

Oral presentation

Open Access

## Microfinance in emergency medicine research or how much research can you get for 500 Dkr?

Peter Hallas\*, Lars Folkestad and Mikkel Brabrand

Address: The Danish Society for Emergency Medicine, Esbjerg, Denmark

Email: Peter Hallas\* - hallas@rocketmail.com

\* Corresponding author

from Danish Society for Emergency Medicine: Research Symposium 2009  
Copenhagen, Denmark. 26 April 2009

Published: 20 August 2009

Scandinavian Journal of Trauma, Resuscitation and Emergency Medicine 2009, 17(Suppl 2):O2 doi:10.1186/1757-7241-17-S2-O2

This abstract is available from: <http://www.sjtreem.com/content/17/S2/O2>

© 2009 Hallas et al; licensee BioMed Central Ltd.

### Introduction

Research is essential for improving emergency care but it is often difficult to obtain funding. Microfinance (small grants for minor projects) could be a method of initiating research in overlooked areas [1] but may be difficult to carry out [2].

We describe how a microgrant (500, -Danish Kroner (Dkr)) facilitated a research project in emergency medicine.

### Methods

A grant of 500 Dkr was provided by the Danish Society for Emergency Medicine towards a research project on acute admissions.

Hospital departments in Denmark with acute admissions (internal medicine) were contacted. The doctor on call was asked to fill out a questionnaire on the internet. Costs of distribution, collection and registration of questionnaires were virtually zero.

The grant was used to buy a gift certificate that doctors completing the questionnaire could win. Monetary incentives combined with mail and telephone is known to increase response rates of questionnaires [3].

### Results

Response rate was 94.4%. The study has so far resulted in three manuscripts accepted for publication and one abstract.

- Doctors on interhospital transfers. Training and level of experience. Abstract at EuSEM 2009

- Supervision og arbejdsfordeling ved modtagelse, og videre behandling, af akutte medicinske patienter\*

- Level of training and experience in physicians performing interhospital transfers of adult internal medicine patients.\*\*

- Visitation og triage af akut indlagte medicinske patienter.\*

\* Ugeskrift for Læger, \*\* Emergency Medicine Journal

### Conclusion

The microgrant was vital for the conduction of the study. The study has resulted in three articles and an abstract. Microfinance can be used to initiate research.

### References

1. MacDonald N, Kabakyenga J: **Microresearch: borrowing from the microfinance experience [editorial]**. *CMAJ* 2008, **179**:399.
2. Tang G: **Microresearch: great idea but tough to execute**. *CMAJ* 2008, **179**:931-932.
3. Beebe TJ, Davern ME, McAlpine DD, Call KT, Rockwood TH: **Increasing response rates in a survey of Medicaid enrollees: the effect of a prepaid monetary incentive and mixed modes (mail and telephone)**. *Med Care* 2005, **43**(4):411-4.