‘Still trying to be a research active clinician’

Margaret Hall-Craggs

Professor of Medical Imaging, UCL
Consultant Radiologist, UCLH
‘Still trying to be a research active clinician’
‘Being a research active clinician’

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My Career

• Medical SHO/Registrar
• Radiology Junior Registrar, Senior Registrar, 3.5 years
• Research Fellow GOSH, 3 years
  • MD
• Consultant with 4 research sessions, 5 years
  • Papers
• Consultant, no research sessions 15 years
  • Fewer papers
  • Loads of enabling (ISMRM)
  • Lots of teaching (College tutor, Training Director)
• Consultant, 2 research session, 7 years
  • Papers, students and grants
  • Professorial Chair
245 publications
Elements to being a clinical researcher

• Research and publications
  • Appropriate skills; Stats, study design, protocols, ethics

• Teaching, Education, Knowledge Transfer
  • Direct teaching
  • Running courses
  • Supporting education through your institution, RCR
  • Teaching faculty at national/international meetings

• Supporting activity
  • ISMRM; AMPC chair, Board, Executive, Secretary

• Enabling
  • Facilitating research in your institution and between institutions
  • Strategic planning, infrastructure

• Grants

• Public and Industrial Engagement
• Curiosity, interest and wanting to do better
• Time
• Persistence
• Environment and Infrastructure
  • CMI
  • JRO
  • Teams – computing, physics, engineers, histology, statisticians, study design, students, managers, radiographers, research nurses etc.
What helps you succeed?

- Research orientated and supportive clinicians
- Enthusiasm and capacity for hard work
- Sleep < 8 hours
- Understanding the clinical need, and scientific research questions
- Research skills
- Grant writing skills
  - The Midas touch
What helps you succeed?

• Supportive partners/families
  • Don’t neglect this part of your life!
• Mates at work
• Sense of collaboration and generosity
• People skills (!)
• Mentorship
• Luck
  • Right time, right place
• Be optimistic, take and make opportunities
More than one way to skin a cat

• Meteoric rise
• Slow burn
• Up and down and up again
  • Fairly typical course for women who have children
  • Health (individuals or families)
  • Increasing tolerance for this pathway
  • OR you lose good people

• Article in Science
You are who you are
So recognise your strengths and weaknesses

• What are you good at?
  • Understand and exploit those skills
• What needs improving?
  • Work on it
• Have a 5 year plan
• Understand the way you think and work best
Why do it?

• Keeps life interesting, more variety
• You **can** improve things
  • CTC Steve Halligan
  • Breast MRI
• You **can** find some answers
  • Think about changes in treatment compared to 20 years ago
• You are more likely to get a CEA award
• It’s fun
• It has got harder to get funded time
• It has got harder to get successful grants
• Poor career structure for early academics
• The Effect of Brexit
  • European money will not be available
  • Shrinking economy
  • No longer eligible for collaborative European grants
Learning Points

• Get a doctorate (MD/PhD)
• Learn some statistics
• Work in the right environment
• Find something you are really interested in
• Work with the best and most collaborative people you can find……
Questions to us all!