

Opinion

Student Research Committee as a Model for Development of Medical Research Projects

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Abstract

Student Research Committee (SRC) has been developed a subset of each university's Vice chancellor for research in purpose of research training for motivated students and conducting their research interests. In this paper, we evaluated effect of SRCs on Iran's research through Scopus database and showed that SRCs has a remarkable impact on Iran's publication performance.

Keywords: Iran, medicine, research, students

Cite this article as: Rezaee-Zavareh MS, Khosravi MH, Alavian SM. Student research committee as a model for development of medical research projects. *Arch Iran Med.* 2016; **19(11)**: 820

An increasing number of publications in medical field has been lead to the presentation of a new term “evidence-based medicine” in 1990s.¹ This term reflects both the importance of research in medicine and the necessity of being up to date for physicians and healthcare workers. These issues seem to make research education as an inseparable part of medical education. In Iran, Student Research Committee (SRC) has been developed a subset of each university's Vice chancellor for research in purpose of research training for motivated students and conducting their research interests.² Each SRC is under supervision of a faculty member and is managed by senior student researchers who are responsible for training interested students through workshops and actual research projects. These trained student researchers are then linked to special research centers based on their research field of interest.³ We conducted a search by different SRCs' affiliations (student research center, student research committee and student scientific research committee) in Scopus database, from 2006 to 2015 without any language limitations, to find relevant publications and evaluate SRCs' effect on Iranian research output in the last decade. The search was performed on February 01, 2016. Figure 1 shows the number of SRCs' publications by year. We found a total of 2178 papers with an h-index of 22. After evaluating search results, we noticed a remarkable rate of international collaborations in papers published by SRCs. United States, United Kingdom and Canada are countries, which have the highest rates of collaboration with Iran SRCs.

SRCs have shown to be a successful place for research training of medical students and their notable impact may bold the importance of paying attention to “student research” and role of students in conducting national and international research projects. In future, these students can work as university professors or research policy makers and develop Iran's research status more. Having a young

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Accepted for publication: 7 September 2016

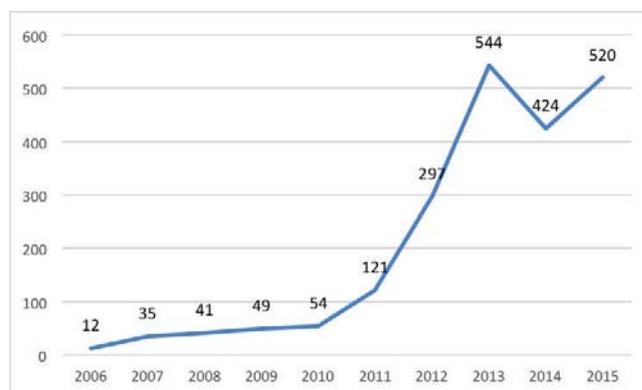


Figure 1. Number of SRCs' Publications by year

population, Iran should invest on student researchers as necessary parts of the future research development. Also SRCs, as effective organizations in training and conducting student researchers, can be used as a model in other countries.

Authors' Contributions: All authors have equally contributed to this paper.

Conflict of Interest

M. S. R. Z. and M. H. K. are members of Student Research Committee in Baqiyatallah University of Medical Sciences. S. M. A. has no conflict of interest.

Funding Support: There is no funding support for this project.

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