

Insights from Supervisors: Evaluation of the Royal Australian College of Physicians (RACP) Advanced Training Program in Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine (2017-2023)

Authors:

Shearer N^{1, 2, 3}, Denny S³, Farrant B^{4, 5}, Reveley C⁶, Lucas G⁷, Sawyer SM^{2, 6}

¹Sunshine Coast University Hospital, ²Murdoch Children's Research Institute, ³Mater Health Brisbane, ⁴Auckland University, ⁵Centre for Youth Health Kids First, ⁶Centre for Adolescent Health, Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne, ⁷Royal Australasian College of Physicians

Background:

Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine (AYAM) is a growing area of specialist medical practice, nationally and globally. The RACP has offered accredited Advanced Training in AYAM since 2017. Undertaken in collaboration with the RACP, we aimed to evaluate Australian training in AYAM, focusing here on the experiences of supervisors.

Methods:

A mixed methods approach was undertaken. Online surveys were developed and distributed to AYAM supervisors (2017-23) to understand supervisory experience within the AYAM Advanced Training program. Focus group discussions (FGD) explored these themes (results not presented). Descriptive analysis was used for ordinal data (surveys) and thematic analysis was used for survey comments (and FGD data).

Results:

Thirty-three AYAM supervisors completed the survey. Just over half (n=18, 55%) of the supervisors were satisfied with their experience of the training program overall; 10 (30%) reported neutrality and 5 (15%) reported they didn't know. The majority (n=19, 58%) of supervisors agreed or strongly agreed they had enough time to provide timely and appropriate supervision to trainees. Two thirds (n=21, 64%) of supervisors had actively sought feedback about their performance. Just on a half (n=17, 52%) had a clear understanding of the RACP AYAM training curriculum and requirements. Less than half (n=14, 42%) disagreed or strongly disagreed that they were adequately recognized by the RACP or their employer for their supervisory role. Fourteen (42%) supervisors wanted AYAM training to also be available as a stand-alone Advanced Training pathway.

Conclusions:

Most supervisors felt that they provided adequate supervision, had sufficient time to complete their role and actively sought feedback. A number of opportunities for refinement were identified including increasing formal recognition of supervisors by the RACP and employers and enhancing supervisors understanding of the training curriculum and requirements. These insights support ongoing efforts within the RACP to refine the AYAM Advanced Training Program.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

Shearer N is a current trainee with the RACP AYAM training advanced training program. Denny S, Farrant B, Reveley C and Sawyer SM are current or past members of the RACP AYAM Advanced Training Committee (ATC). Lucas G was employed by the RACP at the time of data collection.