

## Role of Students in Medical Sciences Researches in Iran

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In today's world, it is speaking of "leap of science" and "information explosion", two complementary phrases. Researchers all over the world are decrypting a plenty of unknown mysteries, from the smallest genetic and molecular issues to the most complex secrets of the space. The Iranian scientists are no exception to this fact. Science production has remarkably grown in Iran during the past years. Around 30,000 scientific articles of Iranian researchers are published in the international journals every year. This rate shows a 20-fold growth compared with three decades ago (1). According to the SCImago Journal & Country Rank website, Iran with 333,474 articles published during 1996-2015, is in 22<sup>nd</sup> rank in the world and 2<sup>nd</sup> rank in the Middle East in terms of publication numbers (2). Also, it should be noted that despite the presence of comprehensive nuclear sanctions during last years, the trend of Iran's scientific development did not stop and it is predicted that scientific collaboration with global community will increase considering the recent nuclear agreement in 2015 and lifting the related sanctions (3).

But, who have actually participated in these advancements? Fortunately in Iran, we witness the cooperation between different scientific groups, such as university students. This country with about 4.5 million university students and 800 research centers, has an appropriate capacity for research activities (1). It is seen that interested students are involved in a considerable

number of projects. Also, most of the medical sciences universities have a center named Student Research Committee (SRC). This student organization is supported by the Vice Chancellor for Research and Technology of every university and was established in 1993 for the first time in Iran, with the purpose of sharing research-related information and broadening skills and knowledge about study methodology. In this regard, different plans have been employed, such as conducting educational workshops, implementing research councils to evaluate proposals with presence of academics and students, and implementing annual research congresses.

It has been reported that during 2006-2015, 2178 articles have been published with different affiliations of SRC in journals indexed in Scopus database with an ascending trend(4). This reflects the active participation of the medical sciences students in the research areas.

But regardless of these pleasing experiences, there are a number of limitations that can negatively affect students' morale, such as lack of sufficient financial support, and inaccessibility to some necessary instruments and materials. However, capable students with perseverance can overcome all difficulties and defend their talent in research. Scientific progress is indebted to research achievements, and this is ineluctable. It is here that the research is made more tangible. As mentioned above, the role of medical

sciences students in research is notable. They are really one of the main driving forces, and if properly supported, a brighter future awaits the research. Iran is a

resource-rich country and has a potential to show students how to fly to success. It is time to take steps towards greater achievements. Platform is ready!

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