Medical Research in the Community: GPs can do it better

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Greetings
from Australia
Glasziou’s triangle’- different levels of research engagement (Del Mar 2
GPs involvement in and attitudes to research

Source: (Askew, D. A. et al. 2002)

- 78% of GPs recruited patients
- 85% of GPs believe research is useful in day-to-day patient management
- 70% of GPs believe EBM improves patient care
- 30% of GPs have a desire to increase involvement in general practice research
- 78% of GPs prefer clinical experience rather than evidence

- 30% of GPs have attended a research course
- 15% of GPs are principal investigators

GPs' attitudes:
- Clinical experience rather than evidence
- Desire to increase involvement in general practice research
- EBM improves patient care
- Research useful in day-to-day patient management
- Recruited patients
- Attended research course
- Principal Investigator
Research Participation

- Recruit patients
  - Clinical trials (pharmaceutical)
  - Interview (social scientists)
- Being surveyed (to death)

All passive, need to be more proactive
Richard Horton, editor, Lancet

‘If research is to be of relevance and clinically meaningful to GPs, greater investment in more vigorous study design will need to occur, not always RCT;…

‘The neglect of research has made primary care one of the most intellectually underdeveloped discipline in medicine’

(evidence and primary care, Lancet 1999)
In 2003, Horton:

‘advocacy for primary care research from the truly powerful quarters of medicine is weak,

Research capacity in people, skills, training and institutions - is weak for primary care compared with other areas of biomedicine
Branching out - change attitudes to GP PHC research and increase research participation
Clinical research

- Primary care prevention of falls and fractures in the elderly by annual vitamin D supplementation (NHMRC)
- DIAMOND: Diagnosis, management and outcomes of depression in Primary care: a longitudinal study (NHMRC, Centre of Excellence in depression and related disorders consortium)
- Diabetes in General practice: determinants of care and experiences of patients - the dig deep study (RACGP/CVRG Pfizer, Diabetes Australia)
Transmural research

• Hospital secondary/tertiary care/General Practice Implementation research
  (Grol R et al, Netherlands; National institute of clinical studies, Aus)

(CHD, STROKE, FALLS PREVENTION, ASTHMA, COPD, Diabetes)
Health services research

- Support and evaluation resource units for Divisions of GP (5 years)
- Relative effectiveness of population health interventions in general practice (Commonwealth DHAC)
- GPs in Community health centres
- Hospital admission risk program
- Hospital demand management (State Health, DHS)
Practice based research networks (PBRNs)

- Collection of data from clinical general practice
- Transfer of research findings into patient care
- Generation of research from actual clinical practice
- Extension of academic research into GPPHC community
Growth factors

• Funding - Tenders/grants
• Critical mass/research talents
• Publications/media
• Supervision of others
• Research leaders
• Career path
Tasks ahead

- Change attitudes to research
- Sustainable Infrastructure and funding
- Display research achievements
- Clearing house for research expertise, training and mentoring
- National and International research co-operation to build capacity