

Foundations of Scientific Writing for Staff Members Workshop Series

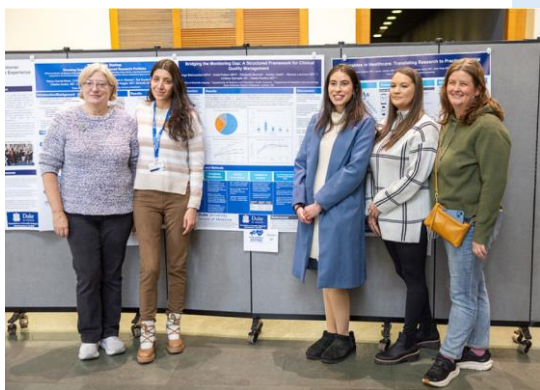
Sponsored by the Duke AI Health Community of Practice
Fall 2025



The goal of this workshop series is to **support Duke’s staff members** in gaining **confidence in scientific writing** through **hands-on experience**. Over the course of the series, each participant **developed a poster using formal scientific writing conventions**, including topic selection and refinement, organization, content development, visual elements (including an introduction to basic elements of visual rhetoric and data visualization and display), ethical practices in co-authorship, use and management of references, acknowledgements, and other best practices. Participants then presented their completed posters at the **Health Data Science Poster Showcase** in December 2025. **This is the third iteration Foundations of Scientific Writing for Staff Workshop since 2023.**

25
participants

*Registration filled
up in 8 days*



Learn more about the Workshop series and its impact [here](#).

What participants are saying:

“I hope to create more posters in the future and **this course made it feel so much less intimidating.**”

“**Clear tools and examples.** The sessions were not overwhelming. The cadence and tone was great!”

“I appreciated the **smaller breakout sessions** where we could **dig in a bit deeper** and get to know others a bit.”

“This class **helped me tremendously** in my role as a **mentor** to graduate students in my lab. It was very timely, as I am creating poster templates for the lab.”

Foundations of Scientific Writing for Staff Members Workshop Series

Sponsored by the Duke AI Health Community of Practice
Fall 2025



11 participants completed self-assessments before and after the course

Reported improvement on understanding of:

- 8 **73%** Scientific topic selection and refinement
- 8 **73%** How to organize scientific ideas
- 8 **73%** How to develop scientific content
- 9 **82%** How to develop scientific visual elements (e.g. diagrams, charts, figures)
- 8 **73%** Co-authorship best practices
- 8 **73%** How to cite appropriate literature
- 8 **73%** How to appropriately acknowledge support and funding sources

8 reported improvement on **5 or more topics**

What participants are saying:

“What was **most helpful** for me were the discussions around writing about organizational programs, how you can approach it, why it may be valuable even when "results" are not it, etc. My work is more around program administration, not "scientific" research, so **this was an area I had struggled with in the past.**”

“I like the fact that **practical examples** were used. For example, reading and discussing sample manuscripts was very helpful. The annotated poster template were a **huge help** when I was preparing my poster.”

“I feel the process has been greatly demystified.”

Foundations of Scientific Writing for Staff Members Workshop Series

Sponsored by the Duke AI Health Community of Practice
Fall 2025



11 participants completed self-assessments before and after the course

Reported increased confidence in:

- 8** **73%** Contributing to a scientific research product
- 9** **82%** Leading a team to develop a scientific research product
- 10** **91%** Developing a scientific research product from start to finish on my own
- 11** **100%** Presenting a scientific research product
- 7** **64%** Managing a scientific research project

8 reported increased confidence in 4 or more areas

What participants are saying:

“In my previous role, I had the opportunity to co-author several papers, but I declined because I didn't feel confident in my abilities at the time. In my current position, we are actively gathering data, and this **will give me the opportunity to contribute to future manuscripts.**”

“I have to develop two manuscripts. I feel a bit more confident now to put something to paper. **The intimidation factor has decreased.**”

“I've worked on manuscripts before taking this course, but it was a learn as you go situation and I did not have a background in academia. This helped fill in some gaps and provided great tools and resources that will be helpful for future projects. Seeing examples and hearing from Shelley **provided a level of reassurance and confidence in future work.**”

Foundations of Scientific Writing for Staff Members Workshop Series

Sponsored by the Duke AI Health Community of Practice
Fall 2025



18 participants completed posters and presented at the Health Data Science Poster Showcase

