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WHAT ARE THE PERCEIVED BENEFITS OF AN INNOVATIVE OPPORTUNITY FOR GP TRAINEES TO TEACH MEDICAL STUDENTS?

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Introduction:

A recent survey in the Northern Region revealed that General Practice Specialty Trainees (GPStRs) wished for more opportunities to teach and 92% hoped for further teacher training. The RCGP states that 'specialty registrars in the latter stages of training are ideally placed to deliver some of the teaching, mentoring and clinical supervision required'. The aim of this study was to investigate to what extent the GPStRs thought a pilot of teaching medical students was useful in their development.

Methods:

Purposive sampling was used to identify GPStRs interested in education to teach Stage 4 medical students. The GPStRs were interviewed following their teaching opportunities using semi-structured interviews and the data was thematically analysed. Ethical approval was granted by Newcastle University.

Results:

All five GPStRs were interviewed and the overall theme was that trainees felt this was a valuable opportunity that inspired them to become involved with education in their future careers. A wider theme highlighted the interest from other trainees in teaching opportunities. The GPStRs felt the medical students valued being taught by GP trainees, who were closer to them in terms of the training they had undergone. The study also highlighted the need for feedback to the GPStRs on their teaching as well as the need for formal sessions on 'how to teach'.

Conclusions:

An understanding of the benefits of our teaching pilot will allow the Medical School and Training Programme to develop opportunities for GPStRs to be involved in education during their training. This may in turn attract GPs into education and inspire medical students to become GPs.

The pilot study will be expanded in the coming year, with further emphasis put on giving the GPStRs formal training on teaching skills and feedback on their teaching.