Emergency Medicine is a new specialty in Pakistan. The College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan (CPSP) recognized the Fellowship of College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan (FCPS) in Emergency Medicine in 2011, keeping in view the importance of this specialty both nationally and internationally. There is a need to gather the local data from different Emergency Departments (EDs) of Pakistan in order to manage different medical and surgical emergencies according to the requirement of the country in a cost-effective manner. Local guidelines can be formed after analyzing the data from the EDs. Emergency Medicine training program had a huge impact on the quality of patient care in Pakistan. In the developed countries, especially United States of America (USA), due importance is given to research in Emergency Medicine Residency programs. They are encouraged to conduct small studies during their training. There are programs in which there is core Research Faculty in the Department of Emergency Medicine to train the residents according to their need in a limited time period and within the scope of the specialty.

As the Emergency Medicine program is in the initial phase of its development in Pakistan, therefore, research is the backbone of its success and future growth. Injuries, both intentional and unintentional, are the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in Pakistan. Through the John E. Fogarty International Centre for advanced study in Health Sciences Johns-Hopkins, Aga Khan Fogarty International Trauma and Injury Prevention Training Program Grant, many Emergency Physicians have been trained from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA in the field of Public Health especially related to the field of trauma and injury prevention. Few Emergency Physicians were trained through Masters of Public Health (MPH) program and others attended different courses related to this field. These physicians are currently conducting many studies and had arranged different workshops related to trauma and deliberate self-harm prevention in Pakistan. Literature search showed that many studies were conducted during last few years from Emergency Medicine in Pakistan. The work published related to EDs included a wide variety of research topics. Some basic studies have also been done in the past. As the residency program has started in a couple of hospitals, research should be given the priority. Emergency Medicine residents now need to work on the topics related to the requirement of the EDs of Pakistan. They should go through the international literature and conduct the studies in the local environment according to the need of the people. More collaboration between the departments and institutions is important for healthy discussion and acceptance of the specialty. However, there are research activities and published articles from only few institutes of Pakistan. Other institutions must start training their faculty in the field of research. Currently, CPSP is sending the Emergency Medicine residents to Ireland for training. It is important that they must also get some knowledge on research during their training.

We are facing many problems in this specialty including lack of trained Emergency Physicians and qualified physicians in the field of Emergency Medicine to train the residents. If the faculty is trained enough to conduct the studies, he/she can automatically tune the residents to complete their synopsis and dissertations on time. We should select the topics that are more commonly seen in our EDs, see the disease pattern as this is somewhat different from the west. We are seeing more young patients with chest pain to have acute coronary syndrome as compared to the USA. Solution of these problems should be in a cost-effective manner.

There should be a proper data base for ED patients. Dedicated research assistants be hired to enter the data accurately. Standards of the data entry must be compatible and comparable and should be done on the regular basis. Currently, the quality of documentation of the Emergency Physicians notes is not good, as they have to deal with many emergencies simultaneously and, therefore, documentation suffers. Thus, documentation must be improved through quality checks as it is important for research and medico-legal purposes.

There are high impact journals like Annals of Emergency Medicine and Academic Emergency Medicine published regularly. Society of Emergency Physicians Pakistan (SEPP) was formed in 2009. The society now must start thinking of starting the journal to publish the local work related to the field.
In summary, Emergency Medicine is a growing discipline in Pakistan. Research is a mandatory part of the training of the residents. New ideas must be generated to work according to the need of the common critical patients presenting to the EDs of Pakistan.

REFERENCES


