

**MOST LIKED BY THE PUBLIC:**

26. **MEDICAL STUDENTS' ATTITUDES AND INFLUENTIAL FACTORS TOWARDS CONDUCTING MEDICAL RESEARCH**



Bassam AlRajhi<sup>1</sup>, Ibrahim Omer<sup>1</sup>, Reema Abualnaja<sup>1</sup>, Faisal Alqahtani<sup>2</sup>, Alqassem Y. Hakami<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Fifth-year Medical Student, King Saud bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

<sup>2</sup> Fifth-year Medical Student, King Saud bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

<sup>3</sup> PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Medicine, King Saud bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences\King Abdullah International Medical Research Center, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0JIMP5Fyl7s&t=24741s>

**INTRODUCTION:** Medical research is becoming an essential part of medical students' curricula in several medical colleges around Saudi Arabia. This study aimed to assess medical students' attitudes towards conducting medical research and identify their motives.

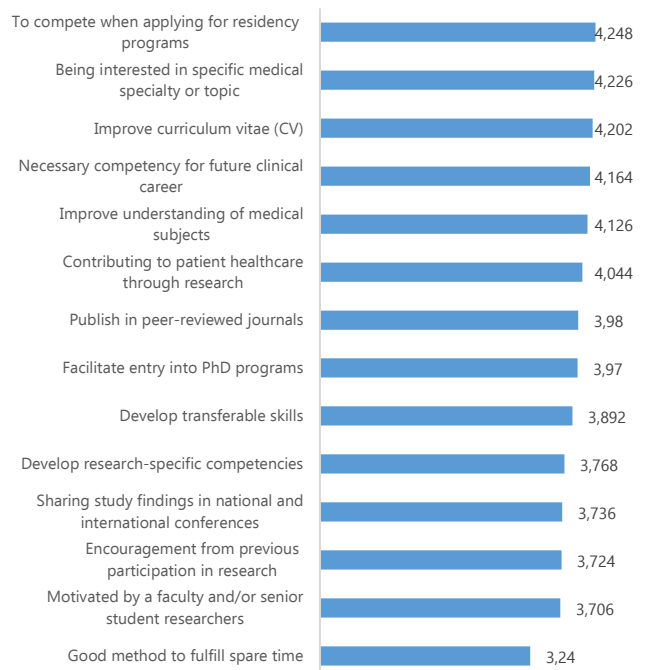
**METHODS:** In this cross-sectional study, the survey was distributed between December 2021 and April 2022 and we used the Student Attitude Towards Research (SAR) scale and the students' perceived influential factors toward participating in research activities questionnaires. A 5-Likert scale was used to assess the level of students' agreement from 'strongly disagree=1' to 'strongly agree=5'. Demographic information such as gender, year of study, and previously published research was collected. The survey was distributed among 3rd to 5th year medical students in the college of medicine, King Saud bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences (KSAU-HS) in Jeddah and Riyadh campuses, Saudi Arabia. The chi-square test was used to compare categorical values and report any differences. Any P-value less than 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

**RESULTS:** A total of 500 responses were collected from the students (67.2% males and 32.8% females). Most students agreed with the following 'the importance of research for identifying and investigating problems subjectively (N=399, 79.8%) and 'I have an interest in working on research projects at the undergraduate level' (N=318, 63.6%). There was a significant difference among students in responses to following statement: 'I always have the opportunity to discuss research articles in my class' (P=0.022). Female students agreed more than male students that 'faculty members are knowledgeable about research methodology' (3.93±1.01 vs. 3.7±1.06, P=0.014). Furthermore, a significant difference was found in the following statement: 'faculty members use research findings as a part of their teaching material' (P <.001). The students agreed that their university can organize research programs due to the strong infrastructure it has (N=321, 64.2%, P=0.005). The top four influential factors towards conducting medical research were 'to compete when applying for residency programs' (4.248) followed by 'being interested in specific medical specialty or topic' (4.226) and 'to improve curriculum vitae (CV)' (4.202) then 'it is a necessary competency for future clinical work' (4.164). A 5-Likert scale was used to calculate the average of the students' responses where 5 indicates 'strongly agree' and 1 indicate 'strongly disagree'. **CONCLUSION:** The students showed a positive attitude towards conducting medical research at the undergraduate level. The influential factors highlighted how students conduct research to advance their careers and explore their interest in a specific field or medical topic. This study is important for decision-makers, residency program directors, and research center directors to reconsider published research & research

activities as a prerequisite for acceptance into competitive programs. Future studies ought to investigate if medical students pursue research activities after college, their attitudes, and influential factors as well as to investigate the research skills they have and how they acquired them.

**Figure.** This Figure Demonstrates the Influential Factors toward Conducting Research among Medical Students To Compete when Applying for Residency Programs is the First Influential Factor then Being Interested in Specific Medical Specialty or Topic is the Second Influential Factor.

Influential Factors Towards Conducting Medical Research



**Key words:** Research; Medical students; Attitudes; Knowledge; Perception (Source: MeSH-NLM).