

Editorial:

Physician scientists: a unique but endangered specie

Even if the world we live in now is filled with limitless health care resources, the cure is still not available for most of our patients. Due to this factor, since long it has been recognized the only “COMPLETE PHYSICIAN” is one who is a physician as well as a scientist, playing their role in increasing medical knowledge. Speaking about clinical research, since last 2-3 decades researches have been moved from bedside and clinicians have been less likely to do research. On the other hand, scientists usually do not practice medicine and are confined to research laboratories. This disparity and gap between the two professions means the solution to this issue is obvious, that is to make clinician scientists.

Through the success in biomedical research, unique opportunities have come to front that aids in practice medicine, including the fact that we currently are in the golden age of biomedical research with noticeable advances in our understanding of the diseases as well as its treatment. Even the complexities in the research front have tremendously increased leading to increase in multiplication of the research output that we have. There is no longer any point in turning back to the days where we had a combined clinician and a researcher who used to make research breakthroughs only on the basis of his clinical observation. This endeavor will increase the significance of the clinician scientist even more, especially in the developing countries where there is alarmingly low number of clinician scientists. Now there is an ever-increasing need to encourage clinicians to do clinical research along with their clinical practices. From this clinicians young or old, should take a message: we should continue to explore the opportunities to expand the medical knowledge and to work to contribute their share towards the progress of medical research.

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