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# Researching Teaching

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**Jenny Freeman**



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# Why do research into teaching?



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- Travel



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# Description of projects that I have been involved with (so far)

- Contextualising medical statistics education: University of Sheffield Learning and Teaching Development Fund Grant
- Teaching medical statistics: Working towards the vision of Tomorrow's Doctors. Funded by Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science Teaching Network
- Development of a Problem-based learning (PBL) approach to facilitate the acquisition of statistics knowledge by non-statistics undergraduates: MSOR funded project

# **PBL resources MSOR project: Research questions**

- What can be learned from the PBL literature regarding the prevalence and best implementation of PBL for this type of learning?
- Is a short PBL programme (5 x 2 hour sessions) possible within a non-PBL curriculum?
- Can a set of PBL materials be developed that improves students' statistical literacy and their ability to solve problems?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of PBL as an educational strategy for teaching statistical skills?

# PBL resources MSOR project: Objectives

- Literature review of existing knowledge of PBL, in particular as applied to statistics learning for non-statistics students.
- Development of core curriculum of statistical notions that Drs need to know through:
  - Consultation with students, drs and other members of academic staff
- Development of PBL materials appropriate to student body, in the light of evidence from:
  - Literature review
  - Core curriculum development



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# **PBL resources MSOR project: Current stage**

- Literature review
- Curriculum content

# **PBL resources MSOR project: Outcomes**

- A summary of what has already been learned about the usefulness of PBL when teaching statistics to non-statistics undergraduates
- Provisional new information about the fit between PBL and statistical learning from the pilot
- Guidelines for designing PBL modules for statistics teaching of non-statistics students
- PBL module in statistics for non-statistics students

# Potential sources of funding

- Institutional level grants
- Association for the Study of Medical Education (ASME) Small Grants Scheme
- Society for Educational Studies, UK
  - <http://www.soc-for-ed-studies.org.uk/grants.asp>
- Teaching Statistics Trust
- MSOR Network small grants scheme
- Med, Dentistry and Vet Science Network small grants scheme
- The Higher Education Academy
  - Call for proposals for mini projects, closing date: 31/05/2008
  - <http://www.medev.ac.uk/resources/proposals/miniprojects4>
- Medical Research Council
  - <http://www.mrc.ac.uk/ApplyingforaGrant/AvailableGrants/ag>



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# Questions?