Nurturing The Student Researchers

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Research provides students with an opportunity to have a first hand experience with the variability of biologic and clinical data, to learn how to format a testable hypothesis, to endure the tedium of data collection and to organize and interpret the results. In this era of evidence based medicine all this will help to have an objective and holistic approach. Research experiences, during medical school, predict far-reaching career achievement in academic medicine. Through research work medical students learn critical and logical thinking. Students’ research can also contribute to the published output of an institution. In Germany, for example, medical students authored 28% of the publications of one institute, including first authorship in 7.8% of papers. Nothing can be more motivating for a student than to get published. Even if the experience of doing research as a student does not lead to a later career in academic medicine, research experience can help improve students’ skills in searching and critically appraising the medical literature, independent learning and writing research papers. Involvement in research helps the students to develop many other personality skills, such as communication skills, thinking out of box and time management. Starting research earlier encourages medical students in making critical career decisions. Nature and type of institute and its attitude towards undergraduate research influences most.

There are many deterring factors for medical students that lead to a lack of interest in research. Inadequate mentorship, lack of time, neglect of routine studies, deterioration of clinical skills due to more time spent on research activities, improper exposure and understanding of the clinical situation under scrutiny, inadequate project management, lack of funding, donkey work by the undergraduates and crown ship of the research by the “chair holder” are some of the notable obstacles. Providing opportunities for research and integrating it effectively into the curriculum are not trivial matters. The interest of students for research will make the seniors attentive and to be at guard as the younger lot seems to be more acquainted with modern gadgets and tools of research methods. But it is not accounted for a head on collision situation. The seniors will be there to guide and share their experience in their clinical settings and the students will definitely be proved as an effective working force in data contemplation, searching for relevant material and many other essentials required to conduct a valid study. The mentors and mentees are well entwined to share, learn and to be of benefit for the human race. The game is on. Don’t let the curtains fall down, as still the story is there to unearth. Still the miseries of spirit and soul need remedy, still the thorn is very much there in the heart and still the conscience is striving to be conscious. Kindly keep it progressing, save it and illuminate it. There is lot to distill, crystallize and narrate. From her onward, from this marathon, the curiosity will emerge like a fresh breeze, from here the character will arise in the horizon. Let wait, some where the destiny and struggle will meet.

References

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