

Editorial

Timely Cultivating of Scientific Insights Through Research: The Future of Medical Education



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The pivotal role of research in medicine is undeniably vital for the progress of healthcare methods and patients' well-being. Nonetheless, when and how scientific research should be integrated into medical education remains a widely discussed issue. From the perspective of medical educators, cultivating research among medical students has been driven by the belief that it offers enormous benefits. Early exposure to investigative scientific activity has been shown to develop critical thinking skills, thereby enabling deeper insight into the field of medicine. Furthermore, research training provides a rich and rewarding period of applying what is learnt, including reviewing and interpreting literature, experimental design, data interpretation, communication and publication.

Looking at it from the other side, challenges and barriers have been reported and identified in implementing research among medical undergraduates. Competing time with didactic tasks, ineptness in topic selection, difficulty in securing

committed supervisors and funding for research add up to the overall struggles of students. Several studies have been done to address these dilemmas. Creating optimal avenues for student research by including research into the curriculum has been a consistent finding.

Fifteen years ago, the University of Santo Tomas, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery established the Department of Clinical Epidemiology, with the primary objective of developing students' research capacity. With the current JMUST Special Issue, it is evident that the collaborative effort among mentors and students has come into fruition! Backed by a depth review and approval by the Research Ethics Board, the students' scientific works are ones to be proud of!

JMUST would like to extend its heartfelt congratulations to the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and collaborating faculty members of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery on this exemplary milestone!

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