

# Benefits of a Medical Student-led Research Conference to Stimulate Early Interest in Academic Medicine

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## Introduction

A limited understanding of academic medicine hinders medical students from pursuing research.

## Aim

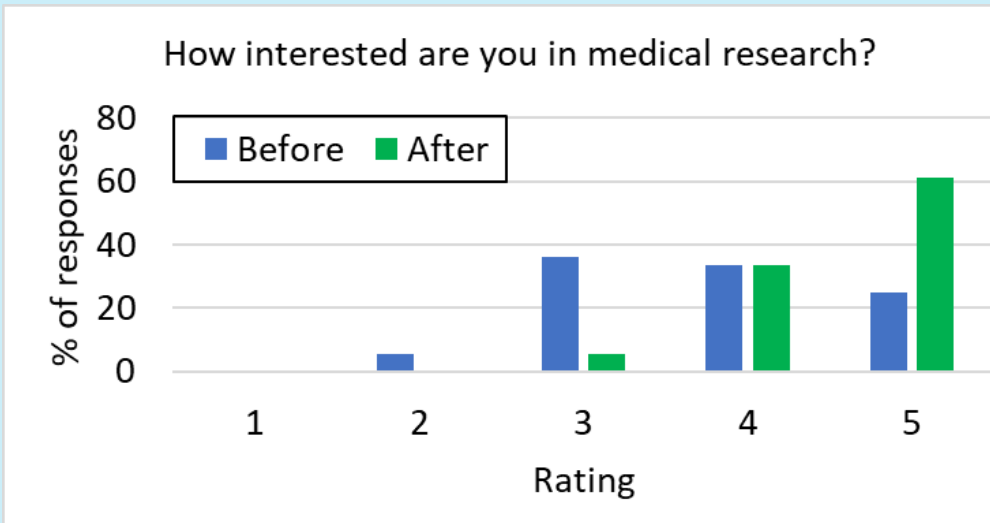
We aimed to inform students on the benefits and challenges of a career in academic medicine and how to get involved in research.

## Results

- 72 out of 81 attendees were medical students.
- 53% of medical students were involved in research projects prior to the conference.
- When asked 'Has this conference encouraged you to get involved in academic research in the future?', 36% and 60% stated 4/5 or 5/5 respectively (1= definitely no, 5= definitely yes, n=72).
- Bar chart on the right shows the level of interest in research before/after the conference (1= not interested at all, 5= very interested, n=72). Proportion of students stating '5/5' went from 25% to 61%.
- **What went well** (free text themes): speakers representing range of specialties, tailored to medical students, literature review skills, students presenting their own research, advice to tackle challenges
- **What could be improved** (free text themes): Opportunity to practise critical appraisal skills, in-person talks, more networking opportunities, break-out rooms for workshops, more interactive

## Method

A free one-day virtual conference titled 'Overcoming Barriers to Research' was organized by London medical students (1). Medical students, junior doctors, a non-clinical lecturer and a consultant provided an account of their research experiences and practical tips. A 5-point Likert scale was utilised in feedback forms to conduct a service evaluation.



Scan QR code for conference day timetable

## Conclusion

Medical students could lead similar initiatives to encourage their peers to engage in research as a student and future clinician.

1) <https://app.medall.org/event-listings/london-medical-student-research-conference-2023>