View metadata, citation and similar papers at core.ac.uk

brought to you by CORE

provided by espace@Curtin

Journal of Medical Radiation Sciences

Open Access

CORRESPONDENCE

J Med Radiat Sci **62** (2015) 295–296

doi: 10.1002/jmrs.146

Letter in response to 'The conceptual model of advanced practice does include research'

Re: Smith T, Harris J, Woznitza N, Marese S, Sale C. Conceptualisation of the characteristics of advanced practitioners in the medical radiation professions. *J Med Radiat Sci* 2015; **62**: 204–11.

We are pleased that the paper on the 'Conceptualisation of the Characteristics of Advanced Practitioners . . .'[1] has generated such interest; however, as indicated in our previous letter to the editor,[2] research is explicitly included in the model, not omitted as has been suggested.[3] In fact, the word 'research' is used in 25 instances in the article, all with positive intent. This count is not itself a true indication of the degree to which we value research as part of advanced practitioners' roles but rather makes the point that research has not been omitted. Instead, it is integrated across the various essential characteristics, emphasising the principal clinical role of advanced practitioners.[1]

The opinion that research has been omitted because it is not one of the seven essential characteristics is to take a somewhat superficial view of the article and of the model itself. We agree with the authors of the two recent letters[4,5] that research must be highly valued in any profession. We admire the progress made on the development of radiation therapist advanced practitioner roles in Canada.[3] Their research output is excellent but our paper makes it clear that advanced practitioner performance should be measured by, among many other performance indicators, their 'research track record', 'conference publications' and 'peer-reviewed publications', under the characteristic of 'Evidence-Based Practice' in Table 1.[1]

The same authors are critical of the use of the CanMeds model in the development of our model;[4] however, it is obvious by making a comparison between the two models that we have not simply replicated CanMeds but used it, together with other models referred in the article, to inform the model of medical radiation advanced practitioner characteristics. It is true that the medical radiation professions have a markedly different history to medicine, but if advanced practitioners in our professions are to perform clinical roles traditionally performed by specialist medical practitioners, surely they must possess comparable essential characteristics. We argue that advanced practitioner performance in the medical radiation professions must be benchmarked against that of radiologists and oncologists.

The other letter contains misinformation in saying that in our model 'emphasis was placed on separating clinical practitioners from conducting research'.[5] At no point in the article did we profess or countenance such an opinion. Indeed, even in the abstract it is stated that advanced practitioners will use 'evidence-based practice, with judgements made on the basis of research findings, including research by the advanced practitioner'.[1]

In that same letter it is suggested that the level of research knowledge and skills we have advocated is no better than that of a new graduate practitioner.[5] Undergraduates do not produce a Masters level research thesis. At best, they would have an introductory knowledge of research principles, not the ability to 'understand and articulate research design and methodologies', let alone interpret, translate and apply research findings in clinical practice, as well as promoting 'a research culture in the clinical environment' by educating and mentoring others.[1] The letter's author displays a simplistic view of research, which, when performed well, is exceptionally time consuming and requires the utmost dedication. If it was a mandatory essential characteristic of advanced practitioners to be active researchers, it would be expected to take them away from what we consider their essential, frontline, core clinical service role.[1] Although, again, we do not exclude research from the comprehensive knowledge, skills and abilities that advanced practitioners must possess in the medical radiation professions.

References

1. Smith T, Harris J, Woznitza N, Marese S, Sale C. Conceptualisation of the characteristics of advanced practitioners in the medical radiation professions. *J Med Radiat Sci* 2015; **62**: 204–11.

© 2015 The Authors. *Journal of Medical Radiation Sciences* published by Wiley Publishing Asia Pty Ltd on behalf of Australian Institute of Radiography and New Zealand Institute of Medical Radiation Technology.
This is an open access article under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs License, which permits use and distribution in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited, the use is non-commercial and no modifications or adaptations are made.

2. Smith T, Harris J. Letter in response to 'The role of research for advanced practitioners'. *J Med Radiat Sci* 2015; **62**: 235.
3. Sim J. Omission of research in the conceptual model of advanced practice. *J Med Radiat Sci* 2015; **62**: 234.
4. Bolderston A, Harnett N, Lewis D, Smoke M. Letter in response to 'Omission of research in the conceptual model of advanced practice.' *J Med Radiat Sci* 2015; **62**: 292–3.
5. Kane P. Letter in response to correspondence on 'Conceptualisation of the characteristics of advanced practitioners in the medical radiation professions'. *J Med Radiat Sci* 2015; **62**: 294.

Tony Smith PhD, MSc, BSc, DipAppSci(MedRad), FIR
Department of Rural Health, University of Newcastle, Taree, NSW, Australia
Email: tony.smith@newcastle.edu.au
Tel: +61 2 6515 1912
Fax: +61 2 6515 1901

Jillian Harris DCR(T)(UK), MIR
Crown Princess Mary Cancer Centre, Westmead, Sydney, NSW, Australia

Nick Woznitza BSc, PgDip, PgCert, MIR AP(DR)
Homerton University Hospital and School of Allied Health Professions, Canterbury Christ Church University, Canterbury, United Kingdom

Sharon Maresse MHed, MHSc, DipAppSc(TherRad), MIR
Department of Imaging and Applied Physics, Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia

Charlotte Sale PhD, MHM, BMRS(RT)(Hons), FIR
School of Medical Science, RMIT University, Melbourne, VIC, Australia

© 2015 The Authors. *Journal of Medical Radiation Sciences* published by Wiley Publishing Asia Pty Ltd on behalf of Australian Institute of Radiography and New Zealand Institute of Medical Radiation Technology