

Rigor and Reproducibility Training

To address the new NIH requirements concerning scientific rigor and reproducibility (NOT-OD-16-011), Rutgers School Graduate Studies piloted a series of webinars that is funded by an NIH R25 grant (PI: DiCicco-Bloom) and developed in collaboration with the Society for Neuroscience (Promoting Awareness and Knowledge to Enhance Scientific Rigor in Neuroscience). The Biomedical Sciences graduate programs in New Brunswick/Piscataway (Biochemistry, Cell and Developmental Biology, Biomedical Engineering, Pharmacology, Exposure Science, Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, Neuroscience, Physiology, Toxicology) are now requiring all incoming PhD students (starting Fall 2017) to take one of 3 biostatistics courses to ensure Rigor and Reproducibility training for all biomedical PhD students. It is up to the student to decide which class s/he would like to take to fulfill this requirement: "Statistics in Biomedical Science", "Interdisciplinary Biostatistics Research Training for Molecular and Cellular Sciences: Enhancing Rigor and Reproducibility" funded by the supplement to a T32 Biotech Training grant, and "Deeper Data Analysis for Neuroscience and Psychology". These are 3 credit courses and in addition to teaching statistical approaches and using computer programs to perform statistical analysis cover the following topics: Determining Power, Defining Endpoints, Randomization, Blinding, Assay Expertise Level, Data Management / Analysis, Data Inclusion / Exclusion, Bias, Reproducibility, Statistical Theory, Statistical Methodology.