**Brief Note about Research Methodology workshops**

Writing a good research grant proposal is very difficult, but also a very rewarding process. The research proposal has to be a complete document that can convince an expert review committee that it is not only an excellent proposal that asks the right questions, but also shows that the methods are robust, the statistics are appropriate, the budget is reasonable and there is clear feasibility for completion of the proposed research within the stipulated timeline. Since the expert committee has to make their decision solely on the basis of the information in the research proposal, it is very important that all the information is clearly available and explicit.

With many funding agencies, there is often a nodal officer who is available to answer questions about what should be in the proposal, or what can be funded. Sometimes webinars are conducted to educate applicants about what the needs of the funding agency are. Even so, it is very useful to have a workshop that could, in a generic fashion, inform and educate participants about the key points in making sure a proposal meets the needs of informing and impressing an expert review committee.

All of us have good ideas for research. There are many ideas in our heads, but it can be difficult to put it down on paper, clearly and logically. It is also difficult to get the first sentence down onto paper. Sometimes, there is so much that we are thinking about, that it is hard to articulate a simple question that puts down our primary objective. We also need to know the steps, in a logical order, that are needed to devise a plan to answer a research question. All this can be learnt and done, but it needs a workshop to discuss and practice.

Writing clearly and simply is also difficult. But if one breaks up the task, one can accomplish a great deal. For example, one could break up the writing into specific areas such as Literature Review or Background, Goals or Objectives, Methodology, Timeline, Anticipated Results and Budget. Often, the funding agency has a format for their research proposals, which breaks up the proposal into similar components. Once again, a workshop can help in defining priorities and practicing how to write within the guidelines of a funding agency.

The planned workshop will have some lectures, but is mainly based on getting practice proposals written. It will be cooperative and discussion based. We will come up with written proposals around topics of interest chosen by the participants, written by the participants, as a formative exercise.

With this backbround RGUHS has conducted series of workshops on Research Methodology for faculty of Medicine on the following days:

1. 23rd and 24th of June 2015
2. 23rd and 24th of July 2015
3. 21st and 22nd of August 2015
4. 3rd and 4th of September 2015

Around 155 delegates from 45 medical colleges participated in the workshops. The following eminent resource persons delivered the Guest Lectures and the PPTs of which are hosted along with it.

1. Dr. Anura Kurpad, Professor of Physiology, St. John’s Medical College, Bangalore
2. Dr. M K Sudharshan, Professor & Head, Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Public Health, RGUHS, Bangalore
3. Dr. M A Shekar, Professor of Medicine, Mysore Medical College & Research Institute, Mysore
4. Dr. Gangaboraiah, Professor of Statistics, KIMS, Bangalore