

Report on a Small Project Grant – Principles Teaching Award Scheme 2013-14

Team: Dr Nuno Ferreira, Dr Rebekah Lwin , Department of Clinical and Health Psychology

Title: On-line training of Clinical Psychology Post-Graduates in Good Clinical Practice research principles

Funding: £1481.55, PhD student time for content development

Introduction: This project aimed to develop a novel on-line training module of Good Clinical Practice (GCP) for non-drug trials with a particular focus on Clinical Psychology. The design of the module focused on a core template covering the 13 core principles of GCP that were augmented with case studies and discussion based exercises around the application of GCP in social sciences.

A PhD Student was responsible for the development of all content using the LEARN platform. This involved a review of the relevant literature and the gathering of Clinical Psychology relevant examples and case studies from previous trainees. As part of the content development, the Research & Development departments of all Scottish Health Boards were contacted to assure that the proposed content covered all local requirements for Non-CTIMP GCP training. Further to that the content was also developed with input from the Education Manager for the Edinburgh Clinical Research Facility (ECRF) who has extensive experience in delivering this sort of training. This collaboration was very informative and led to change in the assessment of the module. It was pointed out that multiple choice questionnaire assessment in this type of training is not very helpful and tends to side-step the nuanced contexts in which different research projects occur. Therefore the assessment component was altered to be done solely through a series of moderated discussion boards.

At this stage, all the content is completed and ready to be tested with trainees. This will occur during this academic year (June 2016). The significant shift of the initially predicted testing phase was due to delays in appointing a suitable candidate and to make the most of the naturally occurring collaboration with the ECRF.

In June 2016 we will be using qualitative feedback to explore the following questions:

What are the experiences of students regarding the usefulness, user-friendliness, accessibility and context specific characteristics of this learning tool? Does it enhance the understanding and application of the GCP principles in research?

We hope at a later stage to produce an updated report with the initial findings.