

SWARM collaborative increases trainee research exposure and opportunities within Health Education Southwest

South West Anaesthesia Research Matrix ("SWARM"). For full contributor list please see <http://www.ukswarm.com>.

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Trainee involvement in clinical and basic sciences research is recognised by the Royal College of Anaesthetists and the National Institute of Academic Anaesthesia (NIAA) as a cornerstone of anaesthetic training. However we did perceive limited opportunities to be involved in academic activity. We surveyed all trainees within our region to quantify their exposure to research and audit before and after establishing the South West Anaesthesia Research Matrix ("SWARM")^{1,2}.

Methods

We emailed all trainees within Health Education Southwest (Peninsula Deanery) a link to an anonymous on-line survey (Summers 2012, 2013, 2014). They were asked 9 simple questions to assess involvement in research & audit and their opinions regarding their training in research / evidence based medicine.

Results

Since development of SWARM in 2012 the numbers of trainees involved in research has increased; 41%(2012), 83%(2013), 63%(2014). For those trainees involved in research the majority were involved in data collection, which has been increasing since SWARM inception in 2012 from 36%(2012), 70%(2013), 50%(2014). Trainee involvement has also increased across all domains of project design, ethics, data analysis and manuscript preparation. Trainees perceived opportunities to be involved in research had increased (Table). The number of trainees competent in critical appraisal remained static; 19%(2012), 28%(2013), 21%(2014).

Year	Opportunities to be involved in research	
	Yes (%)	No (%)
2012	31 (53)	27 (46)
2013	62 (84)	12 (16)
2014	55 (83)	11 (17)

Table: Results by year when trainees asked, "do you feel that during your anaesthetic training you have been afforded good opportunities to be involved in clinical research?"

Discussion

The development of SWARM has improved trainee education and involvement in clinical research in the Southwest . The numbers of trainees involved in SWARM projects continues to grow exposing more trainees to research to develop the next generation of researchers in anaesthesia and intensive care. In 2013 more trainees were involved in data collection due to SWARM participating in LAS VEGAS a multi-national study where SWARM recruited 36% of the UK patients, involving 76 SWARM trainees that year showing the success of our trainee collaborative³. Further collaborative work with the NIAA road shows will address the deficiency in critical appraisal skills.

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References

1. South West Anaesthesia Research Matrix [accessed Jan 2015]. Available from: <http://www.ukswarm.com>.
2. SWARM. Establishment of a trainee led multicentre anaesthetic research & audit network. British Journal Anaesthesia. 2013 May;110(5):860P–858P.
3. SWARM. Utility of an anaesthetic trainee led research network to contribute to multicentre studies. South West Anaesthesia Research Matrix ("SWARM"). Anaesthesia. 2013; 68(S3):44.