

Comments on Nazish Masud et al (J Pak Med Assoc. 68: 502, 2018)**Over enthusiastic young student researchers; implications for the supervisors: letter to the editors**

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This response aims to highlight some points from the perspective of enthusiastic young researchers.

Research supervisors have an important and valuable integral rule in enhancing student research learning process. They usually play a major rule in guiding, facilitating the work, and following up the progress of student researchers. Working with experienced, dedicated and committed supervisors is one of the best learning opportunities. In addition to that, it is an important factor to have high-quality publications by young researches. When it comes to work publication in journals, failing to address supervisors or facility members as authors when they meet authorship criteria is an unethical behaviour and care should be taken to prevent such a misconduct.

In many institutional review boards (IRB), a qualified principal investigator (PI) is required for their approval of a research project. That aims to ensure the quality, safety and ethical conduction of research. However, in some instances, students and young

researchers may have to put, for their initiated research project, a name of a PI merely to have an IRB approval. That PI might have stayed responsibility free throughout the project. When it comes to publication, without a notable supervision, revision or contribution, the students are required to add the PI as a co-author, or first author in extreme cases, despite the lack of legibility for supervisor's authorship based on ICMJE recommendations.¹

To conclude, attention shall be taken by research institutions and universities to enlighten young student researchers of their rights and responsibilities. Thus, help accredit their work as the first author, if they deserve, and prevent the misconduct of omitting other authors names.

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References

1. ICMJE | Recommendations | Defining the Role of Authors and Contributors [Internet]. Icmje.org. 2018 [Cited 26 March 2018]. Available from URL: <http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/roles-and-responsibilities/defining-the-role-of-authors-and-contributors.html>.

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