



Abstract

Project title:

Career ambitions and personal development plans of research nurses working in clinical trials

Institution:

UCD

Project details:

A clinical trial can be defined as a prospective research study involving human participants (healthy volunteers or patients) and assigning them to one or more health-related interventions or treatments and assessing the effects on health outcomes. The clinical research multi-disciplinary team are required to work collaboratively to allow for efficient design, conduct, analysis, reporting, dissemination and implementation of a clinical trial and its findings. A key member of the clinical trial team is the research nurse, often titled the Clinical Research Co-ordinator. Nurses engaged in clinical trials have a wealth of knowledge and expertise on managing and conducting trials built up over a period of time. The retention and career progression of these nurses is important to maintain high quality trials. No matter how well conceived a trial might be, its' success is dependent on how the trial is managed and conducted. More attention needs to focus on sharing the expertise of clinical research nurses and developing their skills to enhance their career opportunities. The purpose of this studentship is to begin this process by collecting data on the existing cohort of nurses engaged in clinical trials within the Clinical Research Centres/Facilities located in Dublin, Galway, Limerick and Cork. Data will be collected on their qualifications and experience, their personal development plans, training needs and career ambitions. This will be achieved through the use of surveys or focus groups, so previous experience with qualitative methods and survey monkey would be advantageous. The student can expect to gain an understanding of clinical trials and the contribution of nurses to trials work. In addition the student will learn the principles of questionnaire design and be involved in the analysis and feedback of the results of the survey.

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