

A mindful and thoughtful way of understanding clinical dentistry and oral pathology: “Integrated research”



The action or process of combination or consolidation is called integration. This basic integration can be achieved in a simple way in India when questions such as when, where, how, why and who are answered. Research is a field which offers this integration. In the current global scenario, at every level, research has taken its lead to provide integrity to the subject as well as improve the quality of services offered to our patients. Research by itself has become a way of learning and understanding the disease process and pathogenesis. When research is combined with bioinformatics, the end result is ineffable. They work together on collecting data, storing them and retrieving scientific material and data. A bigger picture can be ultimately achieved to facilitate new biological insights. We can thereby observe the unifying principles in dentistry. The primary goal should always be to improve the understanding of the existing literature, and research will be able to achieve this goal. Mostly, work in this field includes sequencing the gene, gene finding, genome assembling, drug design, drug discovery, protein structure, protein–protein interactions and gene expression. Most of the oral diseases, such as odontogenic tumors, epithelial tumors, as well as developmental anomalies, are all presenter of complex conditions.^[1] They all arise from the actions of multiple genes and their interactions with one another, with the environment and other factors. It takes more than addressing the molecular parts and addressing such multifactorial disorders. Hence, an interdisciplinary integration of the complex web, that is, the molecular data with the clinical information is a mandate.^[2] Research holds a promise to make a change in the clinical dentistry and oral pathology, their potential to identify at all levels (diagnostics, prognostics and theranostics). Research not only integrates these fields, but also helps to translate the work and data

into knowledge and understanding. It brings a big impact on understanding the behavior of the diseases and we get an opportunity to learn in depth, thereby the application of the knowledge is valuable and the patients are benefited.

When such big shifts are brought in the curriculum, there will be hurdles and hiccups that we will face. India faces one such hurdle. We have so much of research grants and so many research openings in India for youngsters, but why do we face the trouble of not having oral pathologists to explore this line? The reason is not exactly known how to be guided through the process and there is a lack of adequate financial supports. There are a lot of opportunities and grants to be explored in India say for example: DST, DBT, ICMR, AYUSH and BIRAC are a few to name. Few international programs such as 2019–2020 Fulbright-Nehru fellowship programs and other fellowships are available. To choose research as a career, India still lacks to integrate the process and channelize the financial support to the right team of researchers. The best way to achieve this would be to provide institutional grants where research can be set up and the outcome of the work also will be beneficial to the society as well as satisfying for the dentists. We can join hands to frame an outline on streaming this to the government and setting up guidelines. Our government is also making initiatives to concrete this process and we also should be morally responsible to streamline this and focus toward this translation.

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