

# **An investigation into the early career intentions and training experiences of newly qualified general practitioners**

Jon Gibson<sup>1</sup>, Sharon Spooner<sup>1</sup>, Matt Sutton<sup>1</sup>, Lisa Johnsen<sup>2</sup>, Kamila Hawthorne<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Manchester, United Kingdom. <sup>2</sup>Royal College of GPs, United Kingdom

## **Abstract**

**Background:** Many UK areas are experiencing a shortage of GPs. The shortage presents issues both for patients, who may not be able to get timely access to primary care, and GPs who may struggle to deliver high quality care when time and other resources are limited. Relatively little is known about GP career intentions as they complete their training.

**Aims:** To gather cross-sectional evidence on how well prepared and motivated new GPs feel on completion of GPST. Collect data about specific aspects of training, perceptions of GP work and what determines career planning and therefore their availability in the future GP workforce.

**Method:** An online questionnaire emailed to GPs within 1 year post CCT. Recruitment via RCGP email and further publicity via social media.

**Data and findings:** 151 newly qualified general practitioners responded fully to the survey. 70% of respondents were female and the average age of respondents was 33 years (SD 4.7 years). Newly qualified GPs feel well prepared for clinical and consulting roles. They feel relatively unprepared for additional roles such as running a GP practice. Around 50% of respondents currently intend to be GP partners at some stage in their career and this is positively correlated with their current feelings of preparedness for running a practice.

**Conclusions:** Sustained recruitment and retention of rising generations of effective GPs is central for building a sustainable future GP workforce. Findings from this study add information about what influences GP career intentions.

## **Patient and Public Involvement (PPI)**

Members of the PRIMER group at Manchester have commented on the proposal and during the development of the project. PRIMER is a group of patients, carers, and members of the public. We intend to disseminate the results of the project via a project report, once they are finalised.