

PATRN - setting up a paediatric anaesthesia trainee network

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Introduction

In the UK there are multiple regional trainee research networks that have been making remarkable progress in advancing knowledge in anaesthesia. These networks operate under the umbrella of RAFT (The Research and Audit Federation of Trainees), which is endorsed by the NIAA and the RCoA¹. In 2015, PATRN, a new paediatric anaesthesia trainee research and audit network was established, and remains the only UK wide sub-specialist trainee network that we are aware of.

Methods

PATRN was founded by two senior anaesthetic trainees with experience of participating in pre-existing research networks, both intent on pursuing a career in paediatric anaesthesia. It is currently run by a committee of three trainees. We approached the APA, who kindly agreed to support our initiative and help us quality control any putative projects. Invitations to join were sent out via email to the entire APA trainee membership, with subsequent advertisement on the APA website and social media. The original aim was to limit PATRN to representatives in tertiary paediatric centres for collaboration, but an enthusiastic response from many trainees in district general hospitals prompted a rapid re-think to include all those wishing to participate. The committee subsequently contacted local audit leads and APA linkmen with an outline of the network, both to ensure there were no local objections and to seek out further trainees who may wish to become involved.

Results

PATRN currently have forty-four trainees in the network, with most tertiary centers represented and a wide spread geographically of district general hospitals. A simple pilot project on day-case tonsillectomy analgesia has been put through the network with a good response, and allowed us an insight into how to maximize the data that the network could collect. Our second project has since successfully gone out to the network, with a third very nearly ready to go.

Discussion

PATRN currently invites any of its members to submit an idea. Projects may be designed by consultants or trainees, but are carried out by trainees. We encourage trainees with ideas to plan their projects extremely carefully and liaise with their local audit lead. Once an idea is submitted, the committee endeavour to seek an expert in that particular field to ensure relevance and quality. No confidential data is exchanged at any point. We aim to credit every trainee that contributes to a project with evidence of involvement for their portfolio, and would encourage trainees whose projects lead to publication to acknowledge the contribution of individuals

Conclusion

We hope that PATRN represents an opportunity for trainees in paediatric anaesthesia to gain experience in research and to participate in multi-centre projects that will impact positively on patient care.

References

1. <http://www.rcoa.ac.uk/system/files/CSQ-Bulletin85.pdf>
2. https://www.crn.nihr.ac.uk/blog/case_study/trainee-research-networks-a-model-for-success/
3. <http://www.niaa.org.uk/A-how-to-guide-to-setting-up-a-trainee-led-research-network>

