
EDITORIAL

MEDICAL UNIVERSITIES

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The need for medical universities like other professional universities have long been felt for the promotion of higher medical education and research in Pakistan. In this connection, the Dow University of Health Sciences was established three years ago.

The Dow University of Health Sciences when established, had Dow Medical College, Sindh Medical College and Ojha Institute of Chest Diseases as its constituent institutions. At present, it has added an Institute of Medical Technology, Institute of Nursing, Sarwar Zuberi Liver Centre, National Institute of Diabetes and Endocrinology, Dr. Ishrat-ul-Ebad Khan Institute of Oral Health Sciences and the recently established Dow International Medical College.

The dictionary definition of University is "an educational institution of the highest level with one or more undergraduate colleges, together with a program of graduate studies and a number of professional schools, authorized to confer various degrees, as the Bachelor's, Master's and Doctor's". Newman says that a University is a place to which, thousand of schools make contributions; in which the intellect may safely range and speculate, sure to find its equal in some antagonist activity, and is judged in the tribunal of truth.

It is a place where inquiries are pushed forward, discoveries verified and perfected, rashness rendered innocuous, and error exposed, by the collision of mind with mind, and knowledge with knowledge. It is a seat of wisdom, a light of the world, a minister of the faith and Alma Mater of the rising generation.

A University should be a place where knowledge is not just shared but created and then shared. It implies

that university and research are two terms that cannot be separated from each other. The three characteristics in which we see the success of Dow University of Health Sciences, to be a great University are the availability of great researchers, thinkers and faculty.

Universities become great not through administration but through academic excellence. Intellectual abilities mean that we would like our students to develop not only in skills but also in cognition, increasing their thinking abilities and equipping them with the kind of intellect that could be applied for the welfare of our society. These intellectuals could only come from the research that we produce. University is primarily a place to pursue intellectual research.

Research training provides many benefits, including an appreciation for the process of discovery, sharpening of the knowledge and skills needed to read and interpret new findings that may be incorporated into clinical care decisions, as well as possibly providing an introduction to a career in academic medicine and dentistry. Medical sciences have made tremendous progress in the last century. Newer surgical techniques, investigative tools and greater appreciation of the inner mechanics of the human body at the molecular level have spawned a number of new disciplines. In a similar manner, medical education has metamorphosed into much more than simple transmission of knowledge.

Teaching and learning is a dynamic process that needs to be fueled with the feed back from its stakeholders in order to make it more meaningful and result oriented. If this feedback is missing or it is sought from the intuition of teachers, the graph begins to move downward and cannot even be maintained at the level desired. The dynamic nature of this process demands to regulate and systematize the process of feedback so that not only the teachers but also the students can take part in it and may find things that lead to its enhancement.

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The question of how to collect this feedback is quite challenging. The parameters of teaching and learning activities should be standardized with the help of experts and review of related literature. Effective learning cannot be judged by reaction based feedback but it needs proper evaluation of several types and at several levels. Thus a good administrator needs to choose the right type and level of evaluation so that the feedback may be collected and decision may be made in the light of the input collected. A researcher can also provide a detailed insight of teaching and learning context with more objectivity. All sources can be used for correct orientation of the educational system.

The role of universities needs to be re-evaluated in our society. If we evaluate the research and academic intellect that we impart, we are far behind other countries of similar capacity. Presently we are consuming the research coming from abroad as a teaching material. Therefore, we need to look into the problems faced by our society. These problems should be taught in the university. This shows the importance of the university as being the temple of intellectual disbursement.

There are certain factors that count towards the effectiveness and value of a scholarly journal. Peer review is the hall mark of quality that results from eternal and independent evaluation. It is commonly viewed as the primary mechanism through which research quality is nurtured, and through which research is made both effective and efficient.

The stimulating environment of conferences and seminars is activity promoted at Dow university. It generates in-progress communication, where current research is presented and discussed at length, but there are no written materials, nor are the presentations final or archival. These are particularly valuable for generating one's own research ideas. This journal will publish original articles, reviews, case series and case reports and comments etc.

I acknowledge the efforts of the members of the editorial board for working very hard to bring out this first issue of "Journal of the Dow University of Health Sciences" (JDUHS).

It is hoped that the Journal of the Dow University of Health Sciences, will be a valuable addition in the existing repertoire of journals published in Pakistan.

