

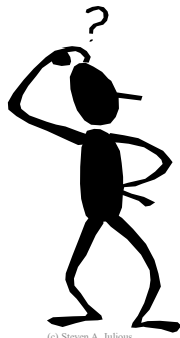
Being a PI on a clinical trial and grants for methods research – personal perspectives and experiences

Professor Steven A. Julious

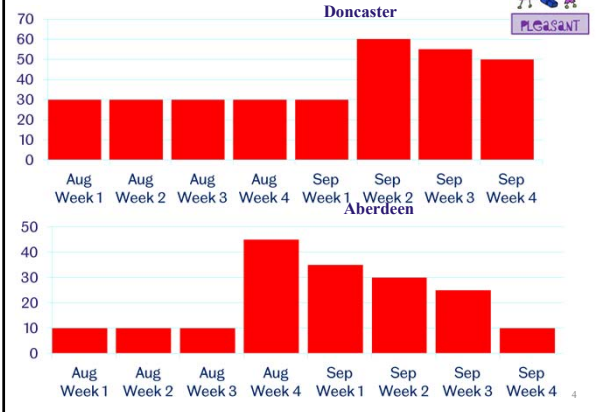
Introductions

- Describe the PLEASANT trial and the work that supported it
- Review approaches to successful grant applications
- This is a personal journey

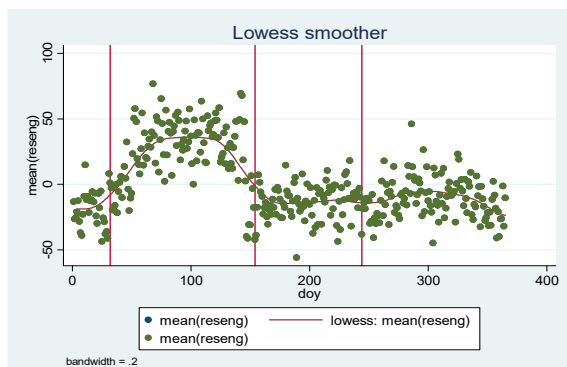
Start with an Idea



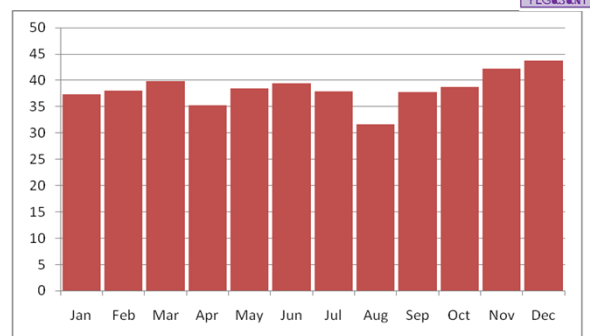
Hospital Admissions



Residuals from Prediction



Preventer Prescriptions



PLEASANT



- NHS Delivered
- Public Health Intervention
 - A Letter sent from their GP
- Primary Care Setting
- Children with asthma
- Assessed via a Cluster Randomised Trial

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7

The Grant was the Tip of the Iceberg

- A £3,000 Trent RDSU grant to undertake an audit within 4 GP practices of types of contacts
- Obtained a MRC award to obtain data on 75,000 children with asthma and age sex matched controls (worth circa £20,000)
- Got University of Sheffield Funding for a PhD student (worth circa £60,000)
- Got a £300 RDS grant to undertake a public and patient involvement session

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8

Going Forward

- Have got a £5,000 University of Sheffield Research Capacity Award
- Just applied for a RfPB grant to assess asthma adherence as CI
 - RfPB has schemes with limits of £100k, £250k and £350k
 - Can be a systematic review
 - Needs to be of benefit to patients
 - Encourages early career researchers
 - Work of Laura Flight on PPI?

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9

Work the Asthma Project Lead to

- Was co-app NIHR Program Development Grant
- Currently co-app on NIHR Programme Grant and will be local PI which came from the PDG
- Was a co-app on a Asthma UK systematic review
- Am a co-app on the Asthma UK Research Centre
 - Includes statisticians and methodologists with an interest in asthma trials

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10

Methodology Research

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11

Methodology Research

- In Sheffield Medical Students do a 6 week research attachment
 - Undertaken projects on recruitment, asthma adherence, health economics, adaptive designs, pilot studies
- MSc in Medical Statistics students
 - Worked on adaptive designs, meta analyses, missing data, asthma epidemiology
 - Recruited 7 PhD students directly or indirectly from the MSc

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12

Stepping Stones

- Wellcome have a summer student internship programme
 - Funds an intern for 8 weeks
- The University of Sheffield has a work experience programme

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13

NIHR

- NIHR/MRC commissioned call on effect size quantification
 - Funding limit was £50k. The project was across institutes
- NIHR (through a CTU) have an annual call on efficient studies call
 - Variable small funding limits
 - Successful with a Munya Dimairo for a grant to develop a CONSORT guideline for adaptive designs

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14

NIHR Research Methods Fellowships

- The NIHR has Senior Investigator awards. These senior investigators can apply for NIHR Methods Fellowships
 - Can be done in isolation by the Senior Investigator or in collaboration with a methodologist
 - The funding is for £91,000 and is designed for a BSc entrant or a re-trainee
 - Have been successful personally with three applications and my group with five
 - Each fellow has an internship

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15

MRC-NIHR Methodology Panel

- Have applied three times for the methodology grants with no success
- Tim Peters and Richard Emsley spoke earlier in the day
- From experience the panel that does not recognise inherent brilliance and genius!

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16

NIHR Doctoral Research

- Successfully supported two applications for NIHR Doctoral Fellowships
- Munya Dimairo to investigate the practical application of adaptive designs in publicly funded research
- Laura Flight to investigate how adaptive designs can incorporate health economic evaluations

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17

Unfunded Doctoral Research

- The University of Sheffield has a database of PhD projects
 - This gives a repository for possible students to review and PGR admissions to refer to
- Have had 3 self funded PhD students
 - From 2018 may have 0, 1 or 2 more!

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18

Post Doctoral

- NIHR fund (Peter Thompson spoke earlier):
 - Post Doctoral Awards
 - Translation Awards
 - Career Development Awards
 - Senior Investigator
 - Professorships
- MRC and Wellcome fund a wide range awards
- The Leverhulme foundation fund fellowships
 - Can not be medical research
- There are CASE awards which you need to get matched industry funding to fund a PhD student
 - Have obtained university of Sheffield matched funding

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19

Top tips and lessons

- Do not write too much in the application
 - Think of the elevator pitch principle
- Seek advice from
 - Peers
 - Your university or RDS
 - Funder
- Square pegs do not fit into round holes
- Have mock interviews
- Investigate research facilitation money
- A large oak of a project can start from a tiny acorn

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20

Summary

- Discussed a personal approach to successful grant applications
- No route is a correct route to success
- A research idea could snow ball to bigger projects
- No idea needs to go to waste

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21

References

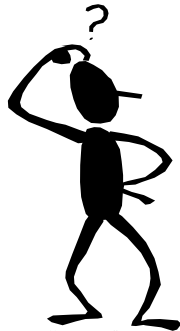


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22

QUESTIONS



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23