Building research capacity in allied health

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BACKGROUND

RAH Physiotherapy Department initiative:
- commenced in 1995.
- research coordinator role (12 hours/week).
- aimed at fostering clinical research, building research capacity within PT department.

Expanded to all of AH, CALHN-wide:
- 2015 (12 hours/week).
~ 181 publications: 113 clinical, 20 lit reviews.
Patient-centred, clinically relevant.
Large number/variety of staff.
Research degrees.

Difficulties: slow recruitment, resource issues, lack of career opportunities, level of research, over-reliance on KS.
LESSONS

• Appoint the right person.
• Focus on staff interested in research and high-volume areas.
• Simple research designs for novice researchers.

CONCLUSION

• Identifying a clinician with research interest/expertise and quarantining time to enable a research co-ordinating role successfully fostered clinically relevant research and built research capacity within PT and, arguably, AH departments.