

**NIHR Applied Research Collaboration North East and North Cumbria
Academic Career Development and Training Survey 2021 Report
Prof Gill Rowlands
Academic Career Development and Training Lead
November 2021**

Reason for conducting the survey

The survey was undertaken to understand the Academic Career Development and Training (ACDT) needs of the Applied Research Collaboration (ARC) North East and North Cumbria, and to provide an evidence-based framework for training to be identified and provided for ARC NENC members.

Method

The training needs survey was distributed via the ARC NENC communication network (currently 650 members). Those contacted were asked to forward on to others who may be interested. The survey was internet based. The survey was released on 29th June 2021 and ended on 23rd July 2021.

Results

The survey was completed by 67 people (10% of the membership). Participants included Researchers, Public Involvement and Community Engagement members, health staff, and local authority staff.

Primary role	Number of participants
Academic / researcher (University based)	34
NHS staff (doctors, nurses, Physiotherapists, managers)	15
Public involvement and Community Engagement / Charities / Non-Government Organisations	14
Local authority	3
Other (NIHR)	1

For responses to survey questions, not all participants answered all questions and also respondents were able to respond to more than one answer., thus total responses per question may equal less than or more than 67 responses.

Role in the ARC	Number of participants
Leading / co-leading an ARC project (current or applied for)	26
ARC member / associate member	14
ARC fellow or PhD student	8
Public involvement and Community Engagement	3
Other (ARC staff, PhD supervisor, other)	4

ARC Themes to which respondents are linked	Number of participants
Inequalities and marginalised communities	21
Prevention, early intervention and behaviour change	32
Supporting children and families	21
Multi-morbidity, ageing and frailty	19
Integrating physical, mental health and social care	17
Knowledge mobilisation and implementation (SKIM)	13
Enabling methodologies	9
Not applicable	7

Training needs

Sixty-nine training needs were identified across ten topic areas.

Topics	Training needs
Dissemination	Writing for publication
	Presentations
	Innovative / alternative dissemination e.g. theatres, social media
Implementation / Impact / Evaluation	Implementation
	Impact evaluation
	Evidence based practice
	Policy development
	Knowledge mobilisation
	Behaviour change, Shared Decision Making
	Improvement coaching
Leadership skills	Leadership and team management
	Business skills
Mentoring	Support for new Principal investigators
	Developing a research portfolio
Methodology workshops	Quantitative methods overview
	Meta-analysis
	Evaluation complex interventions
	Data integration & linkage, sharing data
	Analysing longitudinal data
	Statistics
	Critical analysis
	Health economics
	Literature reviews (rapid, systematic etc.)and search strategies
	Qualitative methods overview
	Creative and participatory methods
	Clinical trials
	Mixed methods research

	Finding and accessing data
	Grounded theory
	Ontological analysis
	Audits
	Diary-based methods, Case studies
	Theoretical domains framework
	Normalisation process theory
	Developing and running interviews
	Realist methods
	Logic models and theory of change
	Human centred design
	Research ethics
Project development & funding	Horizon scanning
	Identifying funding opportunities
	Improving funding applications - what do funding panels look for?
	Costing research proposals
	Research design in the NHS & local authorities
Project management skills	Managing a project
	Research passports
	Organisation skills
Public Involvement & community engagement	Co-production
	Engagement by PICE members with academics and health & LA providers
	Engagement with PICE by academics and health & LA providers
	Accessibility for groups with particular needs (examples given: learning disability, deafness, autism)
	Engaging with recovery colleges
	Family Hubs, working with families
	Working with young people
	For academics: what is PICE & why is it important
	Cultural aspects of research
	Involving the public in surveys
	Engaging with marginalised communities
	Peer research
	Digital inclusion
	Creating outputs for the public
	Unconscious bias training
	Trans awareness

Research governance	Research governance
Software training	Endnote
	Reaper (podcast software)
	Excel
	Statistical packages e.g. Stata

Next steps

These training needs now provide the framework for the training to be provided to ARC NENC members by September 2024. In order to maximise the use of ARC NENC funding, we are working to identify where high-quality provision is already available and accessible to our members. We are liaising with ARC NENC regional partners: other NIHR organisations (the Clinical Research Network and Research Design Service), Academic Higher Education Institution partners (i.e. Universities), and Arms-length Bodies (i.e. Health Education England). At a national level, the ARC NENC Research Methodology Fellows are undertaking a survey of all ARCs to identify training open to ARC NENC members.

Where high-quality training is not identified as available to meet a training need, we are exploring with ARC-funded staff (Fellows, and Theme Leadership) to see what training can be provided in-house (where possible this will also be made available to local and national partners as detailed above). Where training cannot be provided by ARC-funded staff, we will commission external training.

Summary

The ARC NENC ACDT survey has provided a framework for ACDT, which will be delivered by September 2024. We are working with Local and National partners and ARC NENC-funded staff to ensure cost-effective use of ARC NENC resources.