1. Subject experts, such as authors and reviewers, shape the vision for the program and a Lead Advisor is commissioned to offer strategic vision and leadership, alongside authors
2. Institutions are invited to join the development group
3. Participating institutions, authors, peer reviewers, lead advisor(s) and the Epigeum team all come together at a workshop to refine the plans and discuss key issues and topics
4. The authors develop course materials, incorporating feedback from the workshop discussions
5. Development group members and experts peer-review the materials
6. We collaborate with individuals from our development group institutions who share their expertise in recorded video interviews which are then added into the program
7. Revisions are made and the final program is checked and tested
8. The program is launched, and development group members' campus-wide licenses are activated

What are the benefits for members who join a development group?



Be part of the course development process, unlocking perpetual access to the course once published for your institution.



Ensure courses are engaging, and relevant and address your key concerns.



Collaborate with fellow experts, creating extensive networking opportunities.



Enjoy cutting-edge, high-quality content without the hassle of in-house production as our courses are expertly built and regularly updated by our team.

Our Responsible Conduct of Research Development Group

Who attended?

Reviewers

Segio Litewka, *Department of Surgery, University of Miami*
Jiin-Yu Chen, *Baylor College of Medicine*
Dena Plemmons, *University of California, Riverside*
Trisha Phillips, *West Virginia University*
Julie Simpson, *University of New Hampshire*

DG Members

Benjamin Bamberger, *Vanderbilt*
Mickey Stevenson, *RICE*
Eric Everett, *UNC Chapel Hill*

How we worked together

The following topics, and changes that were decided on, came out of detailed discussions during the workshop.

Audience of the course

The content has been tailored to accommodate a wide range of researchers, from undergraduates to senior professionals. Simplified materials support early-stage researchers, while other adjustments ensure that the content remains engaging for experienced researchers.

Federal guidelines for RCR training

Significant efforts have been made to ensure the course aligns with NIH, NSF, and USDA requirements, promoting both compliance and engagement. This alignment is reflected in the course materials. Module titles have also been revised where necessary to highlight this alignment.

Mentoring

The introduction of a new module on mentoring was met with enthusiasm during the workshop and has since been incorporated into the course. Workshop discussions emphasized the importance of viewing mentoring as a bidirectional relationship, benefiting both mentors and mentees. These insights have been carefully integrated into the module, which takes a "reflective" approach, encouraging researchers to consider and evaluate their mentoring responsibilities and relationships. Additionally, the module connects mentoring with responsible research conduct while avoiding a deep dive into broader social and related mentoring issues.

AI integration

Another key topic at the workshop was the incorporation of GenAI into the course. Previously, this was done in a more singular fashion, but following workshop consensus, the approach has been revised. GenAI is now embedded across the four modules on conducting research, each covering a different stage of the research process. Given GenAI's increasing role in research, its responsible use is now addressed at every stage.

What are the expected outcomes?

- Leverage collective expertise and experiences to enhance the quality and relevance of our Responsible Conduct of Research program for a US audience.
- Identify strengths and areas for improvement to ensure the learning outcomes are aligned with the needs and expectations of the US academic and research communities.
- Collect constructive critiques and suggestions to refine, revise, and reimagine the content to better suit the US context.

Testimonials

“ The discussions are very enlightening and I learned a lot.

– *anonymous attendee feedback*

“ Well organized, efficient, and very professionally done. The Epigeum crew were really excellent – engaged, attentive, and asking the right questions to push the development forward.

– *anonymous attendee feedback*

“ It was wonderful to meet with the other members of the Development Group and my colleagues in the field of Research Compliance. The discussions we had not only helped to improve the course; they also gave me insights and ideas about new practices to implement in my own work. The Epigeum team was likewise remarkably hospitable, friendly, and well-organized. It's clear that the module discussions benefited from their careful preparation, and I was consistently impressed with their professionalism and well-thought-out approach. The highlight of the day was of course the lovely dinner where we were able to connect and discuss our work in a more personal way.

– *Benjamin Bamberger, Vanderbilt*

Next steps

“ Through the collaboration among participants, we were able to draw on the diverse specialisms of those participating, develop actionable recommendations based on the workshop discussions, and establish clear next steps for incorporating the feedback and insights gathered into the program development process. We are excited for the upcoming stages of this collaboration, where the collective insights will shape a product that supports the US research community.

– *Suparna Sengupta, Commissioning Editor*