

GEMs offer brief updates from general practice research tackling the challenges of front-line practice.

Exposure of undergraduates to authentic GP teaching and subsequent entry to GP training: a quantitative study of UK medical schools

Hugh Alberti

The clinical problem tackled by this research

There is an urgent need to recruit more doctors in to the discipline of General Practice. Many have assumed that greater exposure to general practice during undergraduate training may improve GP training uptake, but data is still limited. This study examined the association between exposure at undergraduate level to authentic GP teaching (placements in practice) and the % of F2 graduates appointed to GP training schemes.

What this research tells us about the problem

The study showed a statistically significant correlation between the quantity of authentic GP teaching (teaching in general practice with patient contact) and the % of graduates entering GP training programmes. This is the first UK data set to examine this question. The findings suggest that investment in increased undergraduate GP teaching placement may help the UK meet its target of 50% of medical graduates entering General Practice.

The research team (* are GPs or Primary Healthcare Scientists)

Hugh Alberti*, Hannah Randles*, Alex Harding*, Robert McKinley*

Suggested WISE action

Review feedback from medical students who have had recent placements at your practice and consider whether they are getting enough direct patient contact.

Where you can read more about this work

Alberti H et al. Exposure of undergraduates to authentic GP teaching and subsequent entry to GP training: a qualitative study of UK medical schools.

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