**Welcome to Clin-IQ!**

We are excited to help you learn real-world skills from this course! It may not seem like that sometimes but truly, what you learn here will be invaluable when dealing with pharmaceutical or device representatives, patients, families, and loved ones.

As you may very well have encountered by now, patients and/or their loved ones will do internet research to “help inform you” about their condition. Some of it will be truly helpful, but some of it will be junk science, such as, [I Fooled Millions Into Thinking Chocolate Helps Weight Loss. Here's How.](http://io9.gizmodo.com/i-fooled-millions-into-thinking-chocolate-helps-weight-1707251800), or misguided understanding of the issues or the literature.

By going through this process you will be doing basically what those patients and or loved ones do at home, but with greater expertise and understanding of the various issues regarding their health care. Additionally, when you encounter various sales representatives, you will be able to see their “data” for what it really is: Sometimes it is good data, but much of the time it is cherry picked or, “tortured until it confesses” by massaging statistics. See Healthcare blog: [Torture the Data Until It Confesses](http://thehealthcareblog.com/blog/2016/03/29/torture-the-data-until-it-confesses/).

It’s important that you choose your partner well, find a question that actually interests you, and select really high quality articles for your question. Most important of all is to be sure to communicate well with your team, your mentor, and your Clin IQ course directors and coordinator. If you have a question or concern, please start with the first person who seems most directly affected (your partner or mentor, for instance). If that doesn’t resolve the issue satisfactorily, please ask us to help. There are some questions you may have that are most appropriate to come to us first. If you are confused, just ask. We are happy to provide you guidance.

Get ready for some learning! It’s going to be a great year!

Sincerely,

Your Clin-IQ Team

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