

Clinical Research Course (according to the SCS White Book)

Saturday, April 18th 2026 – 09:00 to 15:00 and

Saturday, October 17th 2026 – 09:00 to 15:00

Location: Kantonsspital Frauenfeld, Pfaffenholzstrasse 4, 8501 Frauenfeld, Switzerland

Faculty: Prof. Dr. med. Pascal Probst, MSc (Clinical Trial Management), MBA

Costs: CHF 20 including a course booklet, lunch and snacks

[Registration](#)

Aims: After the course, you will be able...

- Performing a systematic literature search in medical databases independently
- Knowing the various types of studies and their level of evidence
- Performing a critical appraisal of a published clinical trial independently

Please read the two attached publications (Welsch et al. and Andrianello et al.) and give special attention to trial design and risk of bias.

09:00 Welcome in the lobby

09:15 The 5 steps of a systematic review

09:20 Formulating

How to formulate a specific research question for a literature search, so called PICO-Question

➔ Group-work (Each four participants formulate a PICO together)

09:50 Identifying

Which databases exist in general for literature search and which ones are specific to surgical questions

➔ Group-work (How would you search in PubMed for your PICO)

10:20 Selecting

How to identify the studies most appropriate to answer the research question (study types and level of evidence)

➔ Interaction (study type, level of evidence and publishing)

11:00 Lunch

12:00 Assessing

How to critical appraise an article; which tools exist to assess bias in different study designs

➔ Interaction (Critical appraisal of publications)

14:00 Synthesizing

How to summarize study results quantitatively (statistics) and qualitatively (GRADE approach)

➔ Interaction (Interpret a Forest-Plot and GRADE outcomes)

15:00 MC Test and end of course