

PA Researchers in Their Own Words: Why They Do It, And What Do They Think Will Promote PA-Led Research?

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OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this session, participants should be able to:

- 1. Identify key factors that motivate PAs to conduct research.
- 2. Explain how mentorship could overlap the motivations of experienced PA researchers with the needs of emerging PA researchers.



1. BACKGROUND

BACKGROUND

- Some have argued that PA-led research should be increased.
- We know that there is a subset of PA researchers who contribute greatly to the overall volume of scholarly activity.
- Among those who publish, the top 25th percentile of PA researchers produces most of the published research by PAs.

IN THE LITERATURE: PROPOSED WAYS TO IMPROVE PARESEARCH PARTICIPATION.

- Material support (protected time, funding, promotion, and staff)
- Educational support (training faculty, PA curriculum development, and doctoral trained staff)
- Social support (peer collaboration, culture of research, and mentorship)

PREDICTORS OF FUTURE RESEARCH AMONG MEDICAL STUDENTS

- 1.Medical students who participate in research voluntarily are more likely to conduct research in the future.
- 2. The strongest predictor of future participation in research was a preexisting passion for research.

2. METHODS

METHODS

PA research contributors to JPAE and JAAPA between 2011 and 2020 were noted. The authors in the upper quartile of publications were identified; Surveys were emailed to 65 authors. Two qualitative questions were posed:

- 1. What changes do you think are necessary for more PAs to be involved in conducting research?
- 2. Why do you participate in research?

3. RESULTS

RESULTS: 34% RESPONSE RATE

 Twenty-two respondents answered the question, "What changes do you think are necessary for more PAs to be involved in conducting research?"

• Twenty respondents answered the question, "Why do you participate in research?"



RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Gender Male Female	63% 37%
Race White Black Prefer not to answer	91% 4.5% 4.5%
Ethnicity Non-Hispanic Hispanic Prefer not to answer	91% 4.5% 4.5%

RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Number of years as a PA

• <u>></u>15 years 91%

• 10-14 4.5%

• 4 or fewer 4.5%

Education level

Doctoral degree 68%

Master's degree 27.5%

Bachelor's degree 4.5%

Work setting

PA program faculty or administrators 59%

Retired 14%

Others 27%

Medical science liaison, clinical practice, director of advanced practice providers, professor

faculty scholarly training support PA opportunities

research need time teaching funding conduct program

WHAT CHANGES
DO YOU THINK
ARE NECESSARY
FOR MORE PAS
TO BE INVOLVED
IN CONDUCTING
RESEARCH?

Major code	Frequency	
Material Time, funding, staff, statistician	28	
Education Accreditation, curriculum, training, research degrees	16	Inductive codes highlighted in
Social Mentorship	5	yellow
Professional	3	

"protected scholarly time,"
"time while at work."
"protected time"

Major code

Material
Time 7
Funding 9
Staff 3
Statistician 2

"programs that lack appropriate staffing and/or funding cannot

"increase possibility of funding" "funding specific to PAs" "funding opportunities for PA-focused research"

"Supply free access to a biostatistician"

appropriate staffing and/or funding cannot support research as teaching is the major focus"

"Accreditation does not have a minimum number of faculty"

Major code

Education

Accreditation 2
Curriculum 3

Training 5

Research degrees 2

"More emphasis on traditional on-campus face-to-face Ph.D. program participation" each program have a faculty member in position of research director"

"make a research project the capstone of a master's program"

"More training and emphasis."

"mentoring by experienced PA researchers"

Major code Frequency

Social 5

"encourage mentorships with researchers"

"Programs must adopt culture of research"

"More mentorship"

"encouragement from AAPA and state academies"

Major code Frequency
Professional 3

"two PubMed indexed journals with limited publication capacity"

requirement PA profession research advance enjoy important knowledge answer questions PA

WHY DO YOU
PARTICIPATE
IN RESEARCH?

Major Code	Frequency	
Altruism	15	
Joy	10	Inductive
Intellectual	7	codes
Material	4	
Social	1	

"elevate the PA profession and be at national "tables.""

Major Code

Altruism

Professional 6

Knowledge 4

Medical

Frequency

15

"research is important to advance the PA profession."

"I love being involved in cutting edge treatments for my patients."

"help people practice medicine effectively"

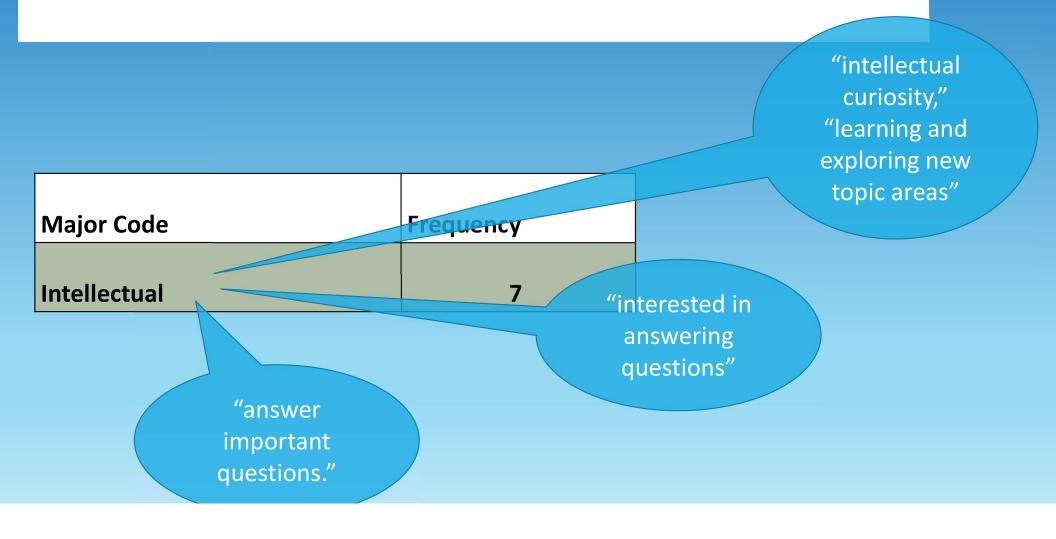
"impact through discovery and dissemination of new knowledge to advance educational and clinical practice"

Major Code

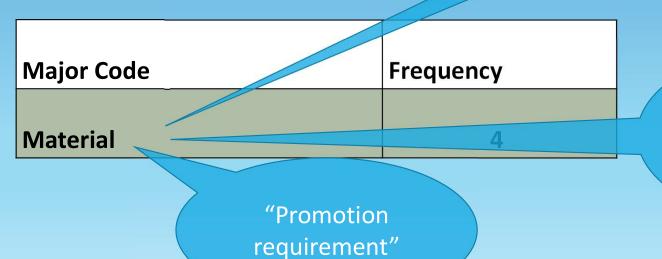
Frequency

"I enjoy
writing," " I like
to write,"
"passionate,"
"enjoyment"

"I enjoy it," "I enjoy it," "I enjoy it."



"Employment requirement"



"requirement for advancement within institution."

Major Code	Frequency
Social	1

"Collaboration"

WHAT CHANGES DO PA RESEARCHERS IN THE COHORT RECOMMEND TO INCREASE PA INVOLVEMENT IN RESEARCH?

More of the following:

- Training
- Funding
- Protected time
- Mentorship

MAIN REASONS WHY ACCOMPLISHED PA RESEARCHERS PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH?

- They want to help others.
- They enjoy it.
- Research satisfies intellectual curiosity.

WHAT OTHER OBSERVATIONS CAN WE MAKE?

- White males were overrepresented in the study.
- This is surprising given that the PA profession is female dominant.
 - Only 37% of respondents were female.
- The lack of racial and ethnic diversity could be reflective of insufficient diversity in the PA profession as a whole.
- More research is needed to determine if PA-led research is disproportionately impacted by lack of diversity.

4. LIMITATIONS

STUDY LIMITATIONS

Small sample size

 Reliability limitations due to single researcher coding

5. CONCLUSION

CONCLUSION

Needs of novice PA researchers:

Motivations of experienced PA researchers:

MENTORSHIP AND RESEARCH ABOUT MENTORSHIP

The intersection of needs and motivation

ntellectual curiosity

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