

## Guidance for including a research component in the practice development stage

Trainees who wish to have a clinical research project accredited towards their practice development stage (PDS) training in pain medicine must ensure that it is *directly related* to clinical pain medicine.

Where the trainee has little or no research experience, they can contact the Research and Innovation Committee by [emailing us](#) for advice, assistance and mentorship in this area.

Research options for consideration include:

- Playing a significant role in an established research project, as attested to by the confidence intervals (CI) of that project.
- Undertaking an autonomous clinical research project that is limited in scale.
- Conducting an audit of activities directly related to clinical pain medicine that leads to a demonstrated change in clinical practice.
- Producing a literature review to the standard of a minor thesis (10,000-15,000 words, appropriately referenced).

As outlined in section 5.3 of the Training Handbook, a trainee intending to complete a research project in their practice development stage must *prospectively* submit a research proposal as part of their PDS proposal. The research proposal must include the following:

- A defined project, as outlined in a synopsis that details the question(s) that the trainee is attempting to answer and the methods that will be used.
- Details of a supervisor(s) for their project, who provides confirmation of their own expertise and willingness to supervise.
- Approval by an appropriate ethics committee, where relevant.

The assessor will determine how the project will be assessed in the context of contributing to the requirements of the trainee's practice development stage.

Assessment may entail:

- Provision of a written report submitted to the faculty for independent examination; or
- Peer-reviewed presentation at a meeting (e.g. as an entrant in the Dean's Prize at the Faculty ASM); or
- Notification of acceptance for publication in a peer-reviewed journal, the paper itself to be seen by the assessor.