



# Audit of Patient Database for Teaching and Assessment

Hannah Gogarty, Muirne Spooner, NG McElvaney

Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

## BACKGROUND

Clinical examinations for undergraduate medical students require the participation of multiple patient volunteers. Examination integrity is highly dependent on the availability of a large number and wide range of patients. We audited our medical patient database to ensure that all patients on the database were suitable for use in examinations, and to determine the number and category of each patient type currently available for examinations.

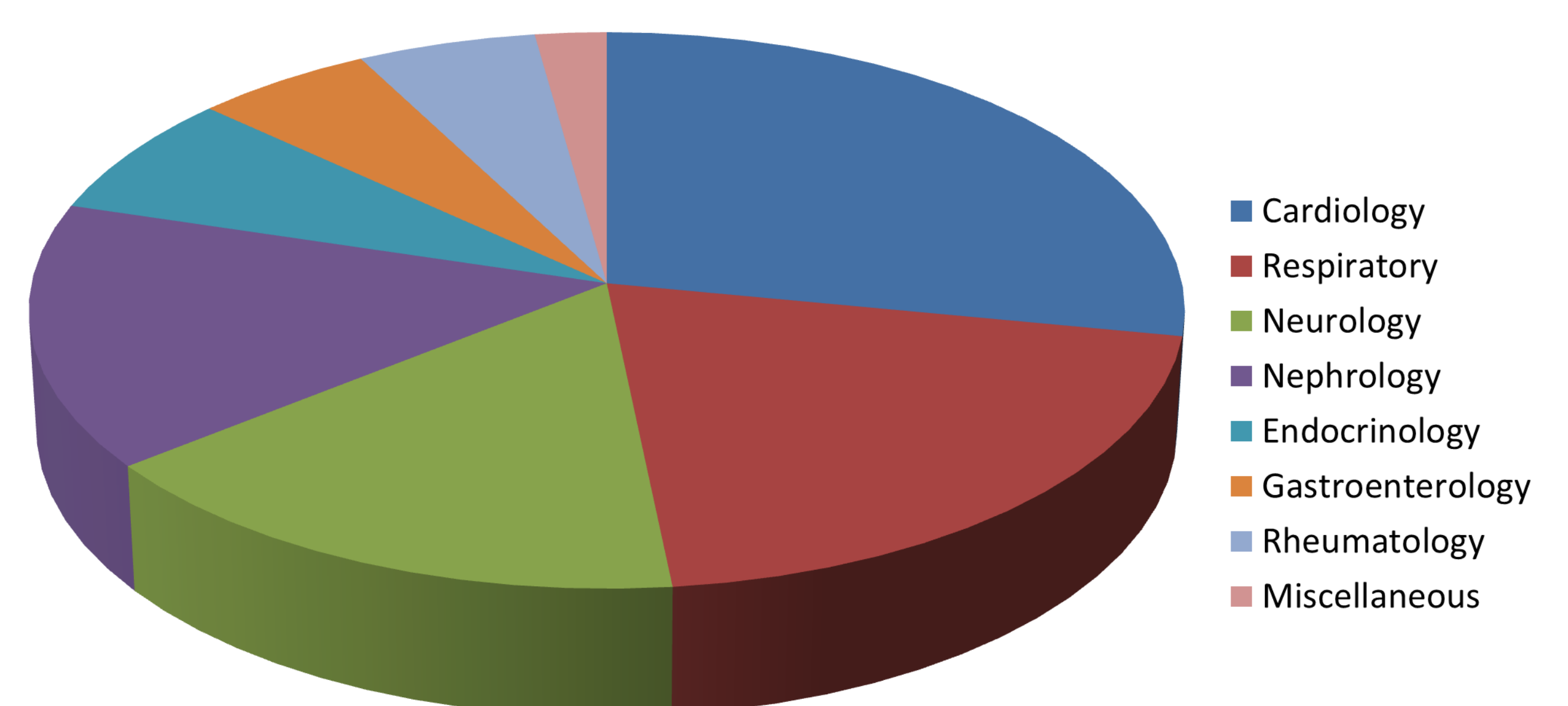
## METHODS

Patients currently on the database were verified via hospital computer record system and RIP.ie to be either living or deceased. All other patients were classified according to system, suitability and consent to OSCE or long case. Patients were either contacted or their records reviewed in order to update file details.

## RESULTS

211 patients were listed on the database. Of these, 29 were found to be deceased. The cardiology category had the highest number of patients, followed by respiratory. Categories with lower numbers of patients than desirable included rheumatology, endocrinology and gastroenterology. In addition, several categories were not represented at all, specifically haematology/oncology and infectious diseases.

## # Patients per category



## CONCLUSIONS

The patient database requires ongoing regular review in order to ensure accurate, up-to-date information is available for patient selection for assessments. Availability of patients is imperative to the appropriate running of high-quality examinations that conform to WFME standards. Previously, patient recruitment was conducted in an unstructured, opportunistic manner. Many patients are sourced from use in small group tutorials or similar interactions in the clinical environment, which may contribute to the higher numbers in specific specialties. A change in practice has been implemented in an effort to optimise and focus patient recruitment efforts on less prevalent patient types to ensure appropriate representation in assessment. A re-audit of the database is planned at the end of this academic year. Plans for merging of databases with other sites and departments are also being considered.

### References:

1. Basic Medical Education WFME Global Standards 2015
2. AMEE Medical Education Guide No. 13: real patients, simulated patients and simulators in clinical examinations. J. P. Collins, R. M. Harden. Medical Teacher Vol. 20, Iss. 6, 1998