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RESEARCH RESOURCES | The University of Pittsburgh Library System (ULS)

ULS is committed to advancing scholarship at the University of Pittsburgh, and supporting researchers is part of that mission; the system has many initiatives in place to support research, including:

- **Consultation with ULS subject matter experts**, who offer expertise to the university community in many different areas, including psychology, statistics, biological sciences, research data management, entrepreneurship, and copyright and intellectual property.

- **Research data services**: support is offered for many activities related to research data throughout the research lifecycle. ULS can help with developing computational skills for research, finding and using the right tool for working with data, and writing data management plans for grants. Consultations with individuals and small groups and trainings and presentations for classes and lab groups are offered upon request.

- **Scholarly communication and publishing services**: these services include information on making research publications Open Access, consultation regarding copyright, author rights, and reuse of scholarship, help with formatting and publishing electronic theses and dissertations, and sharing published work through [https://library.pitt.edu/d-scholarship](https://library.pitt.edu/d-scholarship), the University's online site for collecting, preserving, and sharing scholarly output.

- **The media production equipment and services equipment lending program** loans media equipment like video recording systems and cameras.

- **Video recording facilities are available through One Button Studio**.

- **The Whisper Room** provides a sound-isolated booth for making audio recordings for both podcast and video projects.

- **ULS also offers workshops and other events throughout the year. Stay tuned to their website for upcoming events.**

To explore ULS services further, click [here](#).
CTSI UPDATES | Bi-Annual Orientation to Research Fundamentals Workshop: Basics for Research Coordinators

CTSI’s bi-annual Orientation to Research Fundamentals (ORF) program will take place virtually June 2-4. ORF is an intensive, interactive workshop that covers the basic concepts required to successfully coordinate a research study; it provides an overview of regulatory requirements as well as information about a number of resources that are available to help researchers in all phases of the research project lifecycle. Topics include but are not limited to recruitment, developing manuals of operation, informed consent, FDA regulations and other compliance topics, and managing participant payments.

ORF is especially relevant for newer research team members but is also attended by seasoned members of the research community hoping to refresh their knowledge and learn about new developments. All are welcome regardless of experience level. Register here to attend.
DEAR CTSI,

Question: Our research group has used CTSI services post-funding for recruitment, regulatory, and statistical consultation, as well as advice on community engagement; do you also offer services in the pre-grant submission stage that we could use to strengthen our grant proposals?

Answer: CTSI is here to help during all stages of the grant lifecycle. Pre-submission, CTSI research and recruitment facilitators can act as naive readers of your grant, provide help with reviewing your plan for the human subjects protections, and assist with recruitment planning and designing the recruitment methods section of your application. A scientific writer on the team can review grant aims and research strategy to provide further input.

Many research teams also find it helpful to consult with CTSI’s Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Research Design (BERD) group pre-submission for general advice regarding study design. Expert statisticians can help determine the appropriate number of participants to achieve meaningful power analysis and ensure that survey questions are extracting data that is most relevant to addressing the proposed research hypothesis.

CTSI also provides letters of support highlighting the infrastructure we have available to help grants succeed. Letters can quantifiy the number of potential participants both within the UMPC system as a whole and within the Pitt+Me research registry who appear to meet study criteria in order to demonstrate feasibility.

Finally, the Community PARTners core can help research teams think about how to engage community stakeholders in the study design process prior to grant submission. Community constituents have valuable input into unmet needs that researchers may not have thought of.

Please contact us at ctsi@pitt.edu for both pre and post grant submission assistance!

Readers, this space is reserved for your questions. If you have a research question you would like to ask, please send it to cliftons@pitt.edu and look for answers in our next edition.