

Bridging Clinical Practice and Research in a Teaching Hospital Setting

Teaching hospitals occupy a distinctive and privileged position within the healthcare system. They function simultaneously as centers of patient care, platforms for medical education, and incubators of innovation. This dual mandate — delivering high-quality clinical service while fostering academic growth — provides teaching hospitals with an unparalleled opportunity to advance evidence-based medicine. Narrowing the gap between clinical practice and research is therefore essential to achieving excellence in patient care and in shaping the future of healthcare in Bangladesh.

Clinical practice is the cornerstone of a teaching hospital. Every day, clinicians encounter a wide spectrum of diseases and clinical challenges. These encounters should not be viewed merely as service delivery but as opportunities for inquiry and discovery. If systematically recorded, analyzed, and shared, these experiences can generate valuable knowledge that guides treatment protocols, informs public health strategies, and enriches training curricula. Without such deliberate documentation and reflection, however, this wealth of knowledge remains underutilized.

Research transforms clinical experience into validated evidence. Through well-designed studies, clinical observations are tested, innovations are refined, and best practices are established. Yet, clinicians in busy hospital environments often face barriers — including demanding workloads, limited resources, and insufficient institutional infrastructure — which can restrict research engagement. Addressing these challenges requires both organizational reform and the cultivation of a culture of scholarly curiosity.

At Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital, we are uniquely positioned to strengthen this integration. Embedding research questions into daily clinical practice, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, and promoting structured mentorship for postgraduate trainees are vital steps toward this goal. Equally important are institutional investments in research ethics,

biostatistics training, and avenues for scientific dissemination.

The Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Journal serves as a vital component of this ecosystem. By prioritizing clinically relevant original research, case series, quality improvement initiatives, and locally applicable guidelines, the Journal can function as a conduit between bedside observation and academic publication. Our commitment is to stimulate critical thinking, support innovation, and ensure that our readership — from interns to senior consultants — derives direct clinical benefit from the content we publish.

Ultimately, the integration of clinical practice and research elevates patient care, enriches medical education, and enhances professional fulfillment. When every clinician views each patient encounter as a source of potential knowledge, the teaching hospital transcends its traditional roles and fully embodies its mission: to heal, to teach, and to innovate.

We invite our colleagues, trainees, and collaborators to join this endeavor. Together, we can transform clinical service into research excellence and establish Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College as a national leader in evidence-based healthcare.

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