



AB001. SOH23ABS_046. Attitudes and perceived barriers to undertaking research among surgical trainees

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Background: Clinical research is essential for evidence-based medicine and is an integral part of medical and surgical training both at an undergraduate and postgraduate level. Despite mandatory requirements for undertaking and publishing research as part of surgical training in Ireland, producing high quality, multi-centre clinical research is a challenge for trainees. We explore the attitudes and perceived barriers to undertaking research among surgical trainees.

Methods: A 10-point questionnaire was compiled and distributed to surgical trainees in Ireland (ST2-8) to assess the attitudes and perceived barriers to undertaking clinical research. Results were combined and analysed.

Results: A total of 43 surgical trainees completed the questionnaire. Only 6 (14%) trainees had published >5 1st author publications, 25.6% (n=11) had 3–5 publications. 72.1% (n=31) of trainees selected certificate of completion of specialist training (CCST)/training requirements as a reason for undertaking research, 55.8% (n=24) selected professional enhancement, 41.9% (n=18) selected obligation, while only 37.2% (n=16) selected self-interest. 90.7% (n=39) of trainees selected time constraints as a barrier to undertaking research, 58.1% (n=25) stated lack of access to patient databases and 51.2% (n=22) stated inadequate statistical support. Only 39.5% (n=17) of trainees had undertaken in a large scale/multicentre research project, while 30.3% (n=13) of trainees were

involved in an international research project.

Conclusions: The most common reasons for undertaking research among surgical trainees include CCST/training requirements, professional enhancement, and obligation. Most trainees highlight multiple barriers to undertaking research, most commonly time constraints, inadequate statistical skills/support and demoralising interactions with ethics and university authorities. Overall, many changes are required to encourage and support high quality clinical research among surgical trainees in Ireland.

Keywords: Research; surgical training; attitudes; barriers; training

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Footnote

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