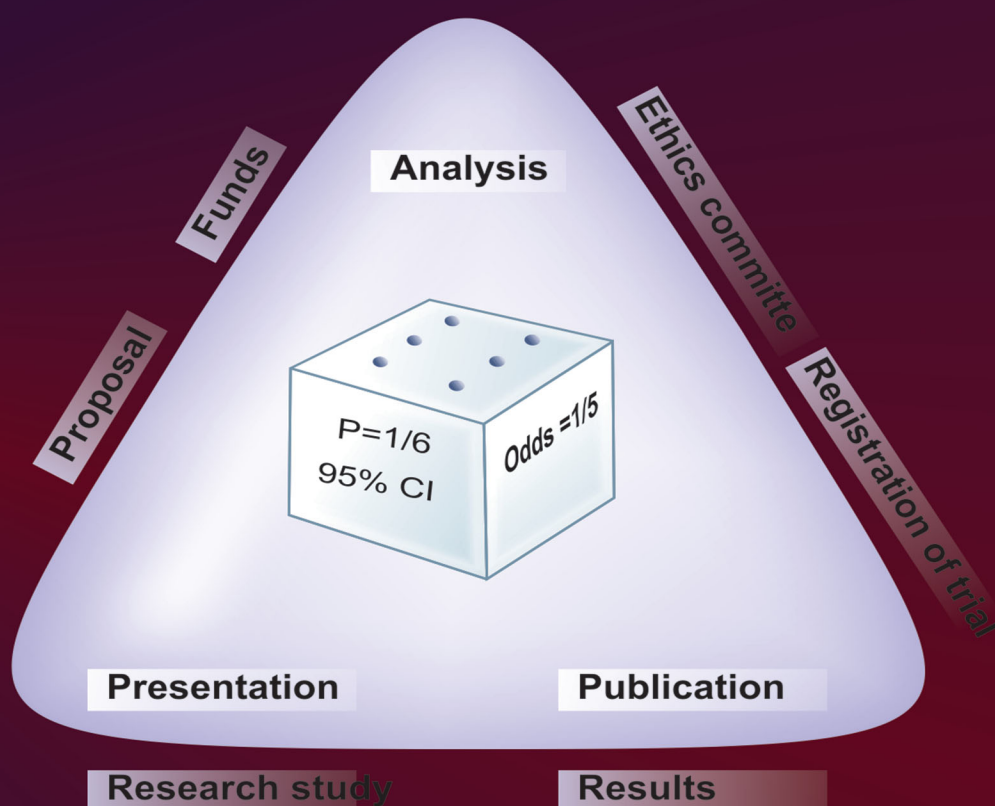


Research Methodology Simplified

Every Clinician a Researcher



Mahendra N Parikh
Avijit Hazra
Joydev Mukherjee
Nithya Gogtay

Forewords

PC Mahapatra
Mrudula Phadke

JAYPEE

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Funding Agencies and Applying for Funds

Funds are an important aspect of biomedical research. Much of the research in the world today is funded by the pharmaceutical industry. However, within the country, there is much scope for academicians who write investigator initiated projects to find funding. Some agencies that provide funding are listed below along with their websites. The websites contain application forms for applying for funding. Almost all agencies in addition provide funding for holding workshops and conferences. Some like the ICMR also fund students' theses.

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)

The ICMR is an apex body that coordinates biomedical research in the country and provides generous funding for research. The thrust areas for ICMR include communicable diseases, tribal health, reproductive and child health, nutrition, non-communicable diseases, basic medical sciences and traditional medicines. Applications, not restricted to these areas, can be sent around the year. The applications are peer reviewed by an expert committee and funding subsequently awarded. The ICMR also gives money for MD, DM, MS and MCh thesis. It also has traveling fellowships that young scientists can avail of. ICMR also grants funds for student's research projects even of few months duration

Department of Biotechnology (DBT)

In more than a decade of its existence, the department has promoted and accelerated the pace of development of biotechnology in the country. Necessary guidelines for transgenic plants, recombinant vaccines and drugs have also been evolved. A strong base of indigenous capabilities has been created. The agency provides funds for animal/plant/marine biotechnology, bioengineering, bioinformatics, creating centers of excellence, medical biotechnology, food and nutrition biotechnology among others. In collaboration with the ICMR, the department has also put up guidelines for stem cell and vaccine research in the country. The website also gives information on proposals that call for tie ups with developed countries when the expertise is not available within, so that the expertise can be brought back to the country.

Department of Science and Technology (DST)

Department of Science and Technology (DST) was established in May 1971, with the objective of promoting new areas of Science and Technology and to

play the role of a nodal department for organizing, coordinating and promoting Science and Technology activities in the country. It gives funds to scientific research institutions, associations and bodies. The department also has a unique WOS or Women Scientists Scheme which provides opportunities to women scientists in the age group 30-50 years to pursue research in frontier areas of science and engineering.

Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

The autonomous organization was constituted in 1942 and in its mission statement envisages providing scientific, industrial Research and Development (R and D) that maximizes the economic, environmental and societal benefits for the people of India. It has 38 labs all over India and provides financial assistance to promote research work in the fields of Science and Technology, including Agriculture, Engineering and Medicine. The assistance is provided by way of grants to Professors/Experts in regular employment, in the universities, IITs, post-graduate institutions, recognized (R and D) laboratories both in public and private sectors. Research proposals of applied nature as well as those falling under basic sciences which attempt to solve specific problems being pursued by CSIR laboratories, or in newer and complementary fields, are considered for CSIR support. Priority is given to multi-disciplinary projects which involve inter-organisational co-operation (including that of CSIR laboratories). However, preference is given to schemes which have relevance to research programmes of CSIR laboratories. Career opportunities are also available in the form of junior and senior research fellowships and research associateships.

Department of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (AYUSH)

Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy (ISM and H) was created in March, 1995 and re-named as Department of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) in November, 2003 with a view to providing focused attention to development of education and research in ayurveda, yoga and naturopathy, unani, siddha and homoeopathy systems. One of its objectives is to strengthen existing research institutions and ensure a time-bound research program on identified diseases for which these systems have an effective treatment.

Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (KVPY)

KVPY funds research by students of basic sciences, medicine and engineering.

Universities, Teaching Institutions and Nongovernmental Organizations

Almost all universities, most medical colleges, many teaching hospitals and also corporate hospitals have funds for research projects.

Medical Research Council (MRC) (UK)

MRC basically funds research in UK but it also has provision for funding research outside UK especially in British Commonwealth Countries.

Pharmaceutical Companies

Pharma companies have large funds for conducting research. These are generally used for research involving their own products. But most pharma companies also fund good research having academic interest.

Useful Websites

1. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)- www.icmr.nic.in.
2. Department of Biotechnology (DBT)- www.dbtindia.nic.in.
3. Department of Science and Technology (DST)-www.dst.gov.in.
4. Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)- www.csir.res.in.
5. AYUSH-<http://indianmedicine.nic.in/>.
6. Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana – www.iisc.ernet.in/kvpy.

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Every Clinician a Researcher

Mahendra N Parikh is a renowned teacher of Obstetrics and Gynecology for over 50 years. Presently, he is Professor Emeritus at Seth Gordhandas Sunderdas Medical College and Nowrosji Wadia Maternity Hospital, Mumbai, and Consultant at Shushrusha Citizens' Cooperative Hospital, Mumbai. He has been actively involved in Research and Publications having to his credit 70 research publications in national and international journals. He is well known for authorship of *A Textbook of Obstetrics* (four editions) and *ABC of Research Methodology and Applied Biostatistics: A Primer for Clinicians and Researchers*. He has to his credit chapters in several books. He is Editor Emeritus of *The Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology of India*. He is also Deputy Editor of *Fertility and Sterility, India*. He is devoted to improve the quality of research being done in India and conducts Program for Inculcating the Culture of Scientific Enquiry and Pursuit (PICSEP), Project of the Federation of Obstetrics and Gynecology of India. He was President of the Federation of Obstetrics and Gynecology of India besides of Indian Association of Fertility and Sterility, Indian Association of Juvenile and Adolescent Gynecology and Obstetrics, and National Association of Reproductive and Child Health of India. He is founder President of Indian Society of Assisted Reproduction and President of Indian Society for Prenatal Diagnosis and Therapy.



Avijit Hazra a clinical pharmacologist, is an Associate Professor of Pharmacology at the Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (IPGMER), Kolkata. After obtaining MBBS from Kolkata University, he acquired MD (Pharmacology) from Mumbai University. He has to his credit over 30 research papers in national and international journals and several book chapters. He is an acknowledged biostatistician. He trains and assists students and researchers across medical disciplines in designing, conducting and analyzing clinical trials. He is doing private practice in internal medicine.



Joydev Mukherjee has 22 years' teaching experience. He is Professor of Gynecology and Obstetrics at RG Kar Medical College, Kolkata since last 8 years. Being in-charge of the Human Reproduction Research Center at his college, he looks after research projects of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and participates in Indian multicentric trials. He is Medical Officer in-charge of PPTCT/ITC (ANC) program at his college. He has published 40 research papers in national and international journals besides authoring chapters in many books. He is a peer-reviewer for some Indian Medical Journals. He is a faculty member for the Training Programs in Research Methodology conducted by the PICSEP Project. He is a voracious reader of medical literature.



Nithya Gogtay is an Associate Professor of Clinical Pharmacology at Seth Gordhandas Sunderdas Medical College and King Edward Memorial Hospital, Mumbai. She has a long experience of teaching and research, having many publications to her credit. She is actively involved in teaching research methodology to undergraduate and postgraduate students besides being involved in conducting training programs in research. She is author of *ABC of Research Methodology and Applied Biostatistics: A Primer for Clinicians and Researchers*.



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