

Expanding the HINARI Initiative for Healthcare Research in Pakistan

Sir,

The field of medicine has expanded exponentially in past few decades. This growth has stemmed from inventions, innovations and discoveries fuelled by medical research. The cornerstone of that research is "creation of new knowledge".¹ The countries which have spent more on research and development are world leaders in medicine.

HINARI (Health Inter-Network Access to Research Initiative) is a WHO-funded project to provide free access to high quality literature to low and middle income countries.² These are the countries which have highest disease burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases. This initiative includes free access to around 13000 healthcare journals in 30 languages in 100 countries.² The impact of which is easy to measure with rising research output and increased awareness and better outcomes in those countries.

Pakistan is a special case where the GDP is \$232 billion,³ which is beyond the cut-off for HINARI inclusion.² However, the research spending on all science disciplines is 0.3%.⁴ The total health budget is 2.8% of GDP and about 75% of this is being spent on much needed healthcare infrastructure projects, leaving only a very small amount for healthcare research.³ In this scenario, Pakistani scientists and researchers cannot utilise their full potential. This lack of vital research reflects well in infant and maternal mortality rates which are among the highest in the world.⁵

In these circumstances, it is needed that criterion for HINARI research in health initiative should be revised and not only GDP, but research spending should be given the key factor. This will help build a healthier global population.

REFERENCES

1. Modi N, Clark H, Wolfe I. A healthy nation: strengthening child health research in the UK. *Lancet* 2013; **381**:73-87.
2. HINARI Access to Research in Health Programme. HINARI Research in Health [Internet]. 2015. Available from: <http://www.who.int/hinari/en>
3. WHO. Global Health Expenditure Database [Internet]. 2014. Available from: <http://www.who.int/healthaccounts/ghed/en>
4. The World Bank. Research and development expenditure (% of GDP) data [Internet]. 2015. Available from: <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/GB.XPD.RSDV.GD.ZS>
5. Wang H, Liddell CA, Coates MM. Global, regional, and national levels of neonatal, infant, and under-5 mortality during 1990-2013: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2013. *Lancet* 2014; **384**:957-79.

Faisal Inayat¹, Zia Ur Rehman² and Aitzaz Bin Sultan Rai³

¹ *Department of Medicine, Jinnah Hospital, Allama Iqbal Medical College, Lahore.*

² *Department of Medicine, East Tennessee State University, TN, United States.*

³ *Department of Cardiology Imaging, Green Templeton College, University of Oxford, United Kingdom.*

Correspondence: Dr. Faisal Inayat, Department of Medicine, Jinnah Hospital, Allama Iqbal Medical College, Allama Shabbir Ahmed Usmani Road, Faisal Town, Lahore. E-mail: faisalainayat@hotmail.com

Received: July 25, 2015; Accepted: September 21, 2015.

.....☆.....

ERRATUM

There was an inadvertent mistake in the citation of reference number 15 of the article titled "Factors associated with stress among parents of children with Autism" by Syeda Shahida Batool and Sumaira Khurshid, published in JCPSP 2015, Vol. 25 (10): 752-756.

The correct citation is: Bloomfield L, Kendall S. Testing a parenting programme evaluation tool as a pre- and post-course measure of parenting self-sufficiency. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 2007; 60 (5): 487-493.

The citation may be corrected and read as such.

Editor