

MESSAGE



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It is with great pride and gratitude that we present this Special Issue of the *Journal of Medicine UST (JMUST)*, highlighting the scholarly work of our medical students—work made possible by a community that believes deeply in inquiry, mentorship, and academic excellence. This issue reflects our collective commitment to strengthening the research culture of our medical school.

On behalf of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, I extend my sincere appreciation to the Editor-in-Chief of JMUST and the Editor-in-Chief for this Special Issue for their academic leadership and unwavering standards of excellence. I likewise acknowledge the Chief Program Officer of the Research Center for the Health Sciences and the Department Chair of Clinical Epidemiology, whose vision, systems, and guidance continue to shape a rigorous and supportive research environment.

I offer my warmest congratulations to our student authors. Your discipline, curiosity, and perseverance exemplify the physician-scholar we aspire to form—one who asks meaningful questions and seeks evidence-based solutions for the health challenges of our time.

I also commend the faculty mentors and advisers who generously shared their expertise, time, and wisdom in guiding our students from the conception of their studies to publication. Their mentorship transforms curiosity into scholarship and ideas into impact.

As we move forward, let us be even more productive and visible in research and publication, recognizing that scholarly output remains a vital metric of institutional excellence, relevance, and global standing. May this Special Issue inspire sustained inquiry, collaboration, and discovery in the service of health, humanity, and nationbuilding.

