Reviewer’s report

Title: Training the next generation of clinical researchers: evaluation of a graduate allied health professional research internship in rheumatology

Version: 2 Date: 4 March 2013

Reviewer: Gordon Hendry

Reviewer’s report:

I’d like to thank the authors for their full revision and point-by-point responses to my review. My opinion is that whilst the implementation of the scheme itself was admirable, this study was an unconventional approach to evaluate its "effectiveness". This is mainly because (as the authors have pointed out) that they simply provided a quantitative and qualitative description of some outcomes which may potentially be associated with the internship. As such, fundamentally this study is a description of potential outcomes and perceived benefit, and not a conventional study of effectiveness. Therefore, there might be scope for some final alterations of the language used in key areas of this manuscript such as the aims.

I would like to see similar internship programmes being implemented in future as a result of dissemination of this work. I have no further suggestions for revision.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I was received PhD studentship funding from Arthritis Research UK from October 2007 until October 2010.

I have no other competing interests to declare.