

Need for emphasis on usage of Internet and conducting conferences for the improvement of research and biomedical publication

To the Editor

We read with interest the excellent article by Aziz et al.¹ This important and carefully illustrated article recommends on different potential ways which lead to improving research activities in the region such as improving research training, enhancing financial incentives and so forth. We agree to the recommendations made in the article but firstly, now a day's internet plays an important role in the research process. The researchers should be advised to utilize internet for the following purposes: a) To access online journal publications, this may help to quickly access the latest research in the medical field. b) Make contacts via E-mail to other researchers which may help to build a strong research collaboration between different universities c) For conducting quantitative studies. Reviews of information posted by researchers on the Internet may help to identify the key problems where research is needed. Comparing recommendations found on the Web against evidence-based guidelines is one way to identify areas where there is a gap between opinion and evidence, or where there is a need for research.

Secondly, we would also recommend the government to conduct conferences which should attract expert research scholars from different parts of the world to attend the conference and pour in their knowledge to the upcoming researchers in the region. By conducting such conferences, it would encourage the researchers to conduct studies and also helps to build up research collaborations and also increase the rate of publications.

So, we recommend the usage of internet and conducting conferences as a tool for improvement of research and biomedical publication in the region.

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Reply from the Author

In the above article, Jayachandra S and Pinto M suggested a number of strategies for improvement of research and biomedical publication including the use of the internet holding conferences and establishing collaborative work between researchers. I believe such suggestions are important; however, it would have been desirable if the authors could have elaborated more on these different strategies.

Internet - In my opinion, and based on my own experience, research should never be started until good literature search has been carried out around the topic of interest. In the past, one had to search through many medical and biomedical journals in order to get the necessary background information on the topic of interest, and to make sure that such work had not been carried out previously. The internet has made this work exceedingly easy, and information can now be acquired within a short period. In addition, researchers can use the internet in order to get access to free medical journals and this would be crucial for many researchers who would, otherwise unable to prescribe to such journals. Listing of the various websites which contain free medical journals would have been of benefit to researchers (such as freemedicaljournals.com, free Medical Journal PubMed search and so forth). Holding regular conference on each speciality within each country, and regionally, would be exceedingly important for research development. Such conferences would help to bring together researchers and experts within each country and regionally and lead to exchange of ideas and experience and establish collaborative work between them, and thus lead to better research activities. In this regard, it would be crucial if regional societies for the different specialities are formed and regular conferences are held.

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References

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