

A QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE PAEDIATRIC INTERNSHIP AT UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL LIMERICK OVER 30 MONTHS.

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INTRODUCTION

Since its advent in July 2015, 20 doctors have completed the paediatric internship program at UHL. The quality of this internship post has never formally been assessed. In this study, we aim to audit paediatric internship training at local level and explore the need for more paediatrics internship opportunities at UHL.

AIMS

To review the literature evaluating Irish paediatric training programmes. To appraise the experiences of the paediatric internship program at UHL.

METHOD

A systematic review was conducted to identify studies of Irish paediatric training. A retrospective audit of paediatric internship training at UHL was completed. Data collected included overall experience, merits and deficiencies in training and research outputs. The population comprised all doctors who participated in paediatric internship training at UHL since July 2015 (N=20).

REFERENCES

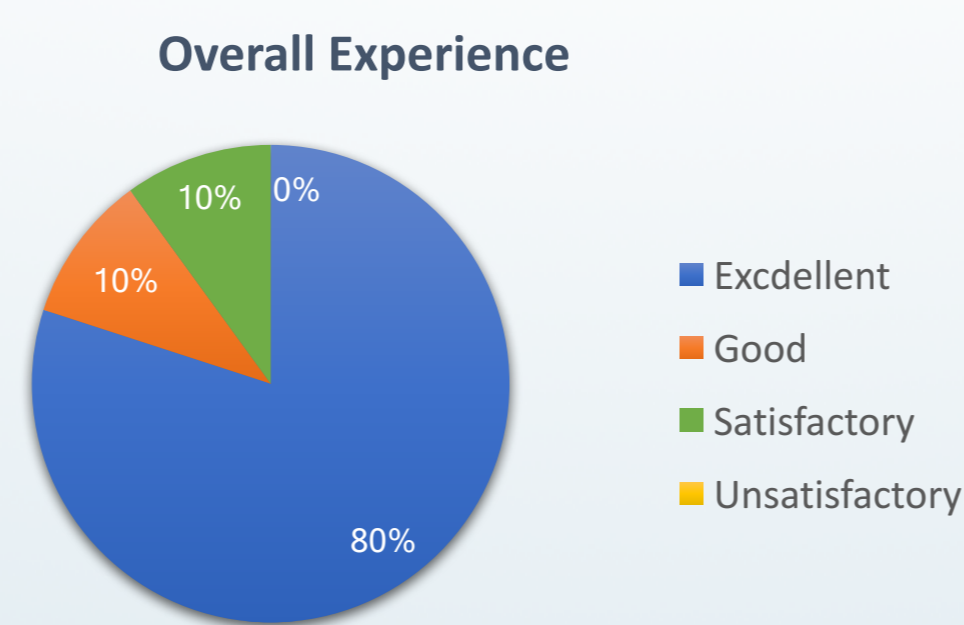
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RESULTS

Systematic review

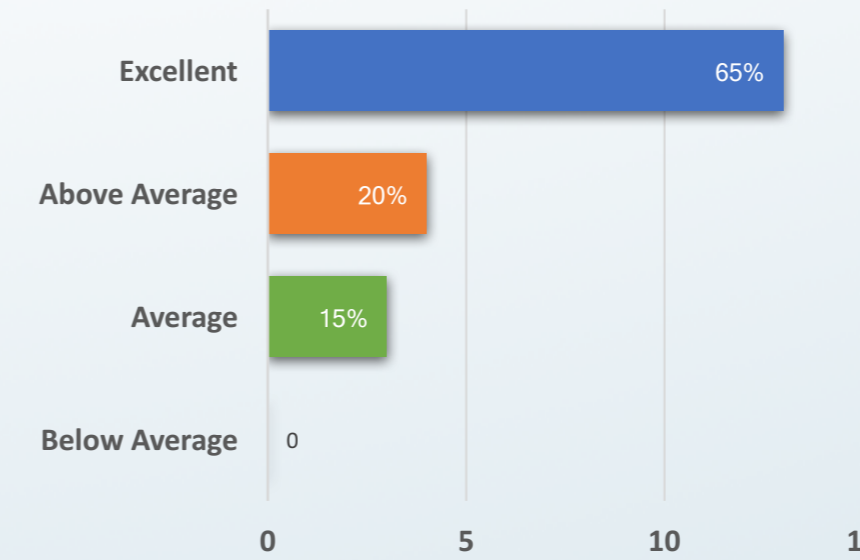
- 283 studies retrieved, predefined exclusion criteria applied and 7 studies were reviewed.
- No studies referred to training of paediatric interns in Ireland.
- There was a 78% satisfaction rate with the Irish paediatric HST scheme¹.
- Negative experiences included:
 - failure to protect time for research^{3,1},
 - excessive clinical service
 - poor monitoring of trainers³.

Overall Experience

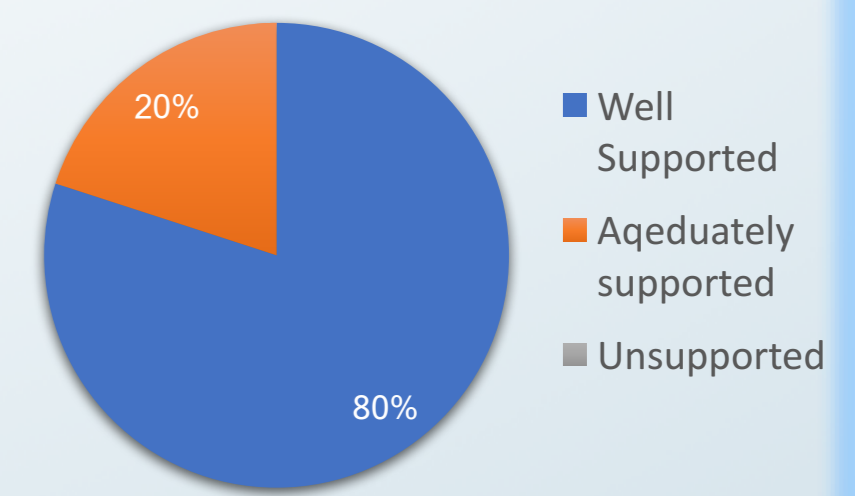


- 80% describe excellent paediatric internship experience.
- 65% described the other paediatric NCHDs as excellent mentors
- 80% felt well-supported in decision making.
- Deficiencies in training included:
 - a lack of responsibility (50%)
 - wanting on-call shifts (100%).

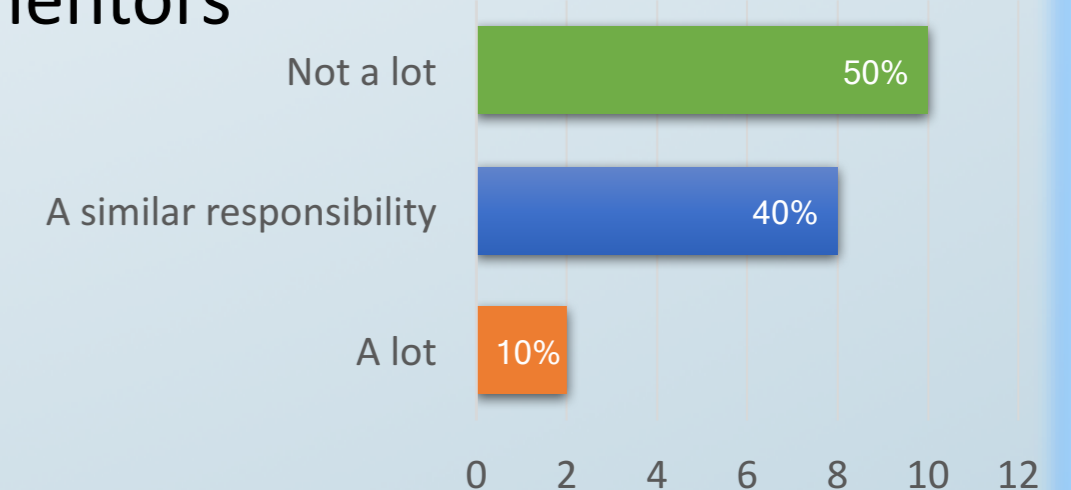
Paediatric NCHDs as mentors



Support in clinical decisions

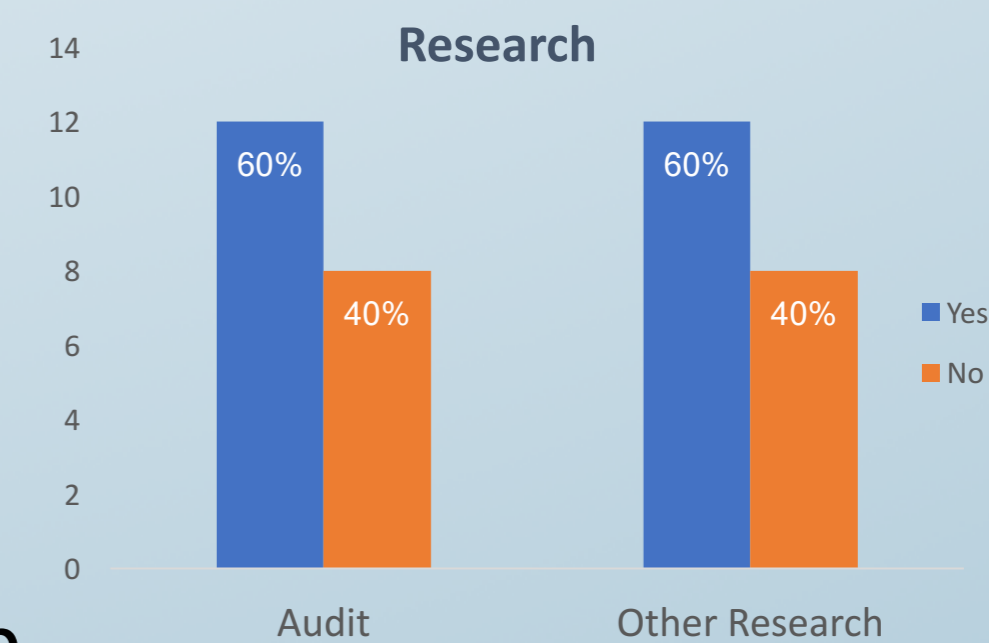


Responsibility compared to other intern posts

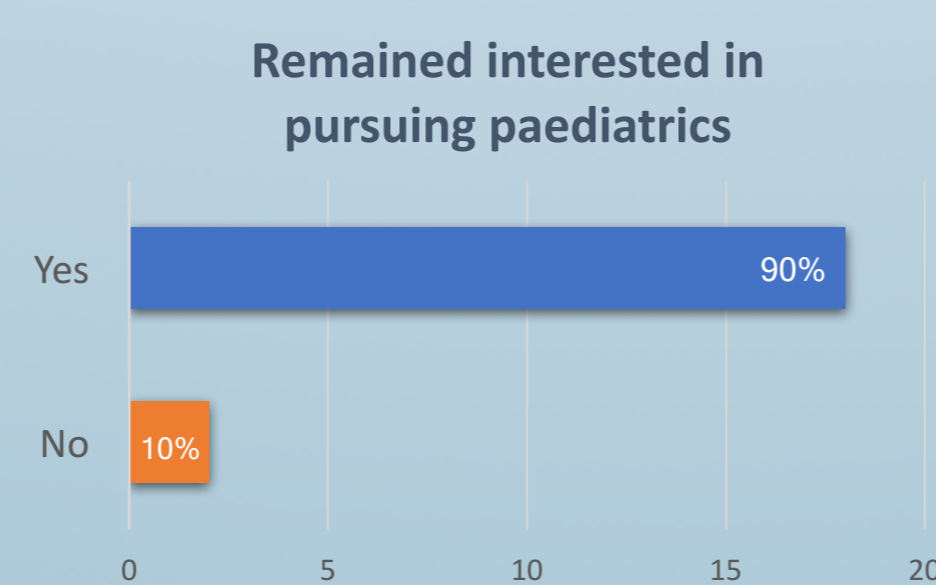


Research

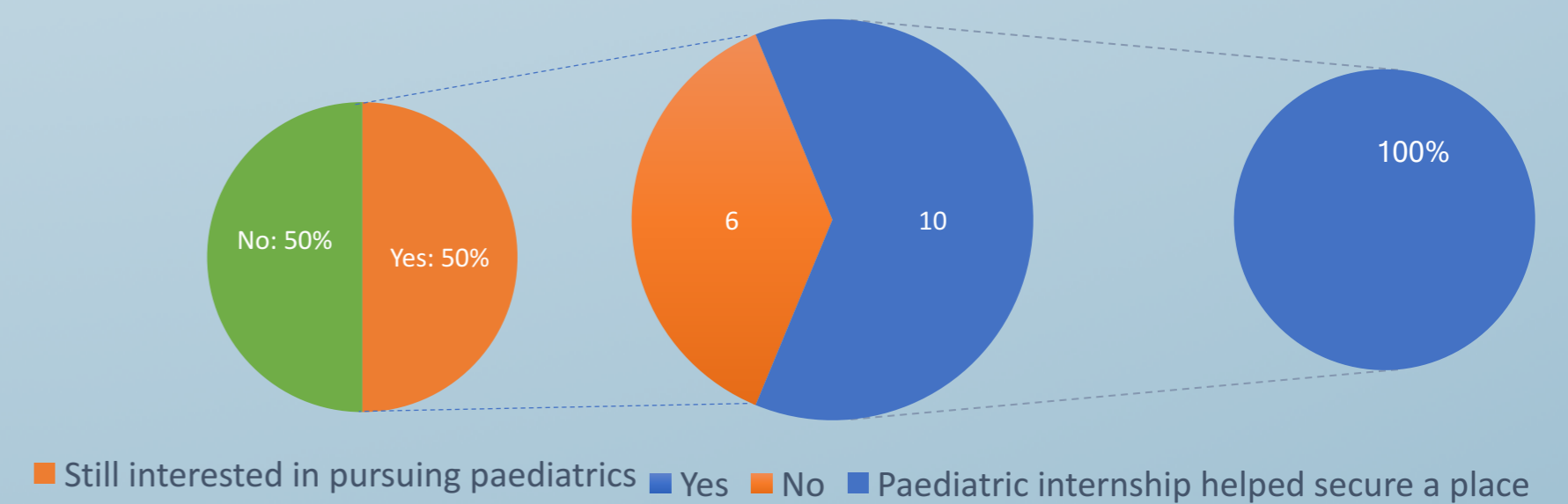
- Most interns participated in clinical audit (60%) or research (60%).



Post-internship



Currently on the paediatric training scheme



- 90% remain interested in pursuing paediatrics.
- Of the 10 respondents on the paediatric BST, 100% believed their paediatric internship assisted their career progression.

CONCLUSION

This is the first study of its kind in Ireland. To optimise paediatric internship training standards, ongoing quality improvements are required. More paediatrics internship opportunities at UHL should be explored, due to high demand and excellent experiences of interns at UHL. It is likely that there are similar positive experiences and high demand for Paediatric internships nationally.