

## **International collaboration among suicide and self-harm early career researchers: introducing the netECR project**

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**Introduction:** Early Career Researchers (ECRs) face a range of challenges as they enter into a career in academia; some common amongst ECRs across a range of disciplines, others specific to the field of suicide and self-harm research. These challenges may vary across different countries, levels of education, accessibility to resources, and level of professional isolation. It was proposed that an international collaboration of ECRs - from different labs and institutions - may provide an opportunity to overcome some of the challenges facing ECRs in this field of research and facilitate professional and personal development.

**Aim:** This presentation aims to introduce netECR – International Network of ECRs in Suicide and Self Harm.

**Methods:** The presentation will include an overview of the history of netECR, discuss collaborations that have arisen as a result of the network, and provide a summary of qualitative feedback collected from netECR members relating to personal and professional efficacy developed as a result of network membership. Recent and future netECR networking events will also be described.

**Results:** netECR was initiated in 2016, in the form of a monthly online journal club. Its leadership expanded in 2017; this coincided with the launch of the netECR website which hosts a range ECR-focused content including research profiles for each member of the network and a monthly blog. To date, the network comprises researchers from 23 labs across 12 countries. netECR have developed an online presence via social media platforms, such as Twitter, where members discuss research topics and obtain feedback and support from peers and colleagues.

**Conclusions:** netECR raises the profile of suicide and self-harm research being conducted internationally by ECRs and provides the opportunity for networking and collaboration within a supportive online environment

**Keywords:** Suicidal behaviour; suicide; self-harm

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