



# European Medical Students' Association

Association Européenne des Étudiants en Médecine

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## Research in Medical Education

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*The European Medical Students' Association (EMSA) represents medical students across Europe. We envision a healthy and solidary Europe in which medical students actively promote health. EMSA empowers medical students to advocate health in all policies, excellence in medical research, interprofessional healthcare education and the protection of human rights across Europe.*

## **Problem Statement**

Research in medical education has been found to provide insufficient knowledge to improve present situations. Studies in this field were found to study the same and prove the same concepts multiple times and see few institutions participate in such studies (Albert et al., 2007). Therefore, knowledge of the impact of the academic framework is subject to the quantity and quality of research done on this impact to monitor and seek feedback from the situation.

Designing medical education is a complicated process that needs guidance. During this process, faculties use a template which is called curriculum designing circle. When you apply any change in curriculum, you observe changes and gather feedback to assess benefits. If any change would provide better conditions, this change becomes permanent.

Medical education needs accountable dedication and awareness as a scientific field. With the guidance of research in medical education, faculties would be able to make more accurate and proven regulations, and this way, they gain more time while they reach the ideal system.

As a summary, medical education research can provide a better evolutionary ground and lead to a way better medical education.

## **Our View. Aim.**

As the European Medical Students' Association, we strongly urge for further implementation of educational research across Europe. European political and higher education institutions are critical players in this matter and need to be mobilized and work together in a joint effort. As EMSA, one of our aims is to “respond to advances in medicine, new learning technologies, and philosophy, and this is a goal that depends intensely on continuous innovation and recent revelations in the field of medical education. With the increasing complexity, medical education seeks evidence-based, empirical data for its practice.

Medical student advocacy and initiatives can have substantial effects on the medical education system, as shown in the past. EMSA has been involved in educational research in terms of advocacy and practice. The closest example can be given as “Digital Health in Medical Education: Findings from a Mixed Methods Survey among European Medical Students.” Therefore, we stand to promote these efforts in the future to shape the future of medical education through research.

## **Recommendations**

EMSA calls upon European Institutions to:

- promote research in medical education across European higher education institutions with a focus on regional efforts;
- fund grants in medical education research in order to facilitate such efforts
- implement health policy measures in favor of medical education research

EMSA calls upon European Medical Faculties to:

- assess the status and impact of courses on research through feedback collection from the students and educators
- evaluate pre-existing courses on research and research skills by gaining feedback from students concerning the layout and delivery of the courses and the mentors on the interest

that students had shown during and after lectures

- connect with other medical faculties around Europe for the purpose of sharing ideas and gaining feedback
- gain feedback from students who are interested in conducting research
- notify students about research opportunities
- recruit researchers to conduct research upon the medical education system to monitor its effectiveness

EMSA calls upon Medical Educators to:

- conduct research within their specialty in order to further the development of medical education as a scientific field
- recognize the importance of field experience in medical education
- promote research opportunities in medical education among medical students and include them as much as possible
- encourage medical students to conduct their own research and lead them through the process.

EMSA calls upon Medical Education Associations (AMEE, WFME) to:

- provide guidelines explaining stages of successful research conduct and turning it into an academic paper
- promote research in medical education among its members and award good practices in the field.
- promote the exchange of research studies and share best practices

EMSA calls upon FMOs and medical students across Europe to:

- advocate in favor of medical education research in local, national and international settings
- conduct medical education research projects within EMSA and across Europe ● to provide EMSA members with the opportunities to engage in and conduct their own educational research
- promote the conduction of medical education research through publications and active participation in medical education congresses
- engage external partners or experts in research efforts and get necessary consulting from experts in the field

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