Grant ID: 109

THE COLLEGE OF RADIOGRAPHERS
INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP SCHEME
SUPPORTING RADIOGRAPHY RESEARCH

College of Radiographers Industrial Partnership Research Grants

Final Report

1. Principal Investigator	Dr Ruth Strudwick
2. Project Title	An investigation into breast imaging as part of the undergraduate (UG) education of diagnostic radiography students in the UK
3. Amount of Grant	£3,305.33
4. Did you spend the money as indicated in your proposal (if not why)?	
Yes.	
5. Did you reach your intended project outcomes (if not why)?	
Yes.	
6. What are your significant findings?	
Results 19 of 24(79%) HEIs responded to the questionnaire. Follow up telephone interviews were conducted with five course leaders to further explore themes. Academic teaching ranged from 3 - 25 hours over the 3 year course. Compared to other specialties 10(53%) HEIs spent less time on mammography with 12(63%) citing HCPC standards as the reason. 11(65%) HEIs sent students on mammography placements, 2(12%) sent females only. Placement times ranged between 2 days and 2 weeks. Influences included availability of expert teaching and relationship with clinical departments. ***Conclusion*** There is variation in undergraduate exposure to mammography. Students views should be sought to add validity to these findings.	
7. Have you submitted the work for publication (if so where)?	
Yes, Radiography. Strudwick R M & Taylor K (2017) An investigation into breast imaging as part of the undergraduate (UG) education of diagnostic radiography students in the UK. Radiography, Vol 23. Issue 2, May 2017, p141-146.	
8. Have you presented the work at a national/international event (if so where)?	
Yes. UKRC and Symposium Mammographicum. Strudwick R M & Taylor K (2016) An Investigation into Breast Imaging as part of the Undergraduate (UG) Education of Diagnostic Radiography Students in the UK. BJR Congress series. Proceedings of the UK Radiological Congress 2016: P255. Taylor K & Strudwick R (2016) Do they know what we do? Mammography as part of undergraduate radiography training and its potential for influencing the future workforce. Symposium Mammographicum, 3rd-5th July 2016. Liverpool. http://www.birpublications.org/doi/book/10.1259/conf-symp.2016	
9. Please provide an executive summary of your work (two sides of A4 maximum) **N.B. If you already have a draft or final version of the proposed publication can you please attach.**	

Introduction
How mammography is incorporated into undergraduate (UG) radiography training may influence student perception of the specialty and its potential as a future career option. An overview is provided of the academic and clinical content of UG radiography courses relating to mammography across the UK.
Methods
Using mixed methods and an iterative, inductive approach supplying quantitative and qualitative data, we identify any variations and discuss possible causes which may help influence future training strategies.
A self-designed questionnaire containing open and closed questions was sent online using SurveyMonkey™ to course leaders of all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) offering BSc (Hons) Diagnostic Radiography courses in the UK. Responses were analysed for trends which were further explored by semi structured telephone interviews. These were transcribed and evaluated using a thematic analysis, the themes being categorised and coded.
Results
19 of 24(79%) HEIs responded to the questionnaire. Follow up telephone interviews were conducted with five course leaders to further explore themes. Academic teaching ranged from 3 - 25 hours over the 3 year course. Compared to other specialties 10(53%) HEIs spent less time on mammography with 12(63%) citing HCPC standards as the reason. 11(65%) HEIs sent students on mammography placements, 2(12%) sent females only. Placement times ranged between 2 days and 2 weeks. Influences included availability of expert teaching and relationship with clinical departments.
Conclusion
There is variation in undergraduate exposure to mammography. Students views should be sought to add validity to these findings