

Patient and Public Involvement in Research: a new module for undergraduate medical students delivered through co-production

Stocks J¹⁻³, Horobin AJ^{1,4}, Wragg A^{1,4}, Thomas S³, McDermott O³, Horne J³, Prior M⁵, Gosling J⁵, Bryant J⁵, Butler D⁵, Fisher R³

¹NIHR Nottingham Biomedical Research Centre and NIHR Nottingham Clinical Research Facility, ²ARUK Pain Centre, ³University of Nottingham, ⁴Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, ⁵Patient/public contributor

Purpose

To develop a new optional teaching module, “No research about me, without me”. Patient and public involvement in research’ for second year medical students undertaking the Bachelor of Medical Sciences (BMedSci) degree at the University of Nottingham.



Methodology

In Autumn 2018, contributors from NIHR Nottingham Biomedical Research Centre (BRC), the School of Medicine PPI working group and members of the public, all part of the East Midlands Sharebank network, co-produced, co-delivered and co-assessed the new module: introducing students to PPI across the research life cycle; its importance in high-quality research; and the benefits gained from a patient perspective. The module consisted of 10 workshops and students were assessed by an essay, reflective writing and group presentation.



Contribution of CRF

The Nottingham CRF has helped bring local PPI groups together through its support for the Nottingham BRC.

Results

- The co-production and co-delivery of the PPI module received excellent evaluation from students.
- High evaluation scores indicate students particularly valued the input and lived experiences provided by the patient and public contributors.
- Students developed a broader understanding of the benefits of collaborating with PPI members in their future research projects.
- Skills and behaviours for implementing meaningful PPI in research were learnt, including clear communication and ethical responsibilities.
- Over 80% of medical students responded they were definitely inspired and motivated in relation to PPI in research.



Conclusions

- The module has been embedded in the medical degree course and we recommend that similar co-produced training be adopted by other medical schools nationwide.
- We hope that with this approach, we will inspire medical students to consider research options in their future clinical career, with a full appreciation of the benefits of involving patients and public.
- This initiative represents an excellent example of NIHR, a university medical school and grassroots regional PPI network working in close partnership in medical education.

