

Overview of NCS Research Fellowship and Application Instructions

BACKGROUND ABOUT NCS RESEARCH

- Who is NCS and what does it stand for?
 - NCS stands for Nephrology Clinical Solutions. Nephrology Clinical Solutions was founded in 2006 to focus on the improvement of nephrology therapies and patient care through education and clinical innovation. NCS offers a wide array of CKD education and consulting services.
- How is NCS Research affiliated with Nephrology Clinical Solutions?
 - NCS Research is a new division of NCS and is focused on supporting communication and dialogue among healthcare professionals in nephrology to bring about improvement in the care and treatment of patients with CKD.
- What are the goals of NCS Research?
 - Create research forums for nephrology healthcare professionals to dialogue about barriers that limit progress as well as ideas that could potentially transform our current practice. These forums include online surveys, 1:1 interviews, group tele/web conferences, and in-person advisory board meetings.
 - Support broad communication and distribution of these communication/dialogue forums by analyzing, summarizing, and publishing the results and research findings.
 - Encourage healthcare professionals to conduct research by sponsoring NCS Research Fellowships for online surveys of the nephrology community.
 - Establish Research Council of nephrology healthcare professionals with experience and expertise in various areas of chronic kidney disease (CKD) that are willing to participate in these research forums.

ABOUT THE NCS RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

What is the NCS Research Fellowship?

- The NCS Research Fellowship provides selected Fellows an opportunity to design, execute, and potentially publish a research questionnaire on a topic of interest. The fellowship is meant to encourage nephrology health care

professionals with no research experience, as well as those with lots of experience, to conduct research on topics relevant to the professionals involved in the day-to-day care of patients. Research Fellows are supported with the time and expertise of the NCS Research staff, a resource to which Research Fellows might not otherwise have access.

What support does NCS Research provide?

- NCS Research Fellows have access to the NCS Research Council and staff support. The NCS Research staff handles all of the research operations, questionnaire drafting and programming, analyses, report generation, and logistics for the various research forums.
- Specifically for the online questionnaire forums, the NCS Research staff and Research Fellow will partner to conduct a thorough questionnaire research process including:
 - Creation/review of questionnaire research goals and survey question draft. Suggest revisions and update questions based on scientific questionnaire design principles
 - Conduct sample size power calculations and project number of survey participants required to address key questions and subpopulation analyses
 - Design selection criteria and targeting strategies to invite survey respondents with the appropriate expertise (inclusion/exclusion criteria)
 - Manage ongoing questionnaire fielding, troubleshooting, and inquiries
 - Develop full executive report including executive summary, research methodology, statistics, respondent demographics, individual question responses, cross-tab subpopulation analyses, and key insights generated

Who is eligible to apply to be a NCS Research Fellow?

- Eligibility is restricted to NCS Research Council Members. Topics benefiting nephrology patients and their caregivers and providers are desirable.

How much time is likely required from the Research Fellow?

- This is highly variable depending on the topic, complexity of the research, and the effort of the individual. However, the NCS Research staff to minimize the amount of time required from Research Fellows handles much of the administration, questionnaire design editing, programming, analysis, and

chart production. Following are some of the key activities and an estimate of time:

- Refining and finalizing the Research Topic, hypothesis to evaluate, and target respondent profile (3-5 hours)
- Drafting and refining the research questionnaire (3-5 hours)
- Recruiting the appropriate number of respondents (5-10 hours)
- Editing and finalizing the questionnaire after pilot testing (3-5 hours)
- Deciding on analyses to be conducted (3-5 hours)
- Evaluating initial results and crafting additional analyses if required (3-5 hours)
- Writing and submitting the publication (10-20 hours)
- *Total of 30-50 hours over the course of several months*

How to Apply?

Complete the application (see below) and submit to:
NCSResearchCouncil@gmail.com

APPLICATION FOR NCS RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

First/Last Name: _____

Title/Degrees: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Employer: _____

What research experiences have you been involved with in the past? Note: previous research experience is not required.

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Please list publications, which you have authored or co-authored. Note: previous authorship is not required.

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RESEARCH FOCUS

Research Topic:

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Description of Research Topic / Hypothesis to Evaluate:

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Why is this Research Topic of interest/value to the community?

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Description of Likely Target Respondents (Draft Inclusion / Exclusion Criteria):

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Example of the type of questions or draft of survey questions if available:

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Target timeframe to complete the research (if applicable):

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Will you have up to 50 hours over the course of several months to devote to the completion of the Research Fellowship? Are there any time periods with significant restrictions?

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Do you intend to publish the results if the results warrant publishing?

-

Please submit applications to or for more information contact:

NCSResearchCouncil@gmail.com