



Evolution of a PBRN: 'Formal' Research Training for Clinicians through an Interactive Self-Directed Online Course



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Setting and Participants

- The McGill Primary Health Care Research Network (PBRN) brings together researchers from the McGill Department of Family Medicine with primary care practitioners.

Description

- Development of an online course for residents as part of the Scholarly Activity requirement of the post-graduate program.
- Clinician supervisors from the Family Medicine Units, members of the McGill Primary Care Research Network, were asked to meet three times between September 2015 and February 2016 to provide feedback.
- During these sessions, it was highlighted that there is a need for an online course, similar to the one for residents, but customized and developed for clinicians and clinician supervisors.



Needs and Objectives

- Mission: to produce and apply research knowledge from and for clinical practice, build the research capacity of its members, and to increase the quality of research outcomes thereby producing new knowledge that will improve practice and patient care.

DESIGN

- This course uses active learning principles to make it engaging.
- It is designed in such a way to increase motivation to learn by being self-directed and self-paced so that individuals can follow the order provided or skip to the sections they feel they need further clarification.
- It has also been designed using the latest educational technologies to keep the content engaging, with video formats, pop-up quizzes, and discussion forums to keep individuals actively involved in the learning process.
- Using an online delivery method for the content allows individuals to access the content at their convenience, which can be useful given the time constraints of the network's members.

Evaluation

- (1) views about the content and implementation processes of this educational innovation.
- (2) perceived initial effects of the intervention on their workload and research capacity.
- An exploratory case study research design will be adopted, and qualitative and quantitative methods will be used for collecting and analyzing empirical material.

Discussion

- One of the barriers that clinicians often report in participating in practice-based research is uncertainty about research processes.
- The practical and theoretical contributions of this research project seek to advance and promote the scholar role in family medicine units and for members of the McGill Primary Care Research Network.

Relevance Statement

- Based on the mission of the PBRN and the barriers expressed by clinicians, an interactive online course on research is being developed for its members.
- This research project will help the network enhance development and implementation of this course and other educational initiatives across the network.

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