

## **Fanning the Flames of Knowledge: Beyond Promotion Pressures – Fueling Intrinsic Drive for Impactful Research**

In the fast-paced worlds of clinical research and academia, publications has become an absolute need.<sup>1</sup> This pervasive pressure usually stems from the requirements established by regulatory bodies and the consequential obligations tied to employment associated with work for advancements in promotions. Regulatory bodies set standards that determine the quantity of publications expected from researchers and clinicians, without considering its contribution to the existing body of knowledge. Career pathways in academia and clinical practice are greatly influenced by these expectations, as professional recognition and advancements are only given out once specific publication requirements are met. The increasing availability of data increases this pressure even more since people are motivated to share findings—sometimes without making the same kind of effort to advance knowledge—after being equipped with datasets. This trend necessitates reviewing publishing criteria with the aim to assign priority research projects that have real value. It also brings up important issues regarding the significance and purpose of research outcomes.

The importance of publishing papers as a measure of academic achievement has grown to levels that were previously uncommon in both academia and clinical practice.<sup>2</sup> Motivated by the publish-or-perish views, regulatory institutions and organisations place a greater emphasis on publishing quantity than quality.<sup>3</sup> Clinicians could give in to the temptation to publish without a sincere commitment to furthering knowledge or addressing important issues, as they feel driven to enhance their curriculum vitae for promotions or prominent employment.<sup>4</sup>

Moreover, the big data age has brought forth a culture in which people who have access to datasets frequently give publishing precedence above making meaningful contributions to their subject. Sometimes the inherent motivation to study pressing topics or develop for the betterment of society is overshadowed by the attraction of authorship and the impact factor of journals.

There is a great deal of competition to publish various academic and clinical fields. In the medical academic field, for example, new faculty members may be compelled to publish frequently to be considered for tenure or promotions—often at the price of devoting time to careful, meaningful research.<sup>4</sup> The need for rapid outcomes in the field of clinical research may cause researchers to prioritise volume above depth of study, which might jeopardise the findings' application and relevance.

This is a worldwide issue that surpasses any geographic area or area of expertise, necessitating a collective reassessment of research priorities. To address this issue and foster an environment of impactful research, a few critical changes must be addressed. The regulatory bodies and other organisations must, first and foremost, review their evaluation standards, giving more weight to the quality, applicability, and social effect of research than to its sheer volume. The indicators need to be developed to reward a careful and thorough approach to research, motivating scholars to explore key issues and make contributions to their domains.

Moreover, mentorship is essential in influencing researchers' motives.<sup>5</sup> To assist their mentees, choose and pursue research ideas that truly connect with their interests and meet social needs, mentors should provide them with inspiration and guidance. Mentors can influence a paradigm shift away from publishing for the sake of promotion by developing a feeling of purpose and

passion. Integrating the ideas of intrinsic motivation into academic curriculum is a crucial component in the process of redefining publication motivations.<sup>1,6</sup> Fostering true enthusiasm for research need to be promoted by universities and research centres. Students and early-career researchers might benefit from taking courses on research ethics, critical thinking, and the social consequences of research to get a comprehensive grasp of their place in the greater academic community.<sup>5</sup>

Furthermore, multidisciplinary cooperation and motivating scholars to focus on practical issues can establish a concrete link between their research and the benefits that society experiences. A research environment that promotes creativity, curiosity, and social effect might change the academic culture from one that is motivated by external factors to one that is driven by an inherent need to contribute constructively.<sup>7</sup>

To redefine success in academia and clinical practice, researchers, institutions, and regulatory authorities must work together. The present structures and incentives need to be reevaluated to promote a change from publishing quotas to significant research outputs.<sup>3</sup> Regulators need to think about assessing clinical and academic accomplishments using a more comprehensive framework that values the revolutionary impact that research has on society. Institutions may make a positive impact by encouraging a research culture that values the acquisition of knowledge for the benefit of society and places an emphasis on quality above quantity.

Together, these elements will help us advance towards a research environment in which the need to publish gives way to a sincere desire to add knowledge that has a long-term influence on society.

## References

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