

Transition from Educator to Researcher: Writing an Educational Research Proposal

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Introduction/background:

Enthusiastic health professional educators are always seeking to improve education, but are often confronted by real world education challenges, both of which lead to questions. These questions can be the basis of an educational research project; but how to start?

Purpose and outcomes:

Purpose: This workshop is for all health professional educators, whether research novice or experienced in other research traditions, wanting to explore their ideas or questions and transform these into a well formed educational research proposal. Participants are encouraged to come with ideas or questions for development.

Outcomes: By the end of the workshop participants will have written their own draft research proposal and will have strategies for building a project team.

Issues for exploration or questions for discussion:

The workshop will provide ample discussion about designing educational research projects using examples and dilemmas provided by the participants and by the workshop facilitators.

Outline of workshop activities:

The presenters, all experienced educators and researchers, will facilitate the active components of the workshop including developing a draft proposal that:

- Includes the essential elements of a research proposal
- Defines a problem statement and research aim
- Has a relevant research question
- Refers to relevant literature, theory or conceptual frameworks
- Aligns the research question to methodology and research design
- Considers project feasibility and associate ethical dilemmas

Participants will consider potential collaborators and partners who might form part of their project team to fully develop their proposals.