

EDITORIAL

RESEARCH AND MEDICAL EDUCATION

Research encompasses activities that increase the sum of human knowledge. Research and experimental development comprises of creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge, and the use of this stock of knowledge to devise new applications. It is characterized by originality; it should have investigation as a primary objective and should have the potential to produce results that are sufficiently general.

It is assumed that the over all quality and quantity of research work carried out and published in the field of medicine in Pakistan is not satisfactory. This editorial is aimed at understanding the factors which of addressed appropriately will help in bringing the improvements in the field of research.

There are three levels of Medical Education for doctors: 1) Undergraduate Medical Education (UME), 2) Postgraduate Medical Education (PME) and 3) Counting Medical Education (CME). The corresponding three levels of Research are: 1) Basic Research (optional) for UME, 2) Higher Research (compulsory) for PME and 3) Advanced Research (planned) for CME.

To improve the scope of research, it is recommended that; 1) During UME a module of “Research Methodology, Biostatistics and Report Writing” should be included in the MBBS curriculum. 2) PME needs structuring and re-organization and provide facilities and guidance that PGs to produce excellent Thesis and Research Papers. 3) For CME a “National Body” should be created with the collaboration of Medical Institution, Industry and Government Authorities to develop and manage “National Research Policy”.

Characteristics of a research project in clinical medicine are that it should address a specific problem, provide sufficient exercise for thinking and concept making, provide opportunity to the student to make and modify the methodology, generate sufficient data to learn application of statistical tests and at least 20% of the work should be related to Basic Sciences.

The roles of a research supervisor are to offer research projects in his area of interest, prevent the research work from undergoing obstructions, provide freedom of work to the student and manage the time line of the research project.

The responsibilities of a research student include a serious and hard working attitude; should be methodical, pleasant to interact with others, has done a strong review of literature, has good writing abilities and should also respect the time frame.

This editorial provides an overview of, the introduction to research, relationship of Research and Medical Education, Characteristics of a Research Project, Roles of the Research Supervisor and the responsibilities of a Research Student. It is hoped that the readers will find them of interest.

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