## **EDITORIAL**

## Mastering the art of research and publication

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Creating a research culture in the healthcare institutions is an important step in generating credible and creditable research work. Good research work can generate good publication. The merit of the research work carried out is an important determinant in getting a paper accepted for publication in reputed journals. Many people perceive that getting a research idea or concept is not easy. One of the most important requirements in getting interested in research is developing a keen sense of observation. That coupled with knowledge of the subject can help in creating a fertile mind for research.

Two of the greatest discoveries that have changed or revolutionized the entire medical science were discovery of x-rays by Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen on 8<sup>th</sup> November 1895 and penicillin by Alexander Fleming in 1928. Both these discoveries were accidental. But one of the most important things to note is that these two investigators had a keen sense of observation. Focusing on research gaps can also help in identifying a research area.

Though hard-work is very much essential in doing research, sometimes motivation by the mentor works wonders in challenging one's mind. Apart from motivation, teamwork is also important in carrying out research. Many institutions excel in the academic arena because of the teamwork.

One of the recent surveys carried out has revealed that none of the Indian Universities figure in the list of world's top 250 universities. Nonetheless, our doctors, teachers, engineers or scientists do well in their work once they are in other countries. Why is this happening? Creating a research ecosystem is also very important in good research output.

Setting up research clubs, conducting research workshops, interaction with good researchers and motivational talks by eminent researchers can also help in changing the research milieu of the campus.

Following the setting up of National Assessment and Accreditation Council and thanks to the many measures taken by it, the quality and standard of many of the educational institutions, universities and healthcare institutions have increased. However, setting up a robust internal quality control mechanism in the respective institutions is important in gaining a focus in research and publication.

Most of the institutions are now offering incentives and extra increments for publications in quality journals. At the same time there are low quality journals and some agents who charge exorbitant amounts for 'publishing' one's work. In a world wherein everyone is keen in getting the work done by taking the path of least resistance,

many of the researchers are tempted to follow this easy approach to get their papers published. That is the reason why predatory journals and agents are flourishing who are detrimental in generating high quality publication.

My advice to all the fellow professionals is to have an internalization of quality and standards and a team play so that good research work and publication would emerge.

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