

Session Three – Plenary Lecture

11:30 – 12:15

The Importance of Research in Palliative Care

Professor Phil Larkin and Professor Max Watson

Research remains a cornerstone of the development of any scientific discipline and there is clear evidence that palliative care is increasingly 'research active'. However, there are particular challenges to be overcome for palliative care researchers, none of which are insurmountable, but all of which require careful analysis of both process and proposed outcome.

In this presentation based around case examples, Phil Larkin and Max Watson will consider what is meant by research in palliative care and why it is important for both service users and healthcare professionals working in the discipline. The challenges to research, including funding and ethical assessment will be addressed, as well as some practical tips and solutions at a practical level in terms of how to developing a research culture within an organisation, beginning and sustaining projects, networking, and publication. Finally, the key skills needed to cultivate palliative care research for the future will be considered.