**An evaluation of a lung cancer research training for nurses: Thoracic Oncology Research from Concept to Home Run (TORCH)**

**Authors**

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**Background**

The National Lung Cancer Forum for Nurses (NLCFN) is a UK professional organization of around 300 Lung Cancer Nurse Specialists (LCNSs). LCNSs are the multi-disciplinary team members who spend the most time with patients. They can make valuable contribution to research in lung cancer. In 2015 the Shape of Caring report highlighted the need to develop a research culture in nursing.1 However, research career pathways and opportunities are not as well defined for nurses, as they are for doctors.2 The NLCFN is committed to developing the research skills and capacity of its members and to facilitate research collaborations between academics and practitioners. They therefore developed research training for LCNSs called ‘TORCH for Nursing’. The BIL-TORCH Programme for LCNSs was a collaborative initiative by NLCFN and Boehringer-Ingelheim Limited (BIL).

**Methods**

A two day residential BIL TORCH for Nursing Workshop was held in April 2016 and was funded by BIL. The Workshop aimed to:

* Develop the skills and confidence of LCNSs and Research Nurses in lung cancer research.
* Bridge gaps in lung cancer between nursing research and practice.
* Facilitate the relationships between LCNSs and Research Nurses to encourage better recruitment into lung cancer clinical trials.
* Address the barriers to UK lung cancer nurse-led research.

Evaluation consisted of:

* Rapid appraisal at the end of day 2
* An e-survey one week after TORCH
* An e-survey 6 months after TORCH.

**Results**

Response rates were:

* 100% for rapid appraisal.
* 78% (n=14) for the one week survey.

6 months follow-up will be in October 2016.

Quantitative data indicated an increase in knowledge, understanding and confidence in research methods and skills. Participants reported an increased ability to develop networks to facilitate research and an ability to develop a research question or proposal. Qualitative data indicated how participants found the day inspiring and motivating. They reported benefit from the discussion and collaboration between LCNSs, academics and research nurses. All delegates would recommend TORCH for Nursing to their colleagues.

**Conclusion**

The evaluation to date has demonstrated the positive impact of TORCH for Nursing. Two project groups have been established with Faculty and delegates to develop fundable proposals based on 2 research questions developed during the workshops. TORCH for Nursing Workshops will be repeated in 2017 with the aim of becoming an annual event.

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