

What difference do clinical academics make?

➔ AUDIO SUMMARY

You can listen to a 4 minute summary of this poster here: tinyurl.com/SummaryAudio You may need to copy and paste the link if using an NHS computer.

➔ INTRODUCTION

We explored the perceived impacts of clinical academic activity by NMAHPP professionals.

Nursing
Midwifery
Allied health professions
Healthcare science
Pharmacy
Psychology

Clinical academic activity was defined as engagement in research alongside clinical practice.

➔ METHODS

We used two approaches:

- 1) Systematic review of the published and grey literature,
- 2) Qualitative interviews with managers and research-active clinicians at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust (ICHT).

➔ RESULTS

Our systematic review identified 20 relevant studies from an initial pool of >2,700. We categorised the different types of impact using the [VICTOR tool](#) (visible impact of research).

We interviewed 8 managers and 12 research active clinicians. Interview transcripts were analysed using the Framework Method.

Findings from both studies were combined using Thematic Analysis to identify the pertinent positive and negative impacts.

Clinical academics create many positive impacts for their patients and clinical teams, but the lack of clinical academic career structure is a major challenge to sustaining these impacts.

Reported positive impacts:



Positive organisational reputation

Attractive place to work and seek healthcare



Improved services and patient care

Efficient and evidence-based care pathways
Patient and public involvement in service design



Local research culture

Clinician engagement in service improvement
Implementation of research findings
Research mentorship and guidance



Knowledge transfer and collaboration

Academic outputs and multidisciplinary dissemination
Knowledge sharing nationally and internationally



Promote and develop NMAHPP professions

Contribute to clinical bodies and national guidelines
Peer review for journals, funders and healthcare charities



Generate research income

Win research funding and support others to apply

Features of an ideal clinical academic pathway:



Clear routes and steps for progression

Common pathways for all NMAHPPs
Protected time for research, dissemination and implementation – limiting short periods of backfill

➔ DISCUSSION

Positive impacts frequently centred around individual clinicians who were committed to developing their clinical speciality, but did not necessarily translate to the wider workforce.

Negative impacts were attributed to the absence of a defined and supported clinical academic career structure.

Agreed and standardised methods of recording and reporting the impacts identified would aid the creation and evaluation of a clinical academic career structure for NMAHPP professionals.

➔ FUTURE RESEARCH

We are currently running a national interview study to explore research impact from the patient / participant perspective. There are more details here: tinyurl.com/PICimpact

➔ PUBLICATIONS

We have published two components of this work. You can access the full text papers here:
Systematic review: <https://rdcu.be/cjHBU>
Exploration of 'what is a clinical academic': tinyurl.com/JCNclinac

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