

## How does clinical staff participation in research change with a dedicated staff role focusing on academic support?

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### Oral and poster abstract text

#### Background

The integration of research into everyday clinical practice has been recommended as a way of reducing research waste and increasing likelihood of clinical application[1-4]. However, this integration can be quite burdensome to already time poor clinicians [4, 5]. Clinical or practice based research groups are unique in that they challenge traditional distinctions between research and quality improvement, linking discovery with application, research with practice[6].

#### Objectives

South Western Sydney Radiation Oncology was awarded funding from 2015 – 2017 to support academic research. The aim of this work was to examine how clinical staff participation in research changed with dedicated staff focusing on academic support that included governance and research conduct training.

#### Method

Trends in research growth were monitored using data obtained from departmental records from 2011 to 2017.

#### Results

The number of clinical staff actively involved in research has grown from 11 to 46, the number of clinical staff holding GCP training has grown from 4 - 111. Since 2011, 8 students have successfully completed their PhDs, 4 of these are currently employed by our group in clinical or shared clinical/research roles, another 2 remain active collaborators. The number of research projects underway has grown from 18 to 73. The number of local investigator initiated clinical trials underway has grown from 5 to 11.

#### Conclusions

Having a dedicated academic support role with a focus on supporting research has contributed to the growth of clinical researchers and increased the research activity in our department.

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