This course describes drug development through the ages and how drugs are now ‘designed for purpose’ through a group of distinct but related disciplines. It also lays the foundation of clinical trials: what they are; how they are run; the law and ethical principles that underpin them; and the translational science that they can produce.

Finally, it teaches researchers how to present and publish their own clinical trial results, as well as how to critically appraise the clinical research of others.

The course includes the following:

- The history of drug discovery
- Modern methods of drug discovery
- Preclinical drug development
- First in human studies; proof of concept
- Early Phase I studies
- Phase II/III studies
- Translational research in clinical trials
- Regulatory authorities (CHM, NICE, EMEA, FDA)

The course will appeal to health professionals from a wide range of backgrounds, including: qualified doctors, especially specialist registrars in clinical pharmacology or in training for other medical sub-specialities; clinical research fellows; pharmacists; nurses; and graduates working in the pharmaceutical industry or in academic clinical trials.

This course can be taken independently as a short course, or as part of the part-time MSc in Experimental Therapeutics (www.conted.ox.ac.uk/expther) or Postgraduate Programme in Health Research (www.conted.ox.ac.uk/healthres).