

Creating and Sharing Plain Language Summaries - One Team's Experience



Health Literacy Month Webinar Series

Creating and Sharing **Plain Language Summaries:** One Team's Experience

**October 17, 2024
12 - 1 PM ET**

REGISTER NOW

October 17, 2024

Webinar Speaker Biographies



Moderator: Sylvia Baedorf Kassis, MPH, is a Program Director at the MRCT Center. Sylvia joined the MRCT Center in January 2018 and previously held the Program Manager position at the Center. Sylvia brought with her more than 20 years of clinical research-related experience in Canada and the United States of America. Her expertise includes ethical/regulatory review of research, clinical trial workforce training and capacity building, and study coordination, management, and oversight. Sylvia champions making clinical research more understandable and accessible to patients, participants, and caregivers through her work on Health Literacy in

Clinical Research and the first-of-its-kind, plain-language Clinical Research Glossary. In addition, she supports other MRCT Center initiatives in applying health literacy principles to their outputs. Sylvia is passionate about patient/participant engagement and, as such, strives for inclusivity in the programs she leads so that patient/participant voices are prioritized.

Sylvia's clinical research interests include understanding study participants' experiences in research and incorporating their insights into study processes, supporting research coordinators through networks and training, and ensuring all research stakeholders have the resources they need to conduct ethical and compliant studies involving study participants and their data/samples. Sylvia earned a Master of Public Health degree in Global Health from Boston University School of Public Health (2008) and a Bachelor of Science from the University of Toronto (2001)



Christine McLaughlin, a breast cancer patient for ten years, has been a patient research advocate since 2018 in a large group at Dana Farber. Her background is in business, but she has a strong interest in basic science as well as scientific communication.



Paula Steeves is one of two Co-Lead Advocates for the Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center Breast Cancer Research Advocacy Group. After being diagnosed with breast cancer seven years ago and undergoing treatment at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Paula became focused on giving back to the cancer research community and making sure the patient voice is considered throughout the research process. Collaborating with researchers on the creation of plain language summaries and getting them into the hands of trial participants is a passion project of hers.



Timothy Erick, PhD is the Senior Science Writer for the Breast Oncology Program at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI). Tim received his PhD in Molecular Biology, Cell Biology, and Biochemistry from Brown University in 2017. He worked as a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte from 2017-2019, focusing on bispecific antibody therapies for triple-negative breast cancer. His current role at DFCI allows him to combine his love of writing with his passion for breast cancer research.