



STARSurg (Student Audit and Research in Surgery)

Implemented Activities

STARSurg is a student-led research network that benefits from the guidance and full support of experienced academic trainees and senior professors of surgery – (www.starsurg.org). It was established in 2013, independently from the INSPIRE programme, and its collaborators encompass 31 of the 33 medical schools in the UK. After securing funding from the INSPIRE programme in 2014, it used the funds to further its original aims and develop a collaborative training programme. The activities carried out include:

An Annual Cohort Study:

- STARSurg's 2014 Annual Cohort Study was DISCOVER (Determining Surgical Complications in the Overweight). Over a thousand collaborators participated, collecting data across 163 centres in the UK and Ireland. In total, students representing 38 medical schools prospectively collected data on 9300 patients.

Annual National Collaborators Meetings:

- A national meeting at the Royal College of Surgeons of England (RCSEng) was attended by over 160 medical students from across 26 medical schools. The day included a half-day research skills course and the launch of the DISCOVER study. One was held in September 2014 and one in September 2015.

Local Lead Meeting:

- In 2015, enhanced student participation was sought for the design of the national study. The student STARSurg committee identified the topic and prepared a draft protocol with the topic selected being post-operative acute kidney injury. Our 50 student 'local leads' were invited to a meeting in Birmingham where the protocol was discussed in depth, resulting in important revisions.

Research Skills Courses:

- In addition to offering the Foundation in Audit & Research Course at STARSurg National Meetings, local delivery at medical schools has been initiated. Regional courses have been delivered in Belfast, Birmingham, Dublin and Edinburgh.

Twitter Journal Club:

- A monthly Twitter-based journal club was set up to enable high quality discussion of research articles by students from across the UK.

Buddy Scheme:

- A pilot scheme has been launched in the West Midlands.

INSPIRE is coordinated by the Academy of Medical Sciences and supported by the Wellcome Trust. INSPIRE activities are designed and delivered locally by individual medical schools.

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