

The Society for Trauma, Emergency medicine/nursing & Pre-hospital care UK (STEPUK) – Progress Report

Keywords

STEPUK; Trauma; Emergency

Disciplines

Emergency Medicine, Emergency Nursing, Pre-hospital care

Summary

STEPUK is an inter-professional innovation that brings together students from the professional disciplines of medicine, nursing and paramedic science/practice. This was initiated at the University of Warwick in March 2009 by a medical student. Since this date the model has been implemented at various universities and specialist groups have offered their support. This report will summarise the aims of STEPUK, describe its current activities and suggest the future outcomes of this project.

Activities

STEPUK Aims:

- To increase medical, nursing and paramedic student access to the principles of trauma, emergency medicine/nursing and pre-hospital care
- To increase inter-professional activities for students to maximize their learning potential
- To develop links with leading organizations and specialists
- To increase opportunities for potential healthcare educationalists to support education at a university and community level

These will be completed by:

- Developing an active student group at all medical, nursing and paramedic schools across the UK
- Promoting the development of student education in this field
- Promoting inter-professional meetings and social interaction between groups
- Fostering student links with local, regional and national organizations, groups and specialists in these areas
- Increasing student involvement in arranging and supporting events
- Initiating student interaction in developing their own learning needs for future work
- Introducing career guidance by local, regional and national figures
- Increasing student opportunities to support education through developing lecture programmes and practical sessions
- Engaging in fundraising and supporting campaigns for / with appropriately established charities

The award supplied by the Reinvention Centre aimed to initiate this project by enabling an independent website to be set up and initial research to be undertaken to address the following:

1. To provide students with the opportunity to become involved in the organisation of university-based undergraduate research into inter-professional education

2. To ascertain the views of students and staff on the inter-professional links in STEPUK
3. To investigate the views of healthcare students regarding unfamiliar teaching environments
4. To use the data to advance STEPUK and enhance future learning environments

General

The website of STEPUK (www.stepuk.org) was launched in March 2009 with the support of numerous leading professionals across the UK. Many students have contacted STEPUK requesting additional information on activities and numerous student groups are under construction. Regional directors to support and advance these groups are in position for the West Midlands and South West of England. The director's goals are to increase inter-professional links and communicate with other regional directors on local events.

Research & Development

Specific research has been discussed between members of the National Advisory Group and the overall plan has been agreed. However, fine details are still being arranged and the actual start of the research is behind schedule. This is due to the university leads having time to develop components of the research they find most important to their profession.

The current plan is as follows:

3 regional lectures will be organised. One will be organised by medical students, one by nursing students and one by paramedic students. The lecture will be arranged by one group of students in their own learning environment under the guidance of a specialist. Three student participants will be chosen from each professional course to meet as part of a focus group after each lecture: 3 medical, 3 nursing, 3 paramedic.

A structured discussion of the focus group will evaluate:

1. To what extent collaboration between academics and students was effective in developing the event
2. To what extent collaboration away from a student's own teaching area was effective
3. To what extent the learning environment affected the dynamics of the mixed teams

In addition, the following will be investigated:

1. The extent the research-based/practice-based learning environment has helped the focus group
2. How it has affected the wider experience of students and staff?

Outcomes

This research will result in improved understanding of student links, redesigning spaces, inter-professional education and staff-student collaborations at a local and regional level. Initially it was thought that a local pilot study would be completed and if successful, the research could be completed at a national level. However, discussions are underway to include many different universities at the outset.

Implications

The students will benefit from close collaboration with experienced researchers within the field. They will learn how to analyse and interpret results and will present the findings in written and verbal form to individuals in the STEPUK research group. This will then be disseminated to the national body. Students will then act as advocates to cascade any positive developments out across the UK to provide the opportunity for all medical, nursing and paramedic schools to become involved. Various presentations will also be undertaken by all the team members at future STEPUK local/regional meetings and the students will submit their views on their experiences to national conferences for presentation and various journals as guided by the national group. These conferences will be in the specialist field (medical, nursing, paramedic) and in the area of education.

Resources

A website has been set up for students to locate who their university lead and regional leads are.

References

N/A

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Supplementary information

www.stepuk.org