

## Material and methods for literature search

An electronic literature search was conducted systematically of appropriate databases, websites and the internet. The search for relevant articles consisted of on-line scanning of Medline (MEDL and MEZZ), EMBASE (EMZZ), PsycInfo, the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR) and the Association for the Study of Medical Education (ASME), taking 1996 as the starting date. We used the following search terms, keywords and their word variants: 'psychiatric postgraduate education' and 'psychiatric postgraduate training'. Only articles based on studies done in the UK were included. The quality of studies was assessed using standard methods on the basis of ten questions adapted from Guyatt *et al* (1993); studies were rated as good, satisfactory or unsatisfactory, depending on

the scores. Quality ratings were conducted for the research papers identified in the search. Quality scores were based on a number of parameters defined by Guyatt *et al* and included criteria such as nature of assessments, response rates and control groups. Although the quality of the studies was variable, we decided to include all, as the number of studies was small. Additional hand searches were conducted of the Psychiatric Bulletin over an 8-year period and of all Bulletin issues identified from the Excerpta Medica database. The findings of the studies were tabulated (Table 1).

## References

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**Table 1 Research studies on psychiatric postgraduate training and education in the UK**

Reference	Topic	Study design	Sample (n)	Assessment	Conclusions
Ho & McConville, 2004	Supervision	Cross-sectional	Trainees (140)	Questionnaire	Supervision viewed as useful for clinical management
Lyons <i>et al</i> , 2001	Structured psychiatric assessment schedules	Prospective and retrospective audit	Trainees (100)	Comparison: structured and informal methods	Structured assessment benefits trainees
Herzberg & Goldberg, 1999	Flexible training	Retrospective	Trainees (67)	Open survey	Flexible trainees better than average; progress to consultant level slow
Reiss & Famoroti, 2004	Prison psychiatry	Cross-sectional	Successful candidates (208)	Open	Forensic psychiatry training is essential
Tyrer <i>et al</i> , 2002	Medical school training	Cross-sectional	Trainees (1128)	Open	Factors affecting trainees need to be examined; ethnicity of candidates needs to be addressed
Podlejska-Eyres & Stern, 2003	Psychotherapy training	Cross-sectional	Trainees (22)	Open, postal survey	Wished for greater exposure to psychotherapy during training
McCrindle <i>et al</i> , 2001	Psychotherapy training	Cross-sectional	Trainees (95)	Open, telephone survey	Majority of trainees not receiving adequate psychotherapy training
Herzberg & Paice, 2002	Satisfaction with training psychiatric training	Cross-sectional	SHOs (237) SpRs (101)	Open	Training of high standard; most trainees satisfied
Cornwall & Doubtfire, 2001	Trainees' log books	Cross-sectional	Trainees (79) Trainers (81)	Open	Lack of mutual commitment to using the log book
McCallum <i>et al</i> , 1998	Satisfaction with training and impact of Calman reforms	Cross-sectional	Trainees 3rd year SHOs (24)	Open	Satisfaction with training but concerns about Calman changes

SHO, senior house officer; SpR, specialist registrar.

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