EDITORIAL

Undergraduate Research: The Initiative, Trend and Reform

SYED ZULFIQUAR ALI SHAH¹, IKRAM DIN UJJAN², MUHAMMAD KASHIF SHAIKH³, NAVEED ASLAM LASHARI⁴, MUZAFFAR ALI SHAIKH⁵, MUHAMMAD KHALID SHEIKH⁶, NIDA BATOOL⁷, KANWAL⁸

³National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) Hyderabad

²Department of Pathology, Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences Jamshoro

³Department of Interventional Cardiology, Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences, Jamshoro

⁴Pakistan Air Force Hospital, Islamabad

^{1,5,6}Department of Medicine, Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences Jamshoro

⁷Department of Pediatric Cardiology, National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) Hyderabad

Correspondence TO Dr. Syed Zulfiquar Ali Shah, Email: zulfikar229@hotmail.com

The research isn't finished until published while the students must actively engage in all facets of scientific and professional culture.1This implies they must comprehend the profession's ideals while the students are taught the value of study, many fail to realize that study is not finished until it is printed.² Releasing, peer review, and prioritization are all values of researchers that are not taught in textbooks, typical laboratories, or mass lectures.³ Students are sometimes included as co-authors in professional publications, although they are usually acknowledged. Rarely do students actively participate in both writing and peer review while the peer review and publishing will not be typical expectations of these essential encounters until then⁴.

As science education includes more inquiry-based activities across the curriculum, students receive vital opportunity to take active roles in scientific research through academic research courses and summer projects, as well as within regular lab courses.⁵ While some hardworking student researchers may experience the procedure of publishing their study in a research journal, the nature of most student research projects provides results that are of inadequate depth and/or scope to hold alone as journal articles.⁶ Consequently, students may lose chances to learn the reviewing, rewriting, or editing abilities that are critical for success in research and publishing7.

Many student research projects explore innovative problems usina cognitively and empirically sound methodologies. Furthermore, undergraduate research requires substantial time, effort, and money from students, advisers, and institutions, and deserves attention.8It ends with an advisor or department receiving a thesis or paper. Teachers may help students contribute to the scientific literature by include peer-review in the writing process⁹. It also does not completely represent the scientific publication process, where articles must be peer-reviewed and updated to answer peer-reviewed critiques before being published into the research literature¹⁰.

Numerous academic institutions have launched undergrad journals to inspire their students to write, evaluate, and edit while the others provide comparable publications for student writers from any college who want to reach a larger readership¹¹. Despite this, majority undergraduates remain excluded from three critical aspects of research: publishing, peer review, and funding. Members and leaders of medicine and science professional groups must aggressively address this gap. Supporting peer-reviewed publications serving the student community is a natural extension of our commitment to improve undergraduate education and recognizing the real accomplishment of those undergraduates who actively engaged in the research activities we sponsored¹².

In the internet era, many of the publications that specialize in research work were first published in electronic form¹³. While the internet has made publishing more efficient, less costly, and more accessible to a larger number of people, it has also enabled students from a variety of schools and institutions to join editorial boards and participate actively in all parts of publication.14 Consequently, students now have a greater variety of options to engage in all areas of the publishing process - whether as writers, reviewers, or editors¹⁵. Undergraduate journals, as a result, enable young researchers develop critical writing, rewriting, and reviewing abilities that will help them become more successful writers,

reviewer, publishers, and researchers as they go through their careers $^{\rm 16,17}\!\!\!$

Multi-system knowledge will assist faculty focus on overall involvement, inclusiveness, and effectiveness as they plan and execute new student research initiatives.18Considering that only a tiny percentage of student research results in publications, it is critical to guarantee that no groups are left out of the research process and that all students have equal access to publishing opportunities. Planning process that accounts for inclusivity and connected to multiple dynamics will promote long-term student the achievement as college-aged population changes demographically in the next decade. Those of us who support undergraduate research publishing confront two challenges. First, many undergraduate research supervisors may be scared or ashamed by their own small publication histories. Second many scientific students struggle with writing. We must incorporate students in all aspects of scientific knowledge generation, including publishing. To promote undergraduate student research publishing, we encourage professional organizations in the medical sciences to adopt this as a standard expectation.

REFERENCES

- Hausmann JS, Touloumtzis C, White MT, Colbert JA, Gooding HC. Adolescent 1. and young adult use of social media for health and its implications. J Adolesc Health.2017;60(6):714-19.
- Moller R, Shoshan M. Medical students' research productivity and career preferences; a 2-year prospective follow-up study. BMC Med Educ.2017;17(1):51. 2.
- Apuke OD, Iyendo TO. University students' usage of the internet resources for 3. research and learning: forms of access and perceptions of utility. Heliyon.2018;4(12):e01052.
- 4 Martin F, Sun T, Westine CD. A systematic review of research on online teaching and learning from 2009 to 2018. Comput Educ.2020;159:104009. Hogh A, Müller-Hilke B. Learning strategies and their correlation with academic
- 5. success in biology and physiology examinations during the preclinical years of medical school. PLoS One.2021;16(1):e0245851.
- Chan E. Student Research and Publication: strategic planning for inclusion using a systems mapping approach. Front Psychol. 2019;10:6. Frohardt RJ. Engaging community college students in publishable research. Front 6.
- 7. Psychol.2019;10:882.
- Jimenez JM, Lopez M, Castro MJ, Martin-Gil B, Cao MJ, Fernandez-Castro M. 8 Development of critical thinking skills of undergraduate students throughout the years of nursing degree at a public university in Spain: a descriptive study. BMJ Open.2021;11(10):e049950.
- Leite DFB, Padilha MAS, Cecatti JG. Approaching literature review for academic 9. purposes: The Literature Review Checklist. Clinics (Sao Paulo).2019;74:e1403. Wilson KJ, Brickman P, Brame CJ. Group Work. CBE Life Sci Educ.2018;17(1):fe1
- 10.
- Osman T. Medical students' perceptions towards research at a Sudanese university. BMC Med Educ.2016;16(1):253. 11.
- 12. Tiyuri A, Saberi B, Miri M, Shahrestanaki E, Bayat BB, Salehiniya H. Research self-efficacy and its relationship with academic performance in postgraduate students of Tehran University of Medical Sciences in 2016. J Educ Health Promot.2018;7:11.
- Funston G, Piper RJ, Connell C, Foden P, Young AM, O'Neill P. Medical student 13. perceptions of research and research-orientated careers: An international questionnaire study. Med Teach.2016;38(10):1041-48.
- Pathipati AS, Taleghani N. Research in medical school: a survey evaluating why 14. medical students take research years. Cureus.2016;8(8):e741.
- Siamian H, Mahmoudi R, Habibi F, Latifi M, Zare-Gavgani V. Students' attitudes towards research at Mazandaran university of medical sciences in 2015. Mater 15. Sociomed.2016;28(6):468-472.
- Weston TJ, Laursen SL. The undergraduate research student self-assessment 16. (URSSA): validation Educ.2015;14(3):ar33. validation for use in program evaluation. CBE Life Sci
- Skorinko JLM. Looking back at undergraduate research experiences to promote 17. the engagement of undergraduates in publishable research at an R2 institution. Front Psychol.2019;10:1316
- 18. Kolokithas A, Calderon O. A how-to guide on bringing undergraduate research to community and technical colleges. J Microbiol Biol Educ.2018;19(3):19.

²Classified Medical Specialist & Rheumatologist, Pakistan Air Force Hospital, Islamabad