

SHORT COMMUNICATION

The path less taken in clinical research

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INTRODUCTION

Integration of various dental specialties plays a crucial role in restoration of diseased or lost dental component. Promising clinical research across different dental specialties are done individually with very less collaboration between disciplines. A quality interdisciplinary communication, can have definitive positive impact on patient's treatment outcomes.¹ Several benefits like exchange of scientific intellectual thoughts towards common goal is possible, invocation of fresh ideas/concepts between specialists, increased productivity in dental services, and management of complicated clinical situations can be handled with great ease. Rendering proficient treatment when skillful operators of various branches manage a clinical scenario, enhances intrapersonal and interpersonal professional relationships to mutually help each other are documented with interdisciplinary integration.²

To achieve optimum results of such approaches the undermentioned traits serve as base guidelines in providing competent dental services.³

- **Framing of concrete working associations** among dental fraternities. Koch in his research has described ideal relationship as one in which

the members are courteous, readily acceptable and maintain genuineness. Each team mate is committed to working as a group towards a common goal maintaining professional ethics.

- **Identification of levels of responsibility** in research, so that various role authorization is made depending upon the potential and inclination of each person. The major intellectual contributor occupies pivotal role in research.
- **Dividend principle** to achieve one common destination in research so that the entire work is shared between team mates to make each one accountable for the research outcome.
- **Acceptance of conflicts of interests** among the team researchers, as each individual poses independent schools of thoughts. Active and healthy deliberations in the research topic can aid to taper until uniform consensus is obtained.
- **Maintenance of professional ethics** throughout the organizational body. This helps in achieving excellence in professional and personal patient care

CURRENT LACUNAE OF INTERDISCIPLINARY CLINICAL RESEARCH
Only scarce research is performed with integrated methodology. Each specialty works independently to

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prove the superiority of one over the other. Most of our researches are done on laboratory settings, instead of clinical studies. Lack of resources in the form of equipment, animal research labs, funding or grants leave us with substandard researches in the dental field. Structural working environment as individual departments mandates a person to adhere to specific discipline rather than collaborative effort. Insufficient awareness about the benefits of team effort among the dental health care professionals, conditionally blinded to refer patient in situations where other specialist's involvement is needed have become habitual. Numerous confounders play their role in completing a multi-disciplinary clinical research and are primarily divided into subjective and objective variables. Human resource in the form of intellectual property, quality time contribution by resource personnel and dexterity or skill of operator are considered as subjective variables. Availability of technological aids, actualizing resource materials required and financial grants/aids serve as objective variables.⁴

Overcoming the barriers to promote interdisciplinary clinical research

○ Create awareness of transdisciplinary health care approach
○ Implement in dental schools as stringent curriculum protocol
○ Identify members showing willingness to share common goals in research
○ Frame concrete mutual working environment
○ Furnish and share intellectual thoughts towards clinical research

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