

EDITORIAL

Research in Dental Medicine

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To do research in medicine is not very easy, and if you do this, you are in competition with many other people, I mean researchers and academics. To find something new making research is often very difficult, or, in some instances, never happens. Research is a basic component of the academic activity and usually is associated with teaching activity, particularly in medical universities. Research in a given field or/and with an interdisciplinary spectrum is actually the base for all progresses done along the last hundreds of years. There are some very important conditions to make an efficient research, like objectivity, rigor, requirement, and last but not least, critical analysis. The main purpose of research is to bring proofs to demonstrate a specific hypothesis or to support a completely new finding. It means that such proofs come from own experience, clinical observations or experimental models, and all these can support or eventually change a theoretical idea. Such an idea could be a hypothesis, an explanatory model, an interpretation or even a new natural law.

Medical research has been associated for years particularly with new procedures in medicine, like discovery of new drugs and their effects, introduction of new diagnostic methods, and analysis of main diseases in humans. Less attention has been paid to dental medicine and a little bit more than fifty years ago, just few enthusiastic people worked in a real research in dentistry, putting the base for the actual explosive development of science in this field.

Thus, what really means science and dental medicine, and research in dental medicine? Research in dental medicine may follow multiple directions, like basic research, clinical – quantitative (applied clinical is mainly important), psycho-educational research important to promote oral health, and last but not least, qualitative research in the management of health services. The current number of Research and Clinical Medicine includes six articles coming from different

departments of dentistry, supporting thus the idea of a theoretical and practical performance in the field.

In dental medicine, the purpose of research is to discover new rules, to understand and explain them, to show specific mechanisms, and eventually to predict, control and influence the present realities. Research provides knowledge, and it is based on scientific methods. These methods must be applied according to previous experiences in order to solve problems and to build knowledge in addition. An example are the articles about the use of some preparation in the dental practice, and the evaluation of some materials largely applied in therapy. The evaluation of such old and new materials in dentistry experimental studies are frequently necessary to show the anti-inflammatory, anti-microbial or/and anti-tumor effects. To test these potential effects, there were imagined experimental models, cell and tissue cultures, cell and molecular biology techniques, which have been remarkably used in last year in dental research. Therefore, dental research in not only clinical, but also basic and innovative interdisciplinarity, as it is shown in another article published in this number. We strongly encourage colleagues from dentistry to submit original manuscripts to our Journal, reflecting the value of their research and opening new perspectives not only in knowledge but also in clinical practice.

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