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Not applicable.

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## Most Important Barrier to Research Publication is Lack of Incentives and Motivation

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Dear Sir,

We read the important correspondence “Why Medical Doctors Hesitate to Write for Scientific Journals?”<sup>1</sup> with interest and feel that it could have been better if the authors had included the important factor of lack of incentives and motivation among Indian doctors to publish research papers or contribute to journals. There is a paucity of studies exploring the barriers and challenges faced by doctors in publishing their research papers, and whatever research has been done explores the barriers among those doctors who are already publishing their research.<sup>2</sup> The authors have rightly included time constraints, the complexity of the publishing process, lack of formal training in research and writing, fear of rejection and criticism, challenges in finding relevant research opportunities, and funding issues as the barriers to research publication.<sup>1</sup> But we feel that the authors should have included lack of motivation and lack of incentives as the most important barriers because if doctors are motivated enough and academic, promotional, and economic incentives are offered, most of the doctors will overcome the above-mentioned barriers and will publish their research. Most of the doctors today are products of commercial

medical institutions charging obnoxiously high medical education fees, influenced by commercial considerations rather than academic or research considerations, and they work in profit-oriented corporate or private healthcare with little motivation for research publications. Therefore, we feel that unless there is a focus on research starting from undergraduate students, and unless various types of incentives are initiated for all doctors, both in medical colleges and in private practice, motivating them to initiate research and then publish, nothing much is going to change. The barriers to publishing papers enumerated by the authors are no doubt important, but they are secondary to lack of motivation and incentives. India needs a revolutionary change in medical education and research to encourage research publications on par with Western or Chinese research publications.

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