

21 June 2013

Health Education North East

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Newburn Riverside
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE15 8NY

Dear Colleague,

Further to a question posed at today's School Board regarding support, specifically time, for research activity within the working week, it is my pleasure to re-iterate the School's position.

Research is, of course, a curriculum requirement. The NHS places great emphasis on research, audit, quality improvement activity and innovation to drive forward and upwards the quality of patient care, and the School fully supports all of these things.

Therefore, where there is defined research activity that a trainee is engaged in, the School supports up to one half day per week to be devoted to that activity, which may be conducted at another site (for instance, data collection, analysing case notes, seeking statistical guidance etc), for the duration of the research project. However, the School does expect a defined output as a result of this investment, which may take the form of a presentation at the Northern Region ASM or other meeting. It is expected that the fruits of such activity be recorded in the e-portfolio.

I should therefore be most grateful if all Clinical Supervisors would be sensitive to requests from trainees to support clearly defined research activity in this way. I stress this is not study leave. The time should not be taken for any other activity. If abuses are witnessed, these should be first discussed with the trainee concerned, documented and the trainee's Educational Supervisor and Training Programme Director notified. It is expected that where a trainee is requesting time, this be made six weeks in advance and in full discussion with the Clinical Supervisor. It may be agreed, for instance, to build it in to the timetable on a regular basis. The Clinical Supervisor has the right to decline the request: the half day is a concession granted by the School to support trainee research, but is not a contractual right.

The above was agreed at School Board today, and forms School policy on this matter until further notice.

Yours sincerely,



Dr RC Cooper
Head of Northern School of Radiology

