

## Reply to Letter to the editor “Radiographer research-what next?”

Dear Editor,

I read with interest the letter “*Radiographer research-what next?*” by Watts <sup>1</sup> regarding a recent paper by M.R. Vils Pedersen <sup>2</sup>, both highlighting the crucial role of management support and research culture as motivational factors for radiographers to engage in research.

In my department, radiographer-led research has been a strategic effort for more than a decade<sup>3</sup> where we currently have two clinical research radiographers holding doctoral degrees and one radiographer who is a PhD-student. As a result, we have published numerous papers and presentations, but more importantly, the effort has led to an increase in clinical radiographers engaging in research and to more entering into post-graduate education. It is difficult to measure the benefit for patients directly, but we have achieved improved image quality and lower radiation dose in many examination types as a direct consequence of our research results. We have also reduced the number of children undergoing general anesthesia by implementing playful preparation to MRI examinations <sup>4</sup>. Such achievements were only possible because of strong support from the department management, a strong research lead, and a general research culture where everybody occasionally contributes to research and takes part in research related activities. Therefore, as mentioned by Watts, it may be time to move toward positive action, that is, how can managers build on radiographers’ well-documented positive attitudes<sup>5-7</sup> and create a successful research culture?

In a recent publication by Bolejko et al. <sup>8</sup> we presented a strategy for exactly that purpose. Among many other facilitators, the importance of valuing radiography research and a positive attitude towards research activities is crucial and may be achieved through knowledge-driven and learning organisations. For this to commence, radiography research must be autonomous, i.e. not just dealing with research questions arising from within radiology or medical physics. By taking responsibility for the whole research process from idea

to implementation, our profession may develop increased self-esteem, thereby further promoting radiographic research culture in clinical departments.

## References

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