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ISOSCCIP PROJECT: PHASE 1 SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW

K. Seed, G. Lydall, A. Malik, D. Bhugra, R. Howard, ISoSCCiP

Royal College of Psychiatrists, London, UK

Introduction: The chronic worldwide shortage of psychiatrists has impaired the delivery of first class mental health care. The WHO produced a report on the Mental Health Gap, showing the high burden of mental health, neurological and substance misuse disorders worldwide, estimating a treatment gap of 75% between need and resources.

Aims and objectives: Research to date has highlighted key areas that influence students' choice of a career in psychiatry. There have been several key literature reviews summarising work in the area since the 1950s. The current study updates literature with a systematic review of the past 10 years.

Methods: A five level search strategy was used.

A standard Critical Appraisal tool was developed based on the one used by the Best Evidence in Medical Education Group in Dundee. Papers were coded and graded using hierarchies of evidence - Sackett Hierarchy of Evidence and Kirkpatrick Hierarchy.

Results & conclusions: The quality of published studies has risen over the past 30 years, with the past decade producing the most robust evidence. However, it is a complex area to research with many potential confounders, and large gaps in knowledge remain.