

A new cross-speciality educational collaboration in perioperative medicine

Many clinicians will by now be increasingly familiar with the term ‘perioperative medicine’, which encompasses a refreshed way of managing the integrated, multidisciplinary medical care of the surgical patient. The principles are not necessarily new, but the success of projects such as Enhanced Recovery After Surgery in Europe and the Perioperative Surgical Home (Kehlet et al, 2015) in the USA have triggered a wave of interest and enthusiasm in trainees and consultants alike, by envisioning how revamping patients’ care from contemplation of surgery through to hospital discharge could result in efficiency, quality and safety improvements.

The need for a culture of perioperative medicine

Despite the growing interest in and recognition of the importance of perioperative medicine for improving surgical outcomes (Whiteman et al, 2016), fully-fledged models of perioperative medical care are still rare or in their relative infancy in most UK hospitals. The lack of a true ‘perioperative medicine culture’ with cross-collaboration between all the specialties involved in providing care in the perioperative period tends to self-perpetuate, because of the lack of resources and opportunities for trainees’ development.

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This is even more critical since the formal inclusion of learning outcomes related to perioperative medicine across specialties’ training curricula – anaesthesia, geriatrics and surgery.

Perioperative medicine within anaesthesia and geriatrics has been highlighted; the Royal College of Anaesthetists (2015) released a vision document along with implementation of formalized training modules throughout all stages of anaesthetic training in 2016, and geriatrician-led models of perioperative medicine care have been established in the UK with geriatricians’ fundamental role being highlighted in several high-profile reports (Wilkinson et al, 2010; NELA Project Team, 2016). Similarly, surgeons’ responsibilities have been significantly expanding beyond the operating table because of the increasing awareness that surgical outcomes depend as much on the quality of perioperative care as on the operation itself. All specialties are therefore increasingly expected to engage with perioperative medicine and to be able to participate in providing care throughout the surgical patient’s pathway.

Trainees with an Interest in Perioperative Medicine (TRIPOM)

To meet this growing demand, the Trainees with an Interest in Perioperative Medicine (TRIPOM) educational collaborative was established to enable trainees to access the resources, support and opportunities required to develop the skills they need to deliver state-of-the-art perioperative medicine services as they progress to consultancy. Although originally founded by anaesthetic trainees, the TRIPOM community now encompasses surgical, medical and intensive care trainees. The aim is for TRIPOM to become the leading resource for doctors training in or interested in perioperative medicine, irrespective of their parent speciality, providing high quality educational resources cross-linked to the growing number of national perioperative medicine curricula.

The TRIPOM collaborative is based on a philosophy of free open access medical education (#FOAMed), with the organizing committee giving their time freely and for no financial benefit. This passion for sharing and innovation is helping to grow TRIPOM in unique ways, providing open access to a vast range of resources and training events. TRIPOM’s main online platform is a free-to-access website (www.tripom.squarespace.com) with sufficient reactive capacity to keep pace with the ever-changing field of perioperative medicine. The website as well as social media (Twitter and Facebook) serve as meeting places where clinicians from all specialties can interact, developing and sharing clinical practice, educational tools and research ideas.

Highlights among the range of content currently available are the peer-reviewed perioperative medicine tutorial of the month (www.tripom.squarespace.com/tutorial-of-the-month/) and the new bi-monthly ‘Perioperative medicine in a nutshell’ series of peer-reviewed educational articles, launched in this issue (<https://doi.org/10.12968/hmed.2017.78.10.597>). These engaging articles summarize the latest research and evidence in areas spanning the perioperative medicine curricula, with authorship and publishing opportunities for anyone with an interest and expertise to share. Other educational platforms include a monthly journal watch with succinct analyses of newly-published papers, regular locally led journal clubs with key discussion points collated on the website for rapid digestion, as well as video and podcast material. All the content has a contemporary feel and is written and shared by the perioperative medicine community for mutual benefit.

For those with a keen interest in more practical experience, descriptions and advertisement for perioperative medicine fellowship jobs will be posted on the TRIPOM website, making it the best point of reference for anyone seeking advanced training opportunities in perioperative medicine within the UK and further afield, as well as

details of upcoming events and meetings of interest. Additionally, a network of regional TRIPOM trainee leads is being established to coordinate activities, meetings and interest at a local level throughout the UK.

TRIPOM has already been adopted as the official trainee group of the Evidence Based Perioperative Medicine not-for-profit academic organization, who kindly hosted the inaugural TRIPOM Meeting as a breakout session at the 2016 London Evidence Based Perioperative Medicine conference, and again hosted the TRIPOM Annual Congress in 2017.

Conclusions

TRIPOM is a collaborative association made by trainees for trainees, and so it depends on the engagement of the trainee community to flourish. All are welcome and encouraged to join the association and contribute – trainees’ ideas, input and enthusiasm are essential to TRIPOM’s success. To become involved, be it with a journal club, a perioperative

medicine tutorial of the month, or simply by joining the mailing list to stay up to date with TRIPOM, then please email tripomgroup@gmail.com, follow TRIPOM on Twitter @triperioperati1 and on Facebook: TriPOM public group. **BJHM**

This editorial has been produced by the authors on behalf of the TRIPOM Core Committee: Dr Sam Bampoe, Dr John Whittle, Dr Saranga Sothiribari, Dr Matt Wilson, Dr Katie Miller, Dr Catrin Williams, Dr Ann-Marie Kent.

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KEY POINTS

- Perioperative medicine is an evolving evidence-based speciality integrating all teams involved in surgical patients’ care.
- Anaesthetic, surgical and geriatric training curricula now all include perioperative learning outcomes.
- Trainees with an Interest in Perioperative Medicine (TRIPOM) offers free membership and educational collaborative resources for trainees from all specialties through their open access website (tripom.squarespace.com).
- Trainees interested in contributing to publications, or becoming involved at any level, can do so by contacting tripomgroup@gmail.com

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