



## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

# Rising to the Challenge of promoting research in primary care and nursing: Research productivity and professional view<sup>☆</sup>



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### KEYWORDS

Nursing research;  
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### Abstract

**Objective:** To analyse the evolution of scientific production in a privately managed public institution, and to explore the perceptions of primary healthcare professionals with regard to research.

**Method:** The institution includes a university hospital and 10 primary health centres, 673 physicians, and 747 nurses. A bibliometric analysis on scientific production was performed. A questionnaire was designed, with 5 sections (sociodemographic data, competences, needs, motivation and satisfaction with research) and 40 items (scale of 1–10). Its understanding, pertinence and validity of content were analysed.

**Results:** In 2014, the contribution of primary care to research accounted for 2.8% of the total impact factor of publications, and 4.8% of clinical trials. Nurses accounted for 0.6% of the impact factor, having published articles in first quartile journals. A total of 110 (51%) primary care professionals participated in the survey. The average motivation for research was 7.85 points and satisfaction with research 4.37 points. The interest in receiving training in research (8.46 points) was highlighted as well as the lack of leadership in research (2.93 points). Regarding competences, research in teams was highlighted (6.87 points), and obtaining funding was noted as a negative (3.44 points).

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*Conclusions:* Research is experiencing a surge in all institutions, especially in hospitals. The primary care professionals expressed their motivation towards research and their dissatisfaction with the difficulties encountered, especially in obtaining funds.

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## PALABRAS CLAVE

Investigación en enfermería;  
Percepción;  
Encuestas y cuestionarios;  
Atención Primaria;  
Bibliometría

## El reto de potenciar la investigación en Atención Primaria y Enfermería: productividad científica y opinión del profesional

### Resumen

*Objetivo:* Analizar la evolución de la producción científica en una institución de asistencia pública concertada con gestión privada, y conocer la percepción de los profesionales de atención primaria sobre la investigación.

*Método:* La entidad engloba un hospital universitario y 10 centros de salud, 673 médicos y 747 enfermeras. Se realizó un análisis bibliométrico de la producción científica. Se diseñó un cuestionario, con 5 secciones (datos sociodemográficos, competencias, necesidades, motivación y satisfacción hacia la investigación) y 40 variables (escala, 1-10), para que fuese autocumplimentado por los profesionales de atención primaria. Se analizó su comprensión, pertinencia y validez de contenido.

*Resultados:* En 2014, la contribución de la atención primaria a la investigación global representó el 2,8% del total de factor de impacto de las publicaciones y el 4,8% de los ensayos clínicos. Las enfermeras contribuyeron con el 0,6% del factor de impacto, con publicaciones en revistas del primer cuartil. Participaron en la encuesta 110 (51%) profesionales de atención primaria. La motivación media hacia la investigación fue de 7,85 puntos y la satisfacción con ella de 4,37 puntos. Destacó el interés por recibir formación en investigación (8,46 puntos) y la falta de liderazgo en esta (2,93 puntos). Como competencia destacó la investigación en equipo (6,87 puntos) y negativamente la obtención de financiación (3,44 puntos).

*Conclusiones:* La investigación aumenta en la institución, especialmente en el hospital. Los profesionales de atención primaria manifestaron motivación hacia la investigación e insatisfacción por sus dificultades y falta de recursos para investigar.

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## What is known?

The benefits of researching in nursing and primary health care are currently considered invaluable, despite the obstacles involved. Research is more consolidated in hospitals than in primary care and also more extended among doctors than among nurses.

## What is offered?

In this study we reflect on how to enhance research in nursing and in primary care, from the perception of health professionals on their motivation, possibilities and skills. The contribution of nursing and primary healthcare to total scientific production of an institution is also quantified.

## Introduction

The main mission of healthcare centres, regardless of the level of care, consists in caring for the health of the population and providing them with healthcare. Those centres which seek to improve the quality of service they provide also consider essential aspects to be teaching and research, in addition to a central focus on healthcare and its management. Since 2008, the worldwide financial crisis has marked a turning point in scientific research of health in the West.<sup>1,2</sup> In Spain several initiatives and strategies have been followed to promote research,<sup>3,4</sup> which is currently going through a critical time due to budget reductions.<sup>5</sup>

Primary healthcare, the pillar of the health system, is also going through a crisis and has increasingly limited resources, with no consolidation of a research culture. There are many recognised advantages to increasing research in primary care,<sup>6,7</sup> including the importance of an essential healthcare level for the population's health outcome. However, it is not easy for teachers to combine their professional duties and research. The pressure of a high workload, the lack of tradition and culture of research and the difficulties in

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