

Research & Education Foundation Survey 2008

Introduction

The Foundation in November 2008 circulated an online survey, which aimed to examine the Foundation users' suggestions for future activities. The survey was a purpose designed questionnaire with eight questions. It was developed using an online template survey and distributed by email and via the HSE NW notice board to all HSE staff in the SGH catchment area and to staff at IT Sligo.

Results

A total of 364 persons logged onto the website and viewed the questionnaire whereas 138 completed and submitted it.

Study sample:

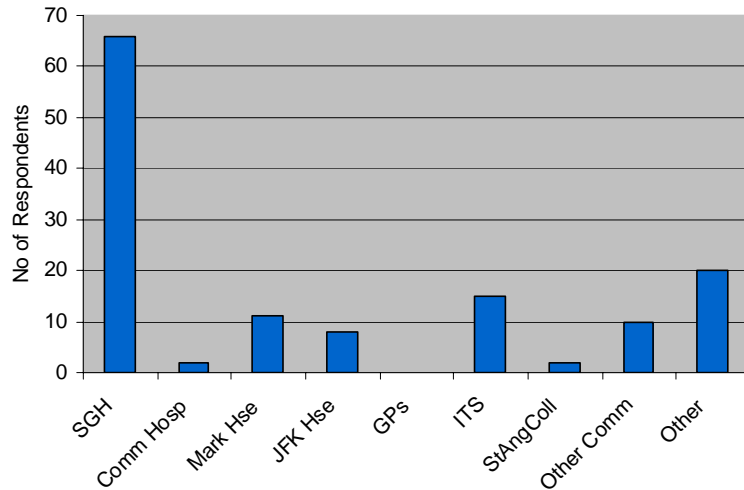


Fig 1: Respondents' place of work

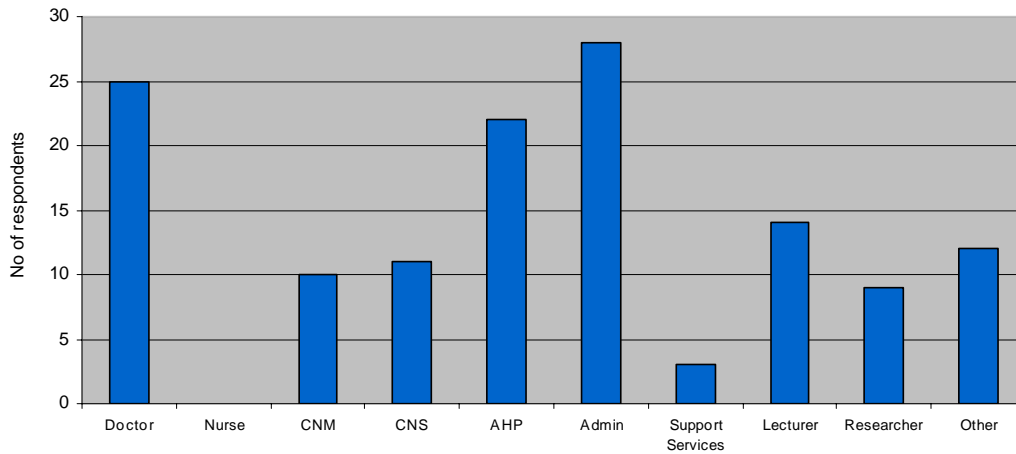


Fig 2: Respondents' work discipline

The majority of the study sample was staff from SGH and from a broad range of disciplines. Notably, no staff nurses responded to the survey.

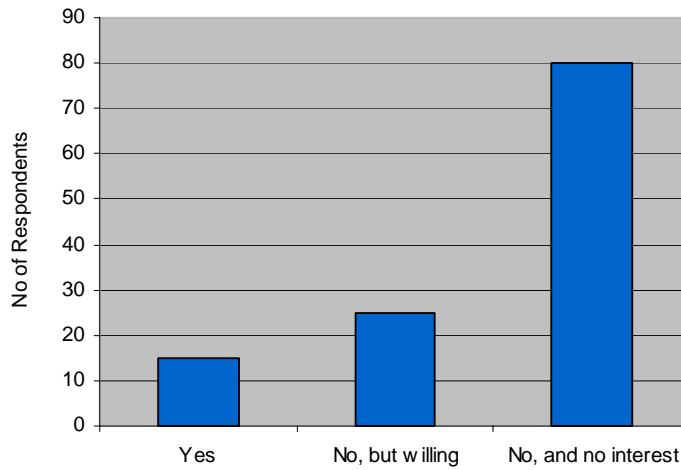


Fig 3: Number of respondents who contribute through the monthly direct debit salary donation scheme.

Past participation in Foundation Activities

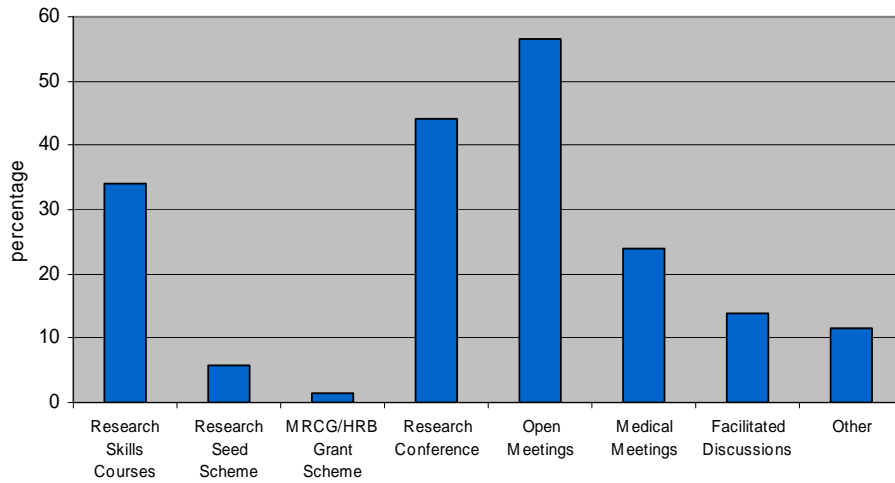


Fig 4: *Percentage of respondents who have participated in past Foundation activities*

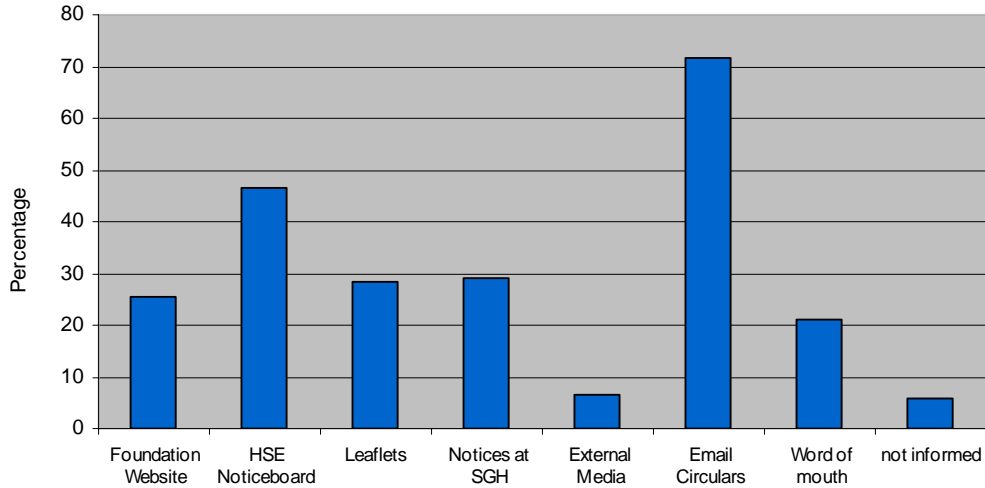


Fig 5: Respondents' methods of familiarising themselves with Foundation activities

The Foundation activities most frequently attended were the ones with the broadest appeal, namely the open meetings, research conference and the research skills courses. The respondents in the main were notified of events and activities through electronic media.

Future Foundation activities

There was significant support for the continuation of most Foundation activities, especially those that have a general appeal ie, research skills courses, research conference and the open meetings (Fig 6).

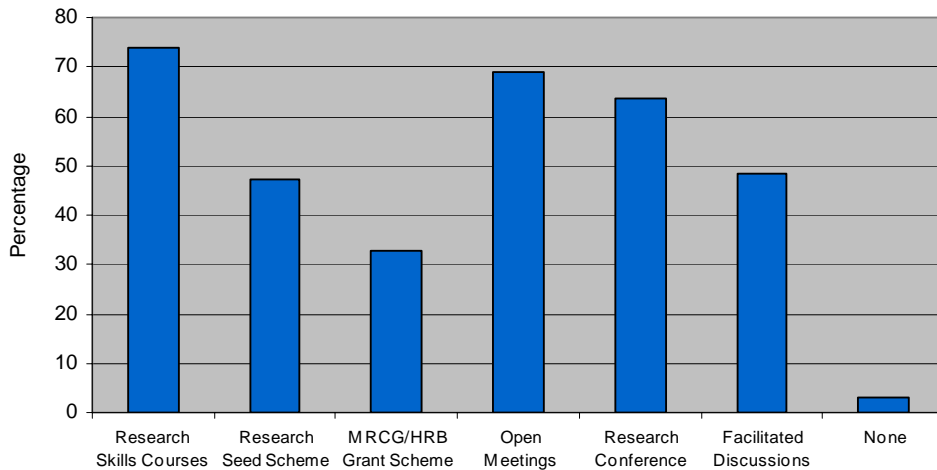


Fig 6: Percentage of respondents who think the Foundation should continue regular activities

Respondents were asked to suggest new research activities and/or initiatives the Foundation should get involved in, in order to enhance research at Sligo General Hospital and the wider region. About fifty respondents submitted free text suggestions. The following summarises the themes that emerged from a review of the suggestions:

- Statistics support and methodological advice required
- Collaborative initiatives with other institutions
- Encouragement of non-medical research eg social work, psychology, community sector
- Encourage involvement of staff who have a research component in job to become involved in REF
- Ideas for research skills courses: Timing, topics, more of them etc.
- Various specific research ideas

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- Public lecture series encouraged, broaden out, more topics, more frequent
- HSE specific courses eg legal, health planning, management
- Medical meetings eg grand rounds, weekly multidisciplinary meetings, specialist medical meetings.

Mette Jensen Kavanagh
January 2009

Appendix 1

Free text answers to the question: Can you suggest new RESEARCH activities and/or initiatives the Foundation should get involved in, in order to enhance research at Sligo General Hospital and the wider region?

Integrated care across acute/community divide
Link in with the various professional body research hubs.
The greatest proportion of activities relates to the purely medical side. As a social worker, it would be helpful if there was also emphasis on social factors affecting the elderly, the learning disabled, children and those with mental-health difficulties.
Encourage staff who have a research component to their role to become actively involved. E.g. CNS role.
The Open meetings seem very interesting & perhaps include Older People's health, e.g. Heart problems, cholesterol, and activities in older age, helping people to have a healthier life.
Providing research facilities. Getting top management to buy into the idea of research as a core activity of the hospital
Psychology of health and wellbeing
More emphasis on social research
Quality Management, continuous improvement, efficiency issues
The foundation MUST provide access to the services of a statistician so that valid research can be carried out at SGH and beyond. Even if he/she advised on what IT statistics software should be procured and staff trained on how to use them
Multidisciplinary approaches to treatment
Have more facilitated discussions with HSE departments in the community to help them get started with research projects that will benefit their particular needs
Research on alcohol
Challenges to health in the workplace
Skin diseases, why the increase sun damage etc.
Mental health
Formal collaborations with other centres worldwide
Collaboration with NUIG
Collaboration with NUIG (primary care/GP)
Longer term studies on morbidity within specific pop groups
Research workshops in the evenings around 7pm to facilitate staff
The future for post 18yrs in today's society for those with either a specified L.D. or Autism
Broaden remit to Donegal area.
Maybe bringing individuals together who may be interested in working on research projects but may not have sufficient time or ability to undertake individual research projects.
Create a list of research ideas for all disciplines
Think that ye are doing good work at present - cant think of anything new
I'd like to suggest more consolidation of work done to date, such as a more reflective approach on the work done to date - lessons learned, impact on patient care and if little or no impact, look into how to get local research into practice
I think that there needs to be closer links with the services in order to identify areas of practice that the services would be interested in collaborating on researching.
PCCC
Nurse education
Info on GCP
Info on Informed consent
Publish on HSE Northwest site
Patient Safety and Risk management....research
Activities which cross-over or make links to others in other institutes or organisations

It appears difficult to get support for research - money not always the issue - time and resource most difficult.
The correlation between a well designed and maintained physical environment and a reduced average length of stay.
The impact of the mind and a positive outlook on a successful outcome from treatment for illness
Correlation between a well designed and maintained physical environment and reduced average length of stay in hospitals
The role of the mind and positive thinking in successful outcomes
Foundation needs to branch out into community more.
Develop small local research clubs to discuss research, identify new research to be conducted and access funding
Use of internet as an education or research tool
Provide individual supervision or consultancy for staff embarking on a piece of practice research that is not linked to an academic course/qualification. Even though one might have a Masters etc it is still daunting to begin a piece of practice research without having someone who is experienced in research to consult with.
I believe there are worthwhile activities currently; sustaining the interest is the challenge.
The arrival of students from NUIG should help provide more help in carrying out projects
Basic skills workshops for people entering the Health Service and who may have little knowledge of research eg Questionnaires, focus group and interview techniques; understanding data in reports; using IT packages,etc.
I would like to see patients with TB -- t-diagnosis, treatment, follow up and success, Issues like hand hygiene in schools, Who is responsible for tatoo parlours and swimming pool hygiene /infection control
Collaborative research with SIT - with aid of commercial funding
Collaboration with private sector and secondary schools science programmes
Accessible statistician (through Sligo IT or elsewhere)to provide methodological advice/support for audit and research projects on an ongoing basis

Appendix 2

Can you suggest new EDUCATIONAL activities and/or initiatives the Foundation should get involved in?

Evidence-based medicine
Management skills
Support cpd of the individual professions as hse budget to do this has gone in the present climate
Annual report could describe better all the activities and a little bit of outcomes
Suicide and prevention among young people.
Hospital wide "Grand Rounds"
LEAN [More efficient] approaches to Healthcare.
More Public talks which are normally very well attended.
Research skills courses - both quantitative and qualitative
Educational activities in relation to helping other departments in the HSE to develop in relation to broadening current research work that they do.
Womens health, staff health initiatives, physical activity initiatives
Sourcing more funding for researchers maybe internationally
Research in health education can point the way here
Legal issues of relevance in health care; health service planning
I would love to see some courses dealing with skills in qualitative research - eg how to code qual data, what constitutes a theme in qual data, creating rigorous audit trails in qual research etc
Presenting audit figures and facts in collaboration with the audit office at sgh
Courses on managing teenagers with LD
Research supervision / consultation, or mentoring.
More research skills workshops
Suggest contact various professional organisations of the different disciplines and identify what are the main, generic continuing educational needs.
Further Education evening courses eg. Mgmt courses for clerical staff

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"How to write papers/articles" class
To reach out to other departments with information about your coursed and how they would benefit our service. The thoughts of getting involved in a research project seems like 'more work' and is offputting so maybe meeting with groups of staff and informing them of the courses you run and the benefits would generate interest and maybe increase the uptake?
More public health forums like mens health week.
Patient Safety initiatives.
Eg safe surgery saves lives checklist
WHO & Joint commission International 9 patient safety solutions
Specific link to undergrad / postgrad research in quality in IT Sligo
More frequent or repeated skills courses throughout the year. Excellent!
Weekly multidisciplinary meetings, held at lunchtime would be useful, similar to medical meetings on tues/friday but open it up to wider audience with more variety of speakers.
Perhaps an annual social event to promote healthy living e.g. A hill walk
Perhaps an annual social event to promote healthy living and to bring people together outside SGH e.g. A hillwalk
Formulate research links with university NUI Galway alot of departments there very relevant to practice, child and family, general practice, and gerontology
Activities to support Medical Training Students from Galway.
The public lecture series provides a lot of interesting and topical themes.
Is there a role for more guest speakers from outside
Talks by specialists in specific areas to enhance skills and to update clinical staff in new advances
Outreach / satellite service to the rest of the region particularly since Public Health no longer fulfills this remit.
Sessions on intellectual property - innovative technology etc
Events that include the public are good for raising both funds and REF profile. These need to be topical and relevant to maximise attendance and networking