

# Surgical Trainees in East of England Research (STEER) Collaborative Group

January 2020

Dear trainee colleagues



Happy new year. We hope you have all had a wonderful break over Christmas and New Year's. Now that January is coming to a close, we felt it a good time to update you the Collaborative's activities and outline our projects for 2020. It has been an important and productive few months for the STEER Collaborative. Things have really taken off; our inaugural study (DiSC) has now been published, we have joined the National Research Collaborative (NRC) and have actively taken part in its meetings. Mohamed Rabie, our Media & Communications officer did a fantastic job representing our collaborative at the NRC annual meeting in December 2019, giving an excellent presentation summarising our activities in 2019. We also have two presentations at the national level and currently there are two projects active with more to come. Most exciting of all is our Dragon's Den in Feb 2020. Five fantastic projects have been shortlisted.

## Diabetes in Surgical Care (DiSC) - Published

Our first multi-site study led by Teddy Fletcher and Alan Askari has been published in the International Journal of Clinical Practice in December 2019 and has been accepted for presentation at the Association of Surgeons in Training (ASiT) to be held in Birmingham, in March 2020. Well done and congratulation to all those involved.

## Appendicectomy Survey – Soon to be submitted

Our survey on practice around appendicectomy led by Krash Patel and Chelise Currows is now complete and we are due to submit the paper to a journal in the near future. The survey has yielded some interesting results and we hope to share them soon.

## Colorectal Anastomosis Leak Management (CALM) – Active

The CALM study led by Medhat Aker and Alan Askari is well under way and we are proud to announce that we already have 9 hospitals across the deanery signed up;

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promising to be our biggest study to date. Please contact the collaborative ([contact@steercollaborative.co.uk](mailto:contact@steercollaborative.co.uk)) or Medhat Aker ([medaker@gmail.com](mailto:medaker@gmail.com)) directly to get involved. Alternatively see our STEER website.

### Occult Hernia Survey – Soon to be launched

Led by Mohamed Aly, this survey aims to answer some very important clinical questions around the management of occult (non-palpable) abdominal wall hernias in adults. The 1-2 minute survey will be released soon, please keep a look out and participate.

### Dragon's Den – 5 projects shortlisted

We have had a fantastic response from the trainees in the deanery. From the 13 projects submitted, five have been shortlisted as finalists and will be presented by their lead investigators at the Dragon's Den in Feb 2020. With NIHR and deanery support, the event promises to be a great opportunity for the winner to launch their study across the deanery and may be even nationally. All members of the committee helped to make the Dragon's Den happen, which is a great achievement for the collaborative. Special recognition must go to Krash Patel for his tireless efforts in putting it together.

### Mentorship Scheme

The mentorship scheme is running and trainees have been paired up with their mentors. Please contact the collaborative if you have not been allocated a mentor and wish to have one.

### Future Projects

Another two projects are currently being discussed by the collaborative and developed into projects. We hope to launch them in the near future. As always, we are keen for trainees to engage with us to help them with projects, audits and publications, please contact us via email or social media.

