

**Poster Abstract: P6**

**Title:**

**REDCap** (**Research Electronic Data Capture) at the WDGMC**

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**Background:**

Wits Faculty of Health Sciences offers REDCap as a platform for research data management. The advantages of REDCap include: free access for Wits students/staff; regular updates and maintenance by the administrator; POPI-compliance; access control; web-based access from various electronic devices (tablets, smart phones, laptops); data security (uploaded to a dedicated Wits server that is firewall protected and regularly backed up on a second server); user-friendly interface with clinicians for construction and design of data capture projects; efficient and readily available Wits-based support for clinicians using REDCap. A number of clinicians at WDGMC are utilising REDCap and an audit of their projects has been conducted to characterize the users and project types.

**Methods:**

The user database and project metadata for the REDCap system was queried. All projects at WDGMC that have required input from the Donald Gordon Research Office since January 2014 were audited. Three researchers, Dr J Herold from the Colorectal Unit, Dr J Fabian and Sr H Maher from the Research Office have worked closely with Irma Maré (Wits) in assisting other clinicians and postgraduate students to set up their own redcap data bases. All the research projects that involve use of REDCap and the colorectal unit databank have Wits HREC approval.

**Results:**

REDCap has been utilised by several clinicians conducting clinical research at WDGMC. The primary intention has been to create databanks for “prospective” data collection that will generate ongoing clinical data for research. The rate of growth of these databases has increased as the projects expand to include more clinical and data management staff. This has been successfully achieved by the Colorectal Unit and is currently being planned for Radiation-Oncology and Medical Microbiology. Individual REDCap projects have also been designed for retrospective data collection pertaining to specific research questions and practice audits for both clinicians and postgraduate students.

**Discussion:**

REDCap utilisation at WDGMC is growing. The research office has developed skills for project set-up and maintenance and training of clinicians at WDGMC. Although there are numerous advantages to using REDCap, some disadvantages cited by clinicians are that REDCap is not a clinical practice data management tool and in the clinical setting it would be advantageous, especially where record keeping is unreliable; it requires robust internet access for use at different sites – which is not always feasible; data capturers are required who can enter data accurately and consistently but many clinicians are unable to source them on regular basis and few research grants fund data entry.