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Letter to the Editor

Re-moulding publication criteria for the advancement of medical faculty: a wake-up call for medical fraternity

Sir,

The National Medical Commission (NMC) is a dynamic organization constituted to revamp medical education all over the nation by imparting changes in the medical curriculum and criteria for teaching faculty. The core objective of recent regulations on teachers eligibility qualifications in Medical Institutions, 2022 is to promote a uniform teaching standard among medical institutions functioning under the scope of NMC.¹

Amendments regarding the minimum required publication criteria for the professorship increased from three to four of which mandatorily two in the associate professor tenure. Likewise, it is escalated to two publications for the post of associate professor. The recent NMC regulations have not specified the authorship order considered for promotion, this might instigate the authors for more collaborative research.

Original research papers, meta-analyses, case series and systematic reviews will be solely considered for promotion. The recommended indexing databases are Medline, PubMed Central, Science Citation Index, Expanded Embase, Scopus, and Directory of Open Access Journals. These norms are found to be in line with the preceding guidelines.²

These amendments can revive the research skills and the standards of publication. Listing out the indexing databases will ease the selection of credible journals. The legitimacy and credentials of the journals are to be scrutinized to avoid getting counterfeited by predatory journals.

NMC has also emphasised the completion of basic courses in biomedical research and medical education technology as criteria for promotion. Due to restricted slots for the Basic course in medical education technology, the norms have been relaxed recently to complete the course within three years of the promotion date.³

The inclusion of review articles, case reports and commentaries with high standards and published in

indexed journals can also be considered for promotion as this support evidence-based clinical practice.⁴ These regulations would refine the medical teacher's excellence.

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