The left side of the slide features a decorative design consisting of several vertical stripes in shades of light blue and teal, and a cluster of five teal circles of varying sizes arranged in a roughly diagonal pattern from the top left towards the bottom center.

**AN INVESTIGATION INTO PHYSICIAN
ASSISTANT TRAINING IN THE WEST MIDLANDS;
AN ACADEMIC, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT AND
PHYSICIAN'S PERSPECTIVE.**

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BACKGROUND



UK

The Netherlands

USA



METHODOLOGY

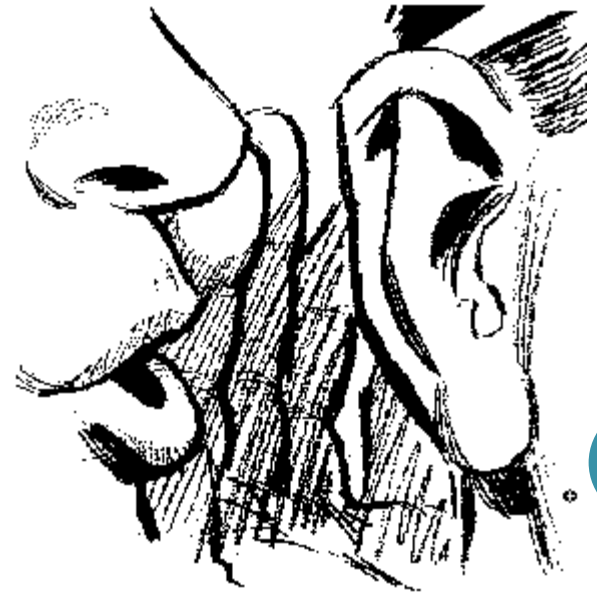
- Views and experiences of academics, physicians and physician assistant/associates involved in PA training in the West Midlands.
- The data was collected from 8 individual semi-structured interviews.
- Data analysis involved an iterative process of discussion between researcher and supervisory team. In order to discern patterns and commonalities across the data set thematic analysis was conducted.



UNHEARD VOICES

'have their role recognised by practitioners and the public in this country as well as them developing as a profession which has its own professional body, regulations, national exam and voice within this country and also getting them recognised and appreciated and needed by the government in government policies' P2

'I still think and still believe its an exciting development within NHS careers I believe that medicine itself needs to develop alongside it' P3



RESULTS

LEARNING CLIMATES

- Faculty structure
- Pedagogic approaches
- Clinical placements
- Selection criteria



THE CONCEPT OF WAR

'there is still a battle for the PAs to be a recognised profession and there is still the issue that physician assistants are unable to prescribe' P2

'I think that if there is another false start then the profession won't survive in the UK.' P7

'I think we [PA] need to win battles in the nursing profession' P1



CONFLICTS AND BATTLES



CULTURE & IDENTITY

- Role models

'going in as a PA student there aren't role models as such to understand what your role is and necessarily going to entail'

P6

'but I think the role itself it's not clearly distinguishable in practice it's not distinguishable as a separate working model.'

P5



PROGRESSION WITHIN THE ROLE

- Scope of Practice

'The question in your mind will arise where do we go from here? Do we stay where we are, do we become more senior in our role or do we just stay as junior?' P5

'to those [PAs] who are moving into other areas such as education and leadership in the pa movement and actually developing their own community of practice and that's great'
P7



RIVALRIES



COMPETITION & ROLE COMPARISONS

- Territorial boundaries

‘a need to inform them [PA’s] about nurses and different positions and how there would be territorial boundaries.....I think the nurses have a culture which is recognised and is stable and that has an identity but whereas the physician assistants they are a new profession they haven’t got that culture’ P2

‘Junior doctors I think feel particularly threatened by the role, I had a lot of junior doctors say to me that this is another route to medicine they are saying that this will take over medicine /doctoral training’ P5



SUMMARY

- The importance of the PA voice
- The PA identity in the UK
- Role recognition & awareness



FUTURE?

