

## **RCoA Research, Education & Travel Grants 2017**

**Award:** Belfast Fund

**Applicant:** Dr Harriette Beard

**Project Title:** *Emergency Anatomy for Medical Students*

### **Project Description:**

I am applying for funding to financially help me to do the general instructors course. This is a course that I believe will enable me to not only become an instructor for teaching on the advanced life support course but also impacting education of anatomy and life support for medical students.

Whilst I have been involved in teaching anatomy to medical students for over 9 years, this is my first independent project to change the way students are taught and inspired. I have taken the learning objectives from the programme and thought of ways to deliver the information needed and to make this exciting and interesting for the students. This works by running 4 sessions over the year for final year medical students and running 3 stations with an Advanced trauma life support course themes of airway, breathing and circulation. I get registrars and consultants in anaesthetics, emergency medicine and acute medicine to deliver teaching on the anatomy related to procedures through performing [on cadavers] endotracheal intubation, emergency surgical airways, chest drains and central venous access – with this getting the students actively involved in the session so they themselves can see and feel the structures.

This is in the second year of the programme and I have trialled the assessment of the students prior to the session and after to see the effects of the students' knowledge of the topics. This has had a positive result from this and from positive feedback from students and the consultants who teach them in the clinical environment but I believe the course would benefit from further assessment of the style of learning. I am keen to learn more about the adult learning theory through this course so that I can continue to improve my project and then to test my new approach to teaching the anatomy related to the acute specialities.

I plan to test my new style with a randomised control trial with a cohort of medical students at the University – a recognised method of testing novel educational intervention. The past two years of teaching have been the pilot to my study – ensuring that this new style will work and ironing out any problems.

I have identified this project as an important area of my personal development in areas of teaching and management and also research. This is a manageable course to do whilst working full time as an anaesthetics trainee and also voluntarily organising the running of a teaching programme.

I believe this course is the right balance between learning of a new theory and practical application and will be important to ensure a good introduction to the students of a very important area of anatomy and style of teaching that will experience numerous times throughout their career.

I believe this project is important not only for the university and its medical students but also for teaching of the future doctors and anaesthetists.