THE IMPACT OF RESEARCH GRANT FUNDING BEYOND SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTIVITY: LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF ENDOSCOPIC SURGERY (EAES)

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Background

- Since 2009, European Association of Endoscopic Surgery (EAES) has promoted minimally invasive surgery through grant funding in education, surgery, & basic science.

Objectives

- To measure the academic and 'real life' impact of research grant funding from one of the largest surgical societies in Europe.

Methods & Procedures

Steering committee goals

1. Questionnaire
2. Semi-structured interviews

1. Questionnaire development

- Independent proposal of questions from committee members
- Modified Delphi process for consensus

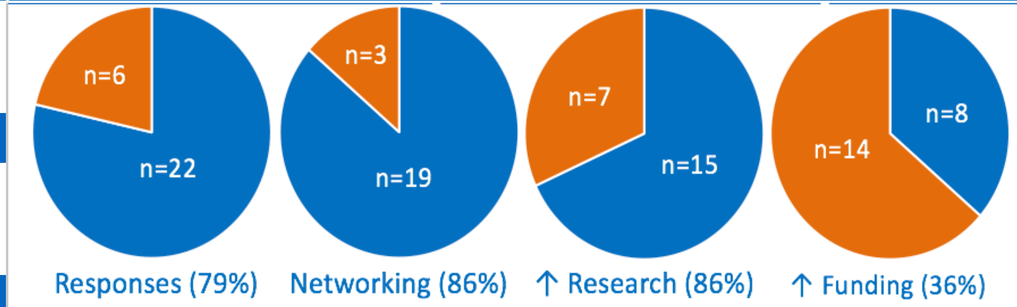
Dissemination to previous award winners

2. Results used to develop semi-structured interviews

Results

Variable	Median	1st-3rd IQD
Presentations	2.5	1, 3.25
Annual citations	19	13.5, 29.75

Results



Impact on trainees	n (%)
Invited to participate on guideline committees	7 (32)
Instigated change in clinical policies	3 (14)
Intellectual property designs	2 (9)



Results

Themes	Quotes
Impact on Career Progression	"It was life-changing for me…this led to four years of work which has drastically changed my career path."
Impact on Academic Output	"The first publication in Surgical Endoscopy led to the generation of a large dataset … led to a publication in Annals of Surgery, with 64 citations…"
Opportunities for Networking	"The networking [helped] the UGIRA (Upper GI International Robotic Association) which collects data from the oesophageal and gastric [robotic] surgery…we established collaboration with about 40 new robotic upper GI centres worldwide…"
Impact on Skills	"…when I started the grant, I had very little experience in collaboration, networking, public presentation so all these soft skills of course completely changed…I got to learn to study the science, good scientific practice, scientific writing, grant writing…"

Conclusions

- EAES grant funding exerted significant impact in both academic and non-academic settings. This included impact on career progression, academic output, networking, and collaboration skills.
- Barriers included COVID-19 delays & institutional policy.