

EDITORIAL

THE STANCE OF CRITICAL RESEARCH PERIODICAL IN MEDICAL JOURNALISM

Saeeda Baig

Department of Biochemistry, Ziauddin University, Karachi, Pakistan.

Medical journalism, a world of aggressively competitive periodicals, may not always be based of valid, reliable or accurate information. A large productivity and wide array of medical research literature makes even the most virtuous scientists unable to gauge and assess through all of them hence a critical and systematic analysis is required to endorse its reliability for best evidence-based practices, which no doubt is the major backbone of medicine. By introducing critical appraisal, we can help the clinicians to avoid reading flawed literature and prevent the incorporation of biased or untrustworthy information into their practice. The world is more than ever competitive now (more than 12,000 new articles added every week to the MEDLINE database) and to stay updated with new ideas, most recent developments, latest results, functional and valuable technical progress with robust scientific evidence is becoming vital.

Critical appraisal of latest research, being an important skill to be mastered, is part of training of postgraduate candidates (Clinical and Basic) currently practiced in many Universities in Pakistan. The candidates, during critical appraisal, are vigorously trained for designing their own study and formulating the research question through enhanced competence skills. They through pointing out the strengths, weaknesses and limitations of any study, develop an in-depth theoretical and practical knowledge of recent advances with thorough understanding of relevance of research topics for designing their own research.

In this issue we are introducing Critical Research Periodical which has a different writing style than the regular manuscripts published in any research journal. Generally, it should include two key parts; the state of the field and major contributions of the research paper. State of the Field depicts the general background and current difficulties in the field that particular research paper addresses. Sufficient details of major discoveries are to be portrayed in results in a manner that it can be understood without looking at the primary article. Additionally, a brief mention of the methods if applicable can be included. However, major contributions in detail are a requisite.

The critical research periodical titled "**FUT8: An Emerging Driver of Metastasis**" is published in this present issue. Authors insightfully described state of the field of melanoma and mentioned about the previous work done regarding altered fucosylation in melanoma metastasis. The results and major contributions are elaborated in simple and comprehensible manner that reader can get the key message of the research without going into the details of primary article titled "A Systems Biology Approach Identifies FUT8 as a Driver of Melanoma Metastasis" published in Cancer Cell by Agrawal et al¹. Moreover, the core of this periodical is development of future research questions from the primary article which is the seed for future research. This periodical may be the solution to open up many avenues for postgraduates in our milieu; broadening professional competence, filling in gaps of knowledge, critical evaluation of scientific literature, theoretical knowledge and practical relevance of the subject and skills to communicate and collaborate nationally and internationally etc.

The thought process of critic about how this paper pushes the understanding and frontier of science along with inspiration in the article is reflected in critical research periodical.

REFERENCES

1. Agrawal P, Fontanals-Cirera B, Sokolova E, Jacob S, Vaiana CA, Argibay D, Davalos V, McDermott M, Nayak S, Darvishian F, Castillo M. A systems biology approach identifies FUT8 as a driver of melanoma metastasis. Cancer Cell. 2017 ;31(6):804-19.