

CME COURSE TITLE	Basics in clinical psychiatric research methodology
COURSE DIRECTORS	Prof. Christoph Lauber, United Kingdom
COURSE LEVEL	Basic
EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES	To (i) give the participants an understanding of the systematic process how to scientifically identify and solve a research question; (ii) discuss pros and cons of different research approaches; (iii) achieve knowledge in writing the methodology chapter of a research protocol; and (iv) critically appraise and interpret scientific reports and papers.
COURSE DESCRIPTION	<p>This 3-hour EPA CME course addresses basic principles of research methodology. It will depict the systematic process of how research answers an unsolved scientific question. We will follow the UK Medical Research Council Framework for the Development and Evaluation of Randomised-Controlled Trials for Complex Interventions to Improve Health (2008) and use a simple practice question as an example to lead the participants through the different parts of the course.</p> <p>The first part of this course will highlight the significance of research and show the participants how to identify a research problem. The level of existing knowledge and theory defines the “niche”, i.e. the knowledge gap. This determines the research question. The course will exemplify how research questions are formulated and how hypotheses are generated.</p> <p>After having established the research question and/or hypotheses, the second part of this course will give the participants time to design and plan their own small study protocol. An in-depth analysis of designs and time scale will follow.</p> <p>In the third part of the course, different methodological approaches (e.g., qualitative vs. quantitative methods), sampling methods and measurements will be discussed. Questions regarding data collection, statistics, potential biases and ethical questions will be addressed.</p>
COURSE METHODS AND MATERIAL	During the course, PowerPoint presentations will be used together with handouts. The course will be interactive between the teachers and the audience. The participants will have the opportunity to actively participate in practical exercises in designing <i>the method section</i> in a small study protocol.
TARGET AUDIENCE	Young research colleagues with limited experience in research methodology.