Title – Mentoring for Ultrasound students

Abstract:

This is a summary of work done at the University of Hertfordshire exploring the mentoring of students in clinical practice. A requirement for entry to the ultrasound programme at the University of Hertfordshire is that students are provided with a named mentor. This mentor is expected to be familiar with the expectations and requirements of the role if they are to support the student to their fullest potential.

The aim of the study was to investigate from a mentor’s perspective; the characteristics required of a mentor and the constraints they encounter when undertaking the role. A questionnaire was sent to 19 mentors, a response rate of 60% (n=11) was achieved and analysed with a thematic approach.

Of the responses received 67% claim to be passionate about mentoring and teaching; of the 33% who do not claim passion for the role, all of these were given no choice about being a mentor.

All respondents provided great detail about the good practices they perceive they demonstrate in their mentoring role. Personal attributes of an ideal mentor was provided and compared with the findings in the literature. All mentors reported that they thought they should be knowledgeable, adaptable and supportive.

The main constraints encountered within mentoring were lack of support from managers and colleagues and limited time to give to the role. A lack of student motivation and enthusiasm was also indicated as a restriction by some mentors.

Conclusions were that greater awareness of the personal attributes and characteristics of the mentor should be considered. Mentors face constraint within their role; however solutions to this were not explored. This is part of a work in progress towards a doctoral submission investigating mentoring for Ultrasound Students.

Co-Authors:

A L Jefferies 1 , T Barker 1

1 University of Hertfordshire