

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



STEER

Collaborative Group

June 2020 Newsletter



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Dear trainee colleagues

We hope you are all well during these difficult and trying times. Over the last few months, we have all had to adapt different working patterns and environments in the face of a global pandemic. Understandably this has generated uncertainty and anxiety regarding clinical and academic work as well as career progression. We, at the STEER Collaborative have continued to support our colleagues through our mentorship programme as well as proceeding with several of our studies. The Collaborative's inaugural Journal Club earlier this month was a massive success and we will be making it a regular feature.

In February, we had a very successful first Dragon's Den which saw five fantastic projects make it to the final. It was a very tightly fought contest with only a few points between all five finalists. Congratulations to them all, in particular the winner Omer Abbassi (CT2 Addenbrooke's) for his multi-centre study proposal into outcomes post oesophagectomy. His study will be carried out through STEER later in the year. Given the impressive quality of the other four projects, the Collaborative will be discussing the potential to carry out all of the studies in the near future. We hope to make the Dragon's Den an annual feature, giving the opportunity for further projects from trainees.

In other good news, the Collaborative has proudly published its second manuscript. The appendicectomy survey project entitled ***Current technical surgical practice of emergency appendicectomy: a cross-sectional survey of surgical registrars in the UK*** has been published in the June issues of the *Annals of the Royal College of Surgeons of England*. Currently the Collaborative has two active studies; the Occult Hernia Survey and the Colorectal Anastomotic Leak Management (CALM) study, both of which are due for completion over the next few months. There are another two projects currently under consideration for launching in the second half of the year. With the successes of the collaborative, we are looking to expand both the governing committee and also the Collaboratives membership, so please look out for opportunities in the near future.



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Appendicectomy Survey – Published

Special congratulations to Chelise Currow and Krashna Patel, taking the lead on publishing the collaboratives 2nd manuscript in the Annals of Royal College of Surgeons of England. The results demonstrated some interesting trends in practice amongst surgical trainees when performing appendicectomy. <https://publishing.rcseng.ac.uk/doi/full/10.1308/rcsann.2020.0123>

Colorectal Anastomosis Leak Management (CALM) – Write Up

The CALM study is currently in the analysis and write up stage and we hope to have a manuscript ready for publication in the near future. The study led by Medhat Aker and Alan Askari hopes to ascertain the different approaches surgeons take to managing colorectal anastomotic leaks.

Occult Hernia Survey – Active

The occult hernia management survey led by Mohamed Aly is doing very well and attracting a lot of replies from consultant surgeons. Please [contact](#) STEER for further details and disseminate the survey as soon and widely as possible, to help us complete the project shortly.

Journal Club

Earlier this month, the Collaborative held its first virtual Journal Club discussing the recent COVID-Surg paper published in the Lancet. It involved lots of effort and input by all the committee members, but special recognition to Vice Chair Samuel Adegbola as well as our head of communications and media Mohamed Rabie and one of our project coordinators, Mohammed Aly for making it happen. The feedback was extremely encouraging, and the Journal Club will be a monthly feature. We are looking for trainees or teams of trainees to present and critique papers in future sessions. All confirmed participants receive a certificate and the session can be added as a learning encounter on ISCP. Please contact the collaborative for further information.

Collaborative Expansion

To facilitate our increasing activities, the Collaborative is expanding both its membership and its Committee. We are looking for enthusiastic trainees at both the CT and ST level to be involved in helping with research projects as well as taking formal roles on the Committee. Please contact the collaborative with an expression of interest for further details.



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