

# Attitudes to their roles as researchers: a study of GP trainees.



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## Background

With an increasing emphasis on the importance of research in clinical medicine G.Ps are expected to both participate in and undertake research projects. Once qualified and in practice they must at the very minimum carry out an annual audit for professional competence. Accordingly, trainees must now undertake a research project. G.Ps are also under increasing demand to participate in and provide data for large studies run by researchers in universities and secondary care. In this survey we examined how G.P trainees feel about their research role within their practice and explore the factors that would facilitate their participation in research.

## Results

86% of respondents reported that they are willing to participate in research. 71% of trainees agreed that research was an important part of their role as a G.P, while 20% of trainees disagreed with this view. 53% of those surveyed viewed research as a burden on their role as a G.P. We found that the factors that would most encourage participation were:

- Research that involved a minimal time contribution.
- Research that directly affected their patient's care.
- Research on a topic they were personally interested in.

They also said that some financial incentives to do research and better feedback about study outcomes would encourage participation.

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## Conclusions

G.P trainees will become the future generation of physicians and these results give an important insight into what kind of role they will play in research over the coming years. Overall the results are very encouraging and show a group of motivated trainees who are willing to participate in research under the correct circumstances. This research highlights the importance of treating G.Ps as members of the research team by providing them with the opportunity to be involved in research they find relevant to their own practice. It is also crucial that the results of studies G.P participate in are fed back to them. The fact that research may be seen as an extra burden is to be taken seriously. Every effort must be made for it to become part of practice life without putting further strain on our G.Ps.

## Aims

The aim was to explore how G.P trainees feel about their role as researchers and to identify the factors which would encourage their involvement with researchers.

## Methods

Ethical approval was granted by the ICGP and a 14-item Likert scale type questionnaire was emailed to all 14 ICGP training schemes in the Republic of Ireland. It was at the discretion of the G.P training school whether or not they forwarded the survey to their trainees. There are a total of 690 G.P trainees in Ireland. 73 G.P trainees responded to the survey.

Factors that trainees agreed would encourage them to participate in research:



I am willing to be involved in research that:

