

Research Priorities in Occupational Medicine: A Survey of United Kingdom Medical Opinion by the Delphi Technique

Harrington (1994)

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For which topic were research priorities identified?

occupational medicine

In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

Europe - United Kingdom

Why was it conducted at all?

The concern to identify research priorities in occupational medicine has been born out of necessity. Although such debate is likely to figure in all academic disciplines from time to time, the crisis in academic occupational health over the past decade or so has focused attention more sharply of late.

What was the objective?

to canvass opinion on perceived research priorities

What was the outcome?

a list of 39 research topics

How long did the research prioritization take?

No information provided.

Which methods were used to identify research priorities?

Delphi

How were the priorities for research identified exactly?

Step 1: Delphi round 1: participants were asked: What are the three priority areas for further work in the understanding, clinical management, and prevention of occupation ally related ill health, and what are the best ways of tackling this work?. Step 2: Delphi round 2: participants were asked to rank areas and topics

Which stakeholders took part?

Senior practitioners of occupational medicine in academia, industry or government. Delphi round 1: 46 participants. Delphi round 2: 48 participants.

How were stakeholders recruited?

25 subjects were identified as representative of all the academic establishments of occupational health in the United Kingdom including the Professors of occupational medicine in the Army, Royal Air Force, and Royal Navy. Also, occupational physicians working in senior appointments in industry and commerce were identified.. Twenty eight chief or divisional medical advisers as well as government regulators were identified covering the full range of occupational health practice in Britain.

Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?

Stakeholders were mere participants of the research prioritization process; they were not actively involved in the process.