

## **General Practitioner's Attitude in Primary Care Research in Banda Aceh City, Indonesia: the gap between knowledge and practice.**

Ichsan Ichsan<sup>1\*</sup>, Amanda Yufika<sup>1</sup>, Maimun Syukri<sup>1</sup>, Imai Indra<sup>1</sup>, Ryan McKee<sup>2</sup>, Louella Lobo<sup>2</sup>, Lynda Redwood-Campbell<sup>2</sup>

\*presenter

<sup>1</sup>Medical Research Unit, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Syiah Kuala, Banda Aceh, Indonesia

<sup>2</sup>Department of Family Medicine, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

### **Abstract**

**Objectives:** This study aims to understand the attitude, barriers, supporting factors, and practice of primary care research among general physicians in Banda Aceh, Indonesia.

**Methods:** Using a descriptive-interpretive qualitative approach, 25 general practitioners (100%) providing primary care at Public Health Center (PHC) in Banda Aceh were interviewed using semi-structured interview guide to explore their attitude, barriers, and supporting factors in regards to primary care research. In addition, key persons from Provincial Health Office (PHO), Indonesian Doctors Association and the National Institute of Health Research and Development were also interviewed to confirm the findings and explore the research policy currently applied. All interviews were conducted and transcribed in Bahasa then translated into English for thematic analysis.

**Results:** Only 1 out of 25 physicians was conducting research by the time the interview was done. This contradicted the findings on participants' attitude where majority of them demonstrated positive attitude towards primary care research. Lack of training after graduating from medical school, no special time allocated for research in primary care setting, and limited funding were mentioned as barriers in conducting research. Meanwhile, career advancement, pursuit of further education, and formal recognition by university were the supporting factors to conducting research mentioned during the interview. The absence of obligation to conduct research, lack of funding and time constraints were also mentioned by three key persons as challenges in conducting research for general physicians working in primary care.

**Conclusions:** Participants in general showed positive attitude towards primary care research. However, as there is no obligation for them to conduct research, as well as lack of supporting system such as trainings, grants, and allocated time. Therefore they could not put their knowledge and attitude into practice. Support from the government is needed for doctors in primary care to conduct research in order to improve the quality of care itself.