

Internal Survey Results from the CLAHRC East of England Training and Career Development Funding Boot Camp 2015

The CLAHRC East of England (EoE) Boot Camp was organised to support clinicians/researchers who are committed to a career in health care research. Bringing together nine people from across the Eastern Region who applied via competitive process, the residential event took place on the 30th September and 1st October 2015 at Madingley Hall in Cambridgeshire.

The aim of the Boot Camp was to:

- provide an overview of the options for career funding and learn from the experiences of research leaders in the CLAHRC.
- understand the NIHR review, selection and interview process to determine the key features of a successful application.
- get participants to work in small groups to develop and present their research ideas.

All participants took part in an online survey following the Boot Camp.

89% said that they would go on to **apply** for **NIHR grant funding**

100% said that their overall **experience** of the Boot Camp was **good or excellent**

100% said that the Boot Camp has given them more **insight** into the **application process** of applying for a **PhD fellowship**

100% said that they feel **more knowledgeable** about **resources** available to researchers to support **fellowship applications**

89% said attending the Boot Camp has enabled them to **refine** their **research question**

89% said they have a **better understanding** of different **career routes** within health care research

67% said that **networking** with other researchers was the thing they **gained most** from taking part in the Boot Camp

The different aspects of the programme offered a broad view of the application process which participants told us they found useful. The residential format of the programme enabled a number of different speakers, activities and networking to take place over a relatively condensed period of time. Networking with other researchers was described as particularly useful and one of the biggest gains reported by those who attended. One to one to one coaching was also described as a key benefit.

In some cases participants gave examples of how the Boot Camp had resulted in very practical steps being achieved towards applying for a fellowship such as identifying an appropriate supervisor and meeting senior researchers from CLAHRC. Some of the group have also continued to stay in contact following the Boot Camp.

One third of those who attended said that presenting their research proposals to the group was the least useful aspect of the programme, particularly for those who were in the very early stages of formulating their ideas. One participant suggested that delivering presentations earlier in the programme would enable any issues identified to be dealt with during the programme. The remainder of the group felt that all aspects of the Boot Camp were positive.

For further information about this report or the Boot Camp please contact: CLAHRCoffice@cpft.nhs.uk