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Radiographers and scientific research: the Italian experience

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Abstract:

Purpose: Research plays a fundamental role in the development and growth of radiographers' skills. The aim of this study was to investigate how radiographers are currently involved in scientific research and how to increase their involvement in this field.

Methods and Materials: The Italian Federation of Scientific Radiographers Societies (FASTeR) proposed a national online survey. The questionnaire was composed of multiple-choice questions, using a 5-point Likert scale to identify radiographers' involvement (1 no involvement, 5 active participation) and skill level (1 no formation, 5 adequate formation).

Results: We obtained 315 participants (159 male), mean age of 40±12, 51 (16%) with a master's degree and 293 (93%) workers. Only 13 (4%) radiographers feel themselves adequately trained on research methodology during their qualification, with a mean evaluation of 2.6±1.0. Only 26 (8%) were actively involved in research activities 2.4±1.3. Only 10 (3%) radiographers did not consider research important for their work and professional growth 4.1±1.0, and 23 (7%) affirmed they did not have time for research, while 194 (62%) radiographers were fascinated by participating in research projects. Most of radiographers lack basic knowledge about Evidence-Based Medicine and scientific database (Pubmed/Medline or EMBASE). Continuing Medical Education (CME) courses were the most desirable instrument to improve research methodology, with both theoretical and practical sections 4.2±1.0. Limitations in conducting research projects were a poor knowledge of English and limited involvement by other professional figures.

Conclusion: To improve radiographers' involvement and skills in research, research methodology CME courses with theoretical and practical section should be activated.

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M. Zanardo: None. **A. Capaldo:** None. **M. Codari:** None. **D. Catania:** None. **P. Cornacchione:** None. **S. Durante:** None.

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