

Who and how do RDSUs help?

New researcher

Systematic literature searching and review

Developing a research question

Research methodology workshops

Some research experience

Collaboration in projects

Methodological advice and further training

Mentorship & project management advice

Experienced researcher

Collaboration in projects

Advice on conference presentations and publications

Advice and assistance with developing grant applications

RDSUs also support organisations and Networks in the development and implementation of research strategy

How to contact your local RDSU

VISIT

The National RDSU Website:
www.national-rdsu.org.uk

OR

Contact

RDinfo
34 Hyde Terrace
The Leeds Teaching Hospitals
NHS Trust
Leeds, LS2 9LN

Telephone: 0113 295 1122
<http://www.rdinfo.org.uk/>



National Network
of
Research & Development Support Units

Funded by the Department of Health

Staffed by experienced researchers,
research educators and research
support professionals

Offering a unique service to the NHS

Research and Development Support Units (RDSUs) play a central role in supporting the Department of Health's research strategy, 'Best Research for Best Health'. The first RDSU was established in 1994 and there are currently 15 RDSUs in England. We provide consultative advice on research methodology and protocol development, support research training and capacity building in health and social care and collaborate in specific research projects when appropriate. Our service is available to all potential and established National Health Service researchers.

The role of the National RDSU Network is to:

- pool research expertise
- provide a 'whole country' approach to the interpretation and development of policy around research capacity development
- learn from one another about what works in building, strengthening and sustaining research capacity
- provide a structure that provides unique links between academic and NHS research activities

RDSU activities and services

- Assisting researchers to develop high quality studies
- Supporting clinical trials units and collaborating with the research networks to increase research activity in health services
- Identifying, training and nurturing researchers to increase skills for research in healthcare, including research associates of the National Institute for Health Research
- Promoting patient and public involvement in research activity
- Supporting the development of public health and primary care research
- Assisting healthcare organisations in developing research strategies and translating research into practice
- Organising events to support research capacity development in healthcare

RDSU staff have:

- a significant history and knowledge of research capacity development techniques and processes
- extensive contacts with universities, social care providers and industry to facilitate collaborations and to access specialist advice for research teams
- established training programmes and ability to deliver responsive training programmes

Overall, they **build** research capacity, **strengthen** research and researchers, and provide continuing support to **sustain** health care research

How we have helped

"this year I had the satisfaction of having my PhD thesis accepted by the University of ... Along the way I have had several papers published in peer reviewed journals, presented my work at many international conferences, became part of a network of academics in my field and gained experience in supervising a research assistant. In all of these the RDSU has been indispensable" (GP)

"Without them (RDSU) I could not have achieved all that I have in the past few years in the area of research ... and that would be a loss to both my dietetic profession and the patients we see on a daily basis" (Dietician)

"... completely guided us through the mysteries and complexity of statistical analysis ...our findings have now been published in a number of peer reviewed journals" (Professor of Child & Family Mental Health)

"I have recently successfully completed PhD training under the NHS Researcher Development Award. My first contact with the statistician at our local RDSU was a cry for help when it came to completing the application form on statistical analysis and then later, when I had gained the award. I received ample support and felt quite proud when I had analysed quite complex data. I could not have succeeded without this support." (Researcher Development Award)

"Working with ... RDSU as a Research Nurse has enabled me to deliver critical appraisal skills training to staff within my organisation, to develop my knowledge and skills as a Fellow through the TRAM Scheme and to effectively support staff in research through mentorship, access to training opportunities and share experience" (Research Nurse)

"They (RDSU) gave me helpful advice on how to develop my CV and useful contacts for people and organisations. However, what I appreciated most was that they showed an understanding and appreciation of the difficulties of being a user-researcher and they were able to help me use my own personal experiences to my advantage" (User-researcher)