AAHSL Data Scholarship: Kevin Read Completion Letter
September 19, 2016

Dear Louise Miller,

This letter is to detail the educational and professional benefits I received from taking the Society for Clinical Data Management's *Developing Data Management Plans* online course using the AAHSL Data Scholarship Award.

The online course *Developing Data Management Plans* consisted of 5 modules over 5 weeks which included online tutorials, collaborative discussions, and assignments. The modules included the following topics: Developing data management plans, workflows and data transfers, quality control and statistical data management plans, data management plan metrics and database lock, and data management plan distribution, maintenance and documentation. The modules were incredibly valuable because after each session, students were required to submit their thoughts to a discussion forum and complete a peer-reviewed activity based on what was taught. Both of these exercises provided me with valuable context to learn more about how clinical data managers (who made up the bulk of students in the class) handle specific issues related to clinical data management plans, and ask them follow up questions to learn more. Additionally, having the opportunity to review other students' activities provided me with an in-depth understanding of how a professional clinical data manager would create a data management plan and all of its components.

Concerning the course content, I was able to gain insight I can share with clinical researchers at my own institution about how to ensure that their research processes and workflows, as well as their data are of a high quality. For example, the course taught specifics about how to keep data free from error by performing regular quality checks. The course also covered the topic of risk management, and provided useful strategies for engaging with clinical researchers to eliminate risk by identifying stakeholders who will be responsible for transferring, storing, and validating data and ensuring that each process is documented.

On a professional level, the course *Developing Data Management Plans* has provided me with the knowledge to begin planning a Clinical Research Data Management course for researchers at my own institution. Another benefit to taking this course is that it has afforded me the ability to provide training to researchers when conducting REDCap consultations. Whereas before taking the course I was only able to provide assistance with building a REDCap database, I can now provide advice on ensuring that the data collection process is documented in a data management plan, and reviewed by a research team for quality.

I hope that AAHSL continues to release scholarships of this kind, as there are other courses offered by the Society of Clinical Data Management that I believe would bolster my knowledge and provide additional value to my research community. Thank you to AAHSL administration for offering this award.

Sincerely,

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