Organizing a Biomedical Research Reproducibility Workshop Series

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Why teach a series on reproducibility?



The requirement:

Advanced Notice of Coming Requirements for Formal Instruction in Rigorous Experimental Design and Transparency to Enhance Reproducibility: NIH and AHRQ Institutional Training Grants, Institutional Career Development Awards, and Individual Fellowships

Notice Number: NOT-OD-16-034

Key Dates Release Date: December 17, 2015

The inspiration:

RESEARCH REPRODUCIBILITY #MakeResearchTrue #UTAHRR

The catalyst:

Perspective Open Access Published: 10 January 2017

A manifesto for reproducible science

Marcus R. Munafò [™], Brian A. Nosek, Dorothy V. M. Bishop, Katherine S. Button, Christopher D. Chambers, Nathalie Percie du Sert, Uri Simonsohn, Eric-Jan Wagenmakers, Jennifer J. Ware & John P. A. Ioannidis

Nature Human Behaviour 1, Article number: 0021 (2017) Download Citation 🚽

About the Workshops

- Partnership between the UCSF Library, Graduate Division, and Open Science Group
- 8-part workshop series on Reproducibility for Biomedical Researchers
- Primary audience: graduate students and postdocs needing NIH reproducibility training
- Secondary audience: everyone at UCSF

Reproducibility in the Biomedical Sciences

A Free Workshop Series for the UCSF Community Sept 19 - Nov 14, 2019

What topics did we cover?





And remember:

"... ask not what you can do for reproducibility; ask what reproducibility can do for you" -Florian Markowetz

Markowetz, F. (2015). Five selfish reasons to work reproducibly. Genome Biology. 16(274). https://doi.org/10.1186/s13059-015-0850-7

The Schedule

- Introduction to Reproducibility + Panel Ariel Deardorff, UCSF Library
- Rigorous Experimental Design Karla Lindquist, PhD, UCSF Library
- **Open Publishing** Veronique Kiermer, PhD, and Dan Morgan, PhD, PLOS
- **Open Protocols** Lenny Teytelman, PhD, Protocols.io
- **Open Code** Karthik Ram, PhD, BIDS
- Peer Review Jessica Polka, PhD, ASAP Bio
- Data Publishing Daniella Lowenberg, California Digital Library
- Trust and Transparency Elizabeth Silva, PhD, UCSF Graduate Division

Who were our learners?



Mostly people who wanted credit

49 postdocs/grad students registered for the entire series. Of these, **24** people successfully completed the series (49% completion rate).

An additional **20** people from the UCSF community attended at least one workshop.

The average workshop had 26 attendees

What did they learn?



Pre and Post Survey

- We asked learners in our graduate student /postdoc cohort to fill out a pre and post workshop survey
- We asked about their:
 - Knowledge of the topic areas
 - Their likelihood of engaging in certain reproducible behaviors
 - Their likelihood of implementing reproducible practices compared to their peers
 - New behaviors they planned on implementing after the series

By the end of the workshop, attendees felt they knew the most about **open access publishing** and **peer review**



The percentage of attendees who thought they had **extensive knowledge of a topic** increased the most for **open access publishing** and **cultural barriers to reproducibility in the lab**

Increase in % of people who said they had **extensive knowledge of the topic** before versus after the workshop

- Open access publishing +38%
- Cultural barriers +32%
- Open research protocols +28%
- Open research code +14%
- Reproducibility in study design +10%
- Peer review +8%
- Research data publishing -2%

Compared to before the workshop, attendees were **80% more likely to** talk with their lab about reproducibility.



63% of attendees believed they were more likely to implement reproducible practices than their peers



When asked what they planned on changing because of the workshop, **50% of attendees mentioned better recordkeeping and protocol documentation**

Summary of changes:

- Better recordkeeping and protocol documentation (12)
- Publish protocols on protocols.io (5)
- Better version control (4)
- Better code documentation (4)
- Switch to electronic lab notebooks (3)
- Design better code (1)
- Publish their data (1)
- Have a fellow grad student replicate experiments (1)
- Pre-plan their data analysis (1)
- Seek more feedback/peer review from colleagues (1)
- Better data storage (1)

Looking Ahead



Suggestions for future topics focused on **experimental design** and **convincing others to be more reproducible**

Suggestions for future topics include:

- How to convince others to implement reproducible practices (3)
- Experimental design (3)
- Panel discussion on reproducibility with faculty, funders, and journals (2)
- Data sharing
- Good practices in research
- Institutional resources to promote publishing open access
- How to handle large dataset collection/documentation/analysis
- How to incorporate better reproducible practices into work
- How hiring practices take reproducibility into account
- Future of scholarly publishing

Attendees thought the course could have **spent more time on solutions to reproducibility issues**

Suggestions for improvements

- More focus on solving problems/ highlighting good practices (3)
- Shorter talks (2)
- Multiple speakers for each topic to avoid tool bias (2)
- Smaller room (2)
- Toolkit presentation that summed up all the resources/places to learn more
- Switch to Parnassus sometimes
- Offer in the morning
- More discussion

Next Steps

Revise the curriculum for a series of online workshops in Spring 2021

Summarize our experience in a book chapter for the forthcoming ACRL Scholarly Communications Cookbook.

Thanks to:

- Anneliese Taylor, Head of Scholarly Communication, UCSF Library
- Elizabeth Silva, Associate Dean of Graduate Programs, UCSF
- UCSF Open Science Group

Questions?

Email ariel.deardorff@ucsf.edu!