

Irish Association for Emergency Medicine Academic Committee

Academic & Research Strategy

The Academic Committee (hereafter the Committee) of the Irish Association for Emergency Medicine (IAEM) is responsible for developing and supporting scholarship within the Emergency Medicine (EM) community in Ireland. Scholarship is defined as follows:

- **Scholarship of teaching:** involving quality teaching and the demonstration of the quality and effectiveness of teaching;
- **Scholarship of integration:** integration of knowledge and the ability to glean new insight from original research and diffusing it across the health service;
- **Scholarship of application:** application of knowledge to practical clinical problems, involving translation of new knowledge into practical use while demonstrating its effectiveness;
- **Scholarship of discovery:** discovery of new knowledge, involving the research of new knowledge, e.g. basic science, translational, and epidemiologic research.

The Committee has considered the background and context of academic pursuit within EM in Ireland and has devised a strategy for development of this important area of our specialty.

The predominant areas of development and attention will be in the following:

- I. Creation of a **national research network** in EM
 - a. Promoting multi-centred EM research

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- b. Securing sufficient funding for sustained EM research initiatives
 - c. Instigating MD/PhD programmes of EM research
- II. Building a repository of information and guidance for EM researchers in Ireland
 - III. Promote knowledge translation (KT) in EM aimed at bridging the evidence-to-practice gap and improving clinical outcomes of ED patients
 - IV. To act as a resource for the CTR component of the FCEM examination
 - V. Management of abstract submission and academic content of the IAEM Annual Scientific Meeting

Summary of Goals, Actions and Implementation Priorities

The following tables represent summaries of goals and actions, as well as implementation priorities for the next 3 to 5 years, and beyond. Goals and actions are presented for six strategic priorities:

- i. Enhancing Productivity and Impact of Research
- ii. Enrich and Transform our Teaching Programmes
- iii. Advance Quality of Care
- iv. Strengthen Integration and Collaboration
- v. Retain, attract and support academic Consultants in EM
- vi. Develop funding and infrastructure

Reference:

Schrader C, Barsan WG, Gordon JA, et al. Scholarship in emergency medicine in an environment of increasing clinical demand: proceedings from the 2007 Association of American Medical Colleges annual meeting. Acad Emerg Med 2008;15(6):567-72.

I. Enhancing Productivity & Impact of Research

Goal	Recommended Actions
To build sustainable programmes of research with infrastructure around national and local research priorities with a critical mass of academic clinicians in EM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a clear and shared vision of our priority research areas • Establish our recruitment priorities and advocate with funders • Advocate for government funding in EM research
Work towards building broad acceptance among Consultants in EM in Ireland to support the academic mission through salary support, clinical hours and a shared vision for future recruitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn from successful examples e.g. General Surgery, EM in other healthcare systems • Establish a clear and shared vision of our priority research programmes
Educate key stakeholders (e.g., clinicians, managers, policy-makers, patients) of the unique position of the ED in the health service in relation to health services research (HSR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support high-impact, policy-relevant, research on important and complex EM issues • Promote the use of HSR analytic methods to address important EM issues, such as: ED overcrowding, prehospital care, hospital bypass systems (e.g. trauma, stroke), clinical pathways and ultrasonography • Use HSR methods to improve clinical practice in EDs, to evaluate educational interventions and to assess cost effectiveness of mandated quality initiatives
To increase the profile of EM research and foster collaboration with other disciplines and partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appeal to Hospitals, Institutions, & Foundations to direct their fund raising to EM Research • Encourage and support the presentation of EM research work at national and international conferences • Support translational and clinical research as an academic discipline by encouraging collaboration with other specialties and access to patient populations unique to EDs
To promote research opportunities and explore the potential for an EM clinician scientist programme early in NCHD training; train and support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote research to NCHDs • Develop junior investigator awards through industrial partners (medical device companies, pharmaceutical

clinician scientists and young investigators	industry) and endowments <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop the an EM clinician scientist programme in Ireland• Secure development funds to encourage clinicians who wish to pursue research training post appointments
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II. Enrich and transform teaching programmes

Goal	Recommended Action
Achieve cohesive national 'grand round' teaching in EM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and maintain remote and web conferencing, central-coordination • Designate individuals to collaborate for academic rounds • Encourage collaborative CME activities with other specialties relevant in the efficient delivery of emergency care (for example: Primary Care, Acute Medicine, Anaesthesia, Critical Care Medicine)
Provide improved support for education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve funding for Emergency Medicine education for infrastructure support, with special attention to funding for trainee education
Engage undergraduates and increase the profile of EM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a national EM undergraduate curriculum • Promotion and development of the role of interns within Emergency Departments
Promote evidence-based EM as a fundamental principle in BSTEM and HSTEM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a subcommittee to nurture and manage the CTR component of FCEM • Develop a national EM 'journal club'
Enhance physician development and mentoring for specialists and trainees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve consultant-consultant mentoring; consultant-trainee mentoring; redefining mentor to advisor • Exploit resources across the specialty for consultant development, mentorship and support

III. Advance Quality of Care

Goal	Recommended Action
Establish the evidence base for successful interventions aimed at reducing overcrowding in Irish EDs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support EM research initiatives aimed at understanding, documenting and monitoring ED overcrowding in the Irish healthcare setting (for example: the efficacy of implementing interventions such as the Full Capacity Protocol (FCP) and fast-track systems) • Develop a multi-centre EM health services research programme which can inform the change processes required to solve the problem
Support the use of both quantitative and qualitative methods for improving quality of patient care in EDs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a forum for quality measurement and improvement with broad representation to define the quality agenda and measurements • Encourage consistent gathering of baseline quality data, improve variability in data collection and lack of standardised variations. Use existing standards where available • Encourage multi-site quality interventions with valid measurement component • Explore different methods of effectiveness of quality interventions
Develop and review evidence based protocols and guidelines for the specialty of Emergency Medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a repository for existing evidence based guidelines, pathways and protocols • Set standards of clinical care, best practice and clinical procedures in EDs
Support improvement in electronic data collection and informatics applications in EDs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support research projects aimed at standardizing data collection and linkage of data repositories documenting ED patient care, assessing the impact of ED patient care and quantifying eventual clinical outcomes.

IV. Strengthen Collaboration and Integration

Goal	Recommended Action
Facilitate and promote collaboration between EM sites with regard to delivery of clinical care, education, training and research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure sharing of academic strengths and collaborate to fill identified gaps • Facilitate communication (e.g. through academic newsletter and other means) between EM researchers and the wider EM community
Facilitate the integration of CTRs into wider EM research agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support EM trainees in development of high-impact CTRs consistent with the broader EM research agenda • Facilitate the integration of CTR findings into evidence-based, protocols, guidelines and clinical pathways
Collaborate in delivery of education to trainees in all disciplines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate collaboration between EDs in relation to teaching and training • Establish interdisciplinary education opportunities that involve pertinent stakeholder participation and promote understanding of EM centred best practice and process of care • Create opportunities for people to interact on a regular basis i.e. Rounds/CME; working groups; promotion/publication of interdepartmental activities • Promote interdepartmental collaboration during training
Facilitate collaboration with outside groups with similar interests including: other departments, other universities and allied health professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop working group with HSE METR to determine specific role of academic EM: quality and process issues in delivery of emergency care • Promote key individuals (beyond leaders) to the “outside” i.e. CEM, Irish Colleges, Journals (editorial boards) • Conduct rounds with allied health professionals.

V. Retain, Attract and Nurture Academic Consultants in EM

Goal	Recommended Action
Recognize and reward the contribution of all consultant members (regardless of academic job description)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance university collaborations • Enhance academic recognition of extra university achievements, e.g. for promotion purposes • Formal newsletter
Strengthen mentorship and career path development for all consultants at all career stages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of model for a formal [longitudinal] mentorship programme • Ensure senior (and retired) consultants are involved in mentorship of trainees and junior consultants • Use Rounds as vehicle to promote mentorship
Develop a core of productive EM researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support fellowship-level training and/or advanced research degrees in EM trainees, as a demonstration of the trainee's commitment to an academic career and that the trainee has sufficient training to be a productive investigator • Advocate for a minimum protected research time for EM clinician-scientists
Intensify efforts for strategic recruitment of top calibre consultants, coordinating recruitment at the national level and ensuring recruitment is aligned with priority IAEM themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a National Recruitment Committee for EM clinician scientists • Ensure that recruitment priorities are widely accepted within and outside the specialty • Ensure hiring of consultant/ED staff better aligns academic priorities of individual with those of individual EDs and IAEM • Lead in wellness area to emphasise healthy work environments and prevent burnout • Improve infrastructure (e.g. research nurse and other supports)

VI. Develop Funding and Infrastructure

Goal	Recommended Action
<p>Develop a clear and shared academic vision that aligns with other university academic departments, HRB research priorities etc</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a clear and shared academic vision with which to attract support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revisit and refine IAEM vision of Academic & Research EM • Encourage development of EM clinician scientists as a priority at sites across the country • Enhance common practices across sites/institutions such that they align along national lines (e.g. ED shift assignment, common practice plans, joint academic positions)
<p>Enhance academic productivity in order to strengthen our ability to attract major philanthropic gifts and funding from hospital foundations (e.g. Chairs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure strong focus on high-quality clinical training and build on academic productivity • Identify strong existing academic stars and recruit new ones • Seek to develop or strengthen partnerships with hospital foundations, philanthropic sources, and create exciting opportunities for academic funding • Develop exciting CME methods/courses on novel topics or using novel technology
<p>Advocate for EM research to be placed higher on the HSE's and HRB's agenda and supported with sufficient funds and initiatives to make it successful</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propose enhanced links between the HRB (Health Research Board) and EM • Ensure representation on key HRB peer review expert panels • Ensure EM representation on the HSE Research Advisory Panel • Advocate for separate HRB and HSE research grants EM, critical care, trauma and prehospital medicine in view of the reality that solutions to emergency care problems cannot be answered by researchers from other disciplines