










# Breaking Boundaries: The Global Impact of Medical Student Research - Highlights from the Second WCMSR IJMS Conference

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## Introduction

Conferences offer attendees the opportunity to gain knowledge of the most recent advancements in scientific research, such as experimental discoveries and novel case studies. Academics and researchers disseminate their work through conferences, providing attendees with an up-close look at it. Medical students must possess such current information to remain competitive and make well-informed decisions. Conferences facilitate the expeditious distribution of the most recent findings.<sup>1,2</sup> A multitude of challenges are deliberated upon, and prospective resolutions are investigated throughout a conference. Gaining knowledge from the methods and approaches utilized by others to surmount comparable obstacles can furnish novices with invaluable strategies and insights.<sup>3</sup>

The participation of individuals from diverse backgrounds, academic disciplines, professional faculties, and geographic locations provides an opportunity for attendees to be exposed to a range of perspectives and methodologies.<sup>4,5</sup> This diversity promotes an intellectually stimulating atmosphere, stimulates novel approaches, and deepens comprehension of various facets of the subject matter. The establishment and growth of a professional network can result in sustained partnerships, opportunities for mentorship, and greater access to information resources; thus, networking constitutes a crucial component of conferences.<sup>6,7</sup>

Exposure to novel ideas, concepts, and advancements during conferences has the potential to stimulate the imagination of aspiring researchers and motivate them to implement inventive resolutions in their own research. It promotes a culture that values ongoing enhancement and instills an outlook that is focused on the future. Academic conferences serve as a cradle for novel

scientific encounters.<sup>8</sup> By increasing one's visibility within the fraternity and providing opportunities to enhance one's resume through participation in reputable events, conference attendance can facilitate career advancement.<sup>9</sup>

The architects of the World Conference of Medical Student Research demonstrated a receptive attitude towards medical students and emerging researchers through their perspective. This perspective is highly compatible with the objective of creating a positive and lively environment for delegates who may be participating in their inaugural conference. Such an environment is vital for nurturing a sense of community and promoting continued engagement and participation. As evidenced by the phenomenal success of the World Conference of Medical Student Research (WCMSR) and the International Journal of Medical Students (IJMS) publications, it is critical to increase the number of venues where student-led research can be published to highlight their indispensable contribution.

The World Conference of Medical Student Research (WCMSR) is an endeavor that eliminates a barrier and provides medical students with more opportunities in research. It anticipates that the scale and frequency of these events will increase, as they are crucial in bridging the gap and expanding research opportunities for medical students. By adopting this methodology, not only do individual students gain advantages, but the field as a whole's medical knowledge and a collaborative, global research community are fostered.<sup>10-12</sup>

While face-to-face meetings facilitate organic participant interaction, the ecological impact linked to travel renders enormous international conferences unsustainable. Furthermore, it is possible to bridge the technological divide; as a result,

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numerous scientific conferences are executed effectively across various online platforms.<sup>13-16</sup>

On October 7, 2023, the IJMS organized the Second World Medical Student Research Summit (WCMSR), a virtual research conference that gave medical students and recent graduates (within three years of graduation) the chance to present their research to a global audience. The present conference marked the second occurrence of its kind after the triumphant inaugural WCMSR on November 12, 2022. By casting votes for their preferred presentation and offering their thoughts and feedback, the audience could contribute to the development of discussions and the possibility of future collaborations. A live stream of the conference was available on YouTube.

This was the second year in a row that an international medical journal hosted an academic event for either currently enrolled or recently graduated medical students. The research presented in sufficient detail demonstrated the event's global impact. Despite encountering obstacles such as presenters from different time zones participating in the event and organizers encountering multiple internet connection problems, it became necessary to have some presentations available as pre-recorded video files. The conference's primary focus was on the accessibility of medical innovation and the promotion of diverse representation in the medical fields.

Director Prakash Gupta, Deputy Director Wah Praise, Director of Abstracts Lorraine Sebopelo, Director of Logistics Shane Darbar, Director of Marketing and Communication Malina Cernatescu, and advisors Ciara Egan and Francisco J. Bonilla-Escobar comprised the organizing team for the second WCMSR. In June 2023, after the inaugural team meeting, a series of monthly meetings commenced. The team deliberated on the conference ambassadors, the jury, the ranking system, the communication campaign, and the awards during these sessions.

To distribute comprehensive information regarding the conference and provide guidelines for participation, a conference handbook was distributed among associate organizations and conference ambassadors to maximize the number of interested applicants. After the YouTube information session, the coordinating team conducted a second information session in Spanish in response to numerous inquiries from prospective attendees. The application fee was maintained at ten dollars (USD) in consideration of the requirement that young researchers have access to financing for travel and registration expenses to participate. A nominal registration fee appeared to be economically feasible for the youthful research community that attended this conference.

A total of over one hundred submissions were received, which included meta-analyses, original studies, and case reports. In accordance with a predetermined point system, the IJMS student editors selected 41 abstracts. In IJMS Volume 3, Supplemental

Issue, these abstracts have been published; a unique digital object identifier (DOI) has been assigned to each abstract. Four periods were allocated to the selected participants in accordance with their time zones and the subject matter of their papers. Each position was assigned two judges, who were provided in advance with a conference program that included the list of participants and their abstracts.

A backstage access point for participants and judges was extended to the online streaming platform known as "Streamyard" on the day of the conference. The conference commenced at 8:00 a.m. EST and concluded at 5:00 p.m. EST, interspersed with four eight-minute intermissions. The judges were furnished with individual judge papers, into which they promptly recorded their scores. After each presentation, an audience and judges-invitation question-and-answer segment lasted for a duration of three minutes. At the same time, the "Most Liked by the Public" abstract was chosen by audience votes through a QR code shown on the screen. The judges were not aware of this extra scoring method, so the votes did not affect their decision.

The top-scoring abstracts for original research and case reports during the revision process, the top-scoring original research and case report presentations based on the judge's score, and the audience-voted best presentation were the recipients of the awards.

The winners were as follows:

#### Special mention to the basic science study titled:

- Evaluation of the Role of Jyotishmati (*Celastrus paniculatus* Wild) Seed Oil in Animal Models of Alcohol Use Disorder. Alhad A Mulkalwar, MBBS. Intern, Seth Gordhandas Sunderdas Medical College and King Edward Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, India. [Watch here](#)

#### Most-liked Research Presentation Awarded by the public:

- Metanalysis of the diagnostic performance of western blot for the early diagnosis of congenital toxoplasmosis. Sebastián Serna Rivera, Second year Medical Student. University of Quindío, Armenia, Colombia. [Watch here](#)

#### Highest score during the abstract revision process for Case Reports

- 2nd place. An Atypical Sellar Mass: Sellar Tuberculoma in a Young Patient -Case Report. Arwa Moiz Jamali, Final M.B.B.S Part -2, GMERS Medical College (Maharaja Sayajirao University), Vadodara, India. [Watch here](#)
- 1st place. Fulminant Hepatic Failure as the Initial Presentation of Hodgkin's Disease and Liver Transplantation: A Case Report. Mauricio Alejandro Saldana-Ruiz, Social Service. Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social, Monterrey, México. [Watch here](#)

### Highest score during the abstract revision process for Original Research

- TIE: 3rd place. Prevalence of Depression among Infertile Couples Attending a Tertiary-Care Infertility Clinic. Gayathri S Hari, Intern, Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India. [Watch here](#)
- TIE: 3rd place. The Stroke Riskometer App as an Educational Campaign in Outpatient Clinics and its Association with Knowledge of Stroke Warning Signs. Diego Alejandro Ortega-Moreno, Sixth-year Medical Student. Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, Monterrey, México. [Watch here](#)
- 2nd place. Knowledge, Attitude, And Factors Affecting Human Papilloma Virus Vaccine Uptake Among Female Undergraduate Students In Public Tertiary Institutions In Lagos State Nigeria. Elile Monisola Okoka, BSc, MSc, MBBS. Lagos State University College of Medicine, Ikeja, Nigeria. [Watch here](#)
- 1st place. Implementation of an Outbound Ambulatory Scheduling Team Reduces Disparities in Access to Pediatric Otolaryngology Care. Caleb Allred, BA, third-year medical student. Division of Pediatric Otolaryngology, Seattle Children's Hospital, Seattle, WA, USA. University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, WA, USA. [Watch here](#)

### Award for best Case Report presentation at the WCMSR based on judge scores

- 2nd place. Combined Complex Gastroschisis, Bladder exstrophy and Pelvic organs Evisceration: A Rare Entity. Manuel Alejandro Vásquez Salguero, Fifth-year Medical Student. Universidad del Valle, Cali, Colombia. [Watch here](#)
- 1st place. A Rare Case of Candida parapsilosis Empyema Thoracis. Arielle E. Solomon, First-year Medical Student. Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, New Orleans, USA. [Watch here](#)

### Award for best Research Presentation at the WCMSR Original Research based on judge score.

- 3rd place. Are Female Undergraduates at the University of Calabar Equipped with the Knowledge, Positive Attitudes, and Effective Practices of Contraceptives?. Etuk Emediong Saturday, MBBS, University of Calabar, Calabar, Nigeria. [Watch here](#)
- TIE: 2nd place. Implementation of an Outbound Ambulatory Scheduling Team Reduces Disparities in Access to Pediatric Otolaryngology Care. Caleb Allred, BA, third-year medical student. Division of Pediatric Otolaryngology, Seattle

Children's Hospital, Seattle, WA, USA. University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, WA, USA. [Watch here](#)

- TIE: 2nd place. Frontlines and Crossroads: The Impact of COVID-19 on the Motivations of Medical Students from Selected Philippine Medical Schools in Pursuing Their Medical Studies. Adriel Agunod Cheng, Medical Intern (Fifth Year). Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health, Pasig City, Metro Manila, Philippines. [Watch here](#)
- TIE: 2nd place. Clinical audit of electronic health records to identify prediabetic patients and compliance with ICGP Guidelines in their management. R. Castledine, Final-year medical student, University College Dublin, Dublin 4, Ireland. [Watch here](#)
- 1st place. The Role of Language Concordant Care on Increasing Parental Engagement in Shared Decision Making. Caleb Allred, BA, third-year medical student. Division of Pediatric Otolaryngology, Seattle Children's Hospital, Seattle, WA, USA. University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, WA, USA. [Watch here](#)

The IJMS journal oversees organizing the second international research conference for professionals and novices in the field of healthcare, called IJMS WCMSR 2023. Approximately one hundred contributions were received from more than thirty countries worldwide. Throughout the duration of this research conference, the number of actual attendees exceeded 1,000. The fact that the number of viewers has surpassed 2,000 weeks later indicates that this event has remained a topic of interest for some time.

The course of this occasion has been an extraordinary expedition, replete with enlightenment, cooperation, and a mutual dedication to propelling medical student research to triumphant status. The intellectually stimulating dialogues, innovative investigations, and establishment of relationships observed throughout the occasion would without a doubt leave an indelible imprint on the interchange of information and concepts. The initial efforts invested will rapidly give rise to forthcoming progress and cooperative ventures. As the proceedings of the Second IJMS World Conference of Medical Student Research end, the organizing committee anticipates witnessing the outcomes of the collaborative efforts that have commenced. Furthermore, it hopes to reunite at subsequent conferences to further this endeavor of investigation and revelation. Moreover, it wishes to perpetuate the innovative ethos that has distinguished our period of collaboration.

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