**Instructors**

**Julie Buring**, ScD, is Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School and Professor of Epidemiology, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. The primary focus of Dr. Buring’s research has been on the epidemiology of chronic diseases, particularly cardiovascular disease and cancer, and especially among women. At present, she is primarily involved in four ongoing large-scale randomized clinical trials: the Women’s Health Study.

**Pamela M. Rist**, ScD, is Assistant Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School and Assistant Professor of Epidemiology, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

**William (Bill) Miller**, MD, PhD, MPH is Senior Associate Dean for Research and Professor, Division of Epidemiology in the College of Public Health at The Ohio State University. Prof. Miller came to Ohio State in 2016. Previously, he was a faculty member at the University of North Carolina (UNC) for 20 years. While at UNC, Prof. Miller ran a professional development program for health affairs faculty that included instruction in scientific writing and proposal development. Prof. Miller is an infectious diseases epidemiologist. His research interests include sexually transmitted infections, HIV infection, and substance use.

[https://iph.charite.de/en](https://iph.charite.de/en)
[https://bsph.charite.de](https://bsph.charite.de)
Course description

Part 1: Methods by Julie Buring and Pamela Rist (Monday – Tuesday)
In part 1 of this course, participants will develop a solid foundation of applied principles and methods of epidemiology, use these to evaluate relevant clinical and public health questions, and turn their research into publishable work. The format will include lectures, group exercises and seminars.

Part 2: Scientific Writing by Bill Miller (Wednesday – Friday)
Part 2 of this course is designed to improve the participants' scientific writing. The focus will be on manuscripts for publication, but the principles apply to all forms of scientific writing. The objectives of this course are to:
- Understand the components of typical scientific publications and maximize the potential for communicating a study's results effectively.
- Improve the writing style to enhance communication, focusing on writing clearly and concisely.
- Identify ways to improve the participant's writing effectiveness.
- Understand the editorial and review process of journals, including responding to reviews and giving strong reviews as a reviewer.

Audience
This course is designed for researchers, clinicians, and public health professionals who seek to publish in English-language academic journals. This is a masters level / postgraduate course. An introductory level in epidemiology and statistics is expected.

Pre-course Preparations for Part 2
- Identify 2–4 papers of interest to you in the scientific literature with the following characteristics:
  - A well-written paper that is easy to read
  - A poorly written paper that is difficult to read
  - A paper in a general journal (e.g. JAMA, Lancet, etc.)
  - A paper in a specialty journal
- Bring your own manuscripts that you are working on – just starting, drafts completed, or nearly finished. Any status is acceptable. If you don’t have papers, consider bringing a grant or an abstract.

Program
23 – 27 March 2020 | 9am – 5pm

Monday, 23 March
9:00 Introductions and Objectives of the Course
9:15 Critical Thinking in Epidemiology: Examples from the Literature
10:15 Types of Epidemiologic Studies in the Literature (Descriptive, Analytic)
11:45 Read article for afternoon session
13:00 Measures of Disease Frequency, Measures of Association and their Scales
14:45 Interpretation of the Findings: Association versus Causation
16:00 Seminar: Critical Evaluation of the Medical Literature

Tuesday, 24 March
9:00 Principles of Randomized Trials; Strengths and Weaknesses
10:45 Seminar: Critical Evaluation of the Medical Literature
13:00 Sample size and power, P-values and confidence intervals, Effect Modification
14:45 Screening Lecture and Seminar

Wednesday, 25 March
9:00 Introductions
9:45 Session 1a: Manuscript Format
13:00 Session 1b: Review of Published Papers: Well-written and poorly written papers; general journal and specialty journal

Thursday, 26 March
9:00 Session 2a: Writing to Communicate Effectively, continued
9:45 Session 2b: Writing Exercises
13:00 Session 3a: Writing for your Career
13:45 Session 3b: Discussion of writing strategies and challenges

Friday, 27 March 2020 (ends 13:00)
9:00 Session 4: Using what you’ve learned: Writing time for your own projects
13:00 Session 5: Editorial and Reviewer Process Wrap-up