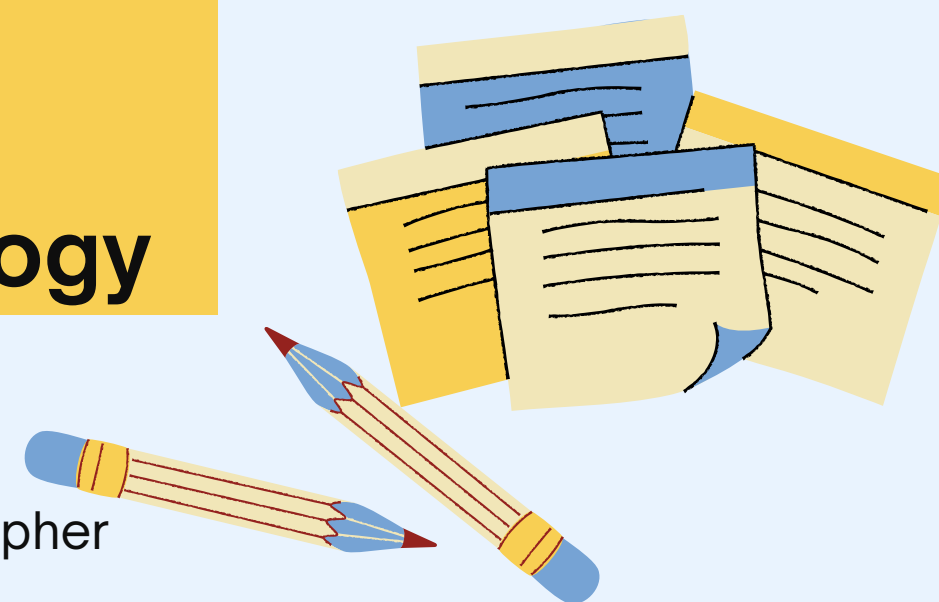


# RADIOGRAPHER RESEARCH CAPACITY

## An evaluation of the capacity for research amongst non-medical professionals working within Radiology

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### INTRODUCTION

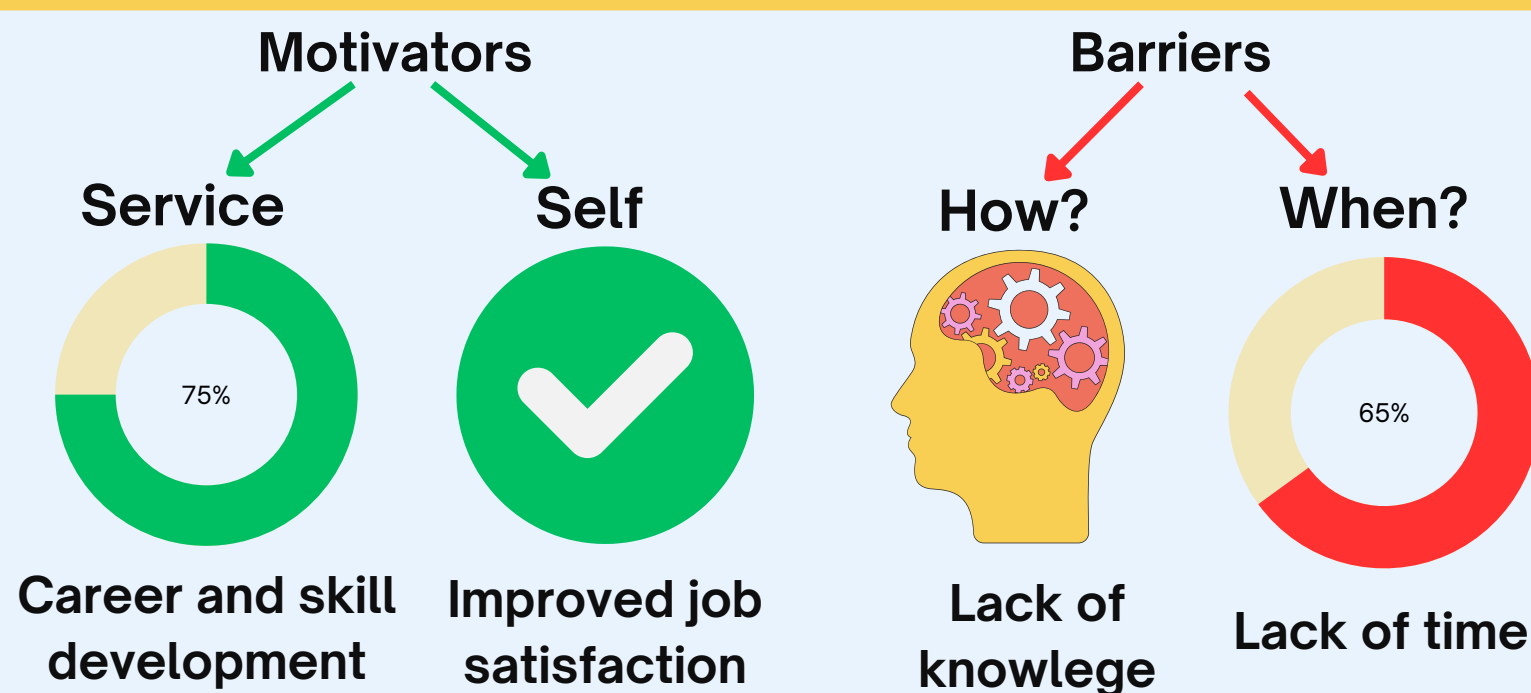
The field of medical imaging is dynamic, with continuous technological advancements. Through research, evidence-based healthcare practices and pathways can be redefined.<sup>1</sup> It is reported that non-medical radiology staff focus on their clinical roles, resulting in low research engagement, however, they should strive to contribute to the quality, safety and advancement of their profession.<sup>2</sup> This study aimed to explore the capacity for research activity and involvement of non-medical staff working within the Radiology department of an NHS Foundation Trust.

### METHOD

A survey was deployed to collect numerical and free text data. Participants were recruited via email and in person. The data were summarised using descriptive statistics for the Likert scale responses. Differences in perceptions between sites were evaluated using the Independent T-test and Mann Whitney U test. Latent analysis was used to identify themes from free text data.

### RESULTS

The response rate was 18.4% (41/208; 10=North, 31=South). Individual perception scores were higher than those at organisational and team levels. There was no significant difference between responses across the Trust ( $p > 0.05$ ). Career and skill development, with improved job satisfaction were motivators (>75%). Barriers identified included lack of time (65%) and other work (62.5%), as well as a lack of knowledge. A third were not interested in research and 64.9% said research was not part of their job role. There was acknowledgement of team leader support, however information and communication regarding research opportunities were lacking. Overarching themes of 'how' and 'when' (barriers), and 'service' and 'self' (motivators) were identified from free text responses.



### CONCLUSION

At organisational and team levels, there is uncertainty about many aspects of research. At an individual level, professionals feel more confident, however they lack skills and knowledge. Some staff are uninterested in research and most said it was not part of their job role, despite it being detailed within local job descriptions at all levels. However, staff understand the benefits of research and wish to improve the quality of the service they provide, as well as developing their careers and skills. Many results from this study are similar to those reported in other NHS Trusts. Nationally there is a drive to improve allied health professional engagement in research. This Trust have capable and motivated staff to assist this drive. By providing a suitable environment with protected time and support, staff can learn and develop into capable researchers, producing valuable insights. Change takes time and commitment, however encouraging a positive research culture for Radiology staff, will benefit our professionals, our patients, and our profession alike.