

Training Pre-registration House Officers in General Practice

exploring needs and barriers

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The aims of this project are to identify the training needs of pre-registration house officers (PRHOs) and trainers who are part of the Wessex four-month GP PRHO placement scheme, and to identify any possible barriers to participation in the scheme

Timescale

The project began in October 2001, and has just entered the interview stage. The interviews are being conducted over the next two to three months. This will be followed by the data analysis stage, which will take place over the summer. The final report will be presented in October 2002.

Outcomes

The outcome of the research project will be to gain insight into the differing educational needs and experiences of GP PRHOs in contrast to those of other doctors in training. The information gained will be specifically used to:

- identify good practice amongst trainers in relation to the particular educational needs of PRHOs, and to share and compare it nationally;
- uncover organisational barriers to participation experienced by Wessex trainers and PRHOs with a view to resolving them;
- to record the experiences and views of former PRHO participants of the scheme, and their subsequent career direction.

Method

Postal survey and interviews.

A postal survey of the career direction of former PRHOs has been undertaken.

Trainers who are or have been attached to the Wessex PRHO scheme, and former PRHOs have been invited to participate in semi-structured interviews. The interview schedule has been informed by the aims of the project and previous research into PRHO placements in general practice. The data from the interviews will be transcribed and analysed using the qualitative technique of 'thematic' analysis.

Dissemination

The results of the research will be disseminated in three ways:

An **occasional paper** will be produced for the Deanery and participating PRHO trainers to report the findings;

Article(s) will be submitted to medical education journals;

The findings will be presented at appropriate **conferences** and **workshops**.