

About us

MEDICA Research Investigation is an independent, student-led research group, founded in 2023 by motivated Lebanese University Medical Students.

Our Strategic intent is “**Access to Research and Research Education**”, aspiring to build a foundation in medical research among medical students. MEDICA supports and empowers enthusiastic Medical Students, allowing them to engage in the research community and experience research during their medical school years. This will be accomplished by building a network of well-trained students and experts in the research field and equipping them with the capacities and resources needed to start their own research projects in the medical fields of their interest, while under the mentorship and guidance of elite researchers.

Mission

Our mission is to develop medical students’ knowledge and professional expertise in the medical research field and collaborate with skilled researchers and physicians to publish scientific research papers aiming to shape the world of medicine and science.

Vision

Our Vision is to become a research center of excellence and reference for all students in the health field in Lebanon, making scientific research knowledge more inclusive and accessible among all multidisciplinary healthcare professionals and students.

Goal

Our goal is to provide the support, tools, and resources necessary for it academic research and to make it accessible to students who desire to pursue a career in medical research.

In order to accomplish this, we will hold several research training workshops, and provide medical students with the opportunity to network, learn, and collaborate on research projects, which will enhance their research experiences both during and beyond medical school.

By doing this, we aim to fill the gaps in research competencies for students who have an interest in the same field and create a nationwide community in which we can offer a variety of academic, research-based, and career possibilities, for students who can hold ownership for a research project of their own design. We will accompany them during their research journey for better performance and outcomes.

Objectives:

1. Promote access to research and research education among medical students in Lebanon
2. Develop and Increase the level of scientific knowledge and expertise of medical students regarding the research process.
3. Provide medical students with training in the fundamentals of medical research to enrich their research knowledge.
4. Provide medical students with helpful resources to facilitate their first and future publications in the medical field of their interest.
5. Establish a well-connected network of research enthusiasts among Medical Students in Lebanon.
6. Connect medical students to research experts and physicians for mentorship and guidance.
7. Facilitate collaboration and partnership between medical universities, research organizations, and associated medical students in Lebanon and abroad.

MEDICA has 2 sub-Units:

1. **Publishing Research Team (PRT)**
2. **MEDICA- LU Research Unit**

1. Publishing Research Team (PRT)

Description:

This team will be working together on writing scientific and medical research papers in the field of their interest and under the supervision of elite mentors. Training and workshops in the fundamentals of medical research (Meta-analysis, How to write a case report, Plagiarism...) will be given to its members before starting the writing process. After the training phase, topics will be fairly conveyed to begin the writing process. Once achieved, and with the approval of our mentors, the team will start the publishing process.

2. MEDICA- LU Research Unit

MEDICA- LU Research Unit is the first medical student-led research unit and subunit of MEDICA, founded at the Faculty of Medical Sciences, at the Lebanese University.

It is dynamic and LU community-oriented, aiming to support LU medical and master's students at the Faculty of Medical Sciences in their research journey and provide opportunities for research collaboration and innovation among all students.

Our main objective:

Create a well-connected network of research enthusiasts among Medical Students and master's students at The Lebanese University, Faculty of Medical Sciences.

We are committed to:

- Enable LU students to build their research skills starting from their pre-clinical medical years in their faculty, by providing them with regularly updated resources related to research skills, and research training workshops.
- Facilitate contact between different students, researchers, and faculty physicians in order to promote inter collaborations, dissemination of information, and sharing of resources.
- Present LU students with the opportunity to undertake independent research projects, succeeding in providing them with the appropriate supervision and encouragement needed.
- Help in assisting, guiding, and creating new research opportunities for LU students with the support and mentorship of our faculty doctors.



Name of Project

MEDICA- LU Research Unit

Background

MEDICA- LU Research Unit is the first medical student-led research unit and subunit of MEDICA, founded at the Faculty of Medical Sciences, at the Lebanese University.

Purpose

It is dynamic and LU community-oriented, aiming to support LU medical and master's students at the Faculty of Medical Sciences in their research journey and provide opportunities for research collaboration and innovation among all students.

Objective

Create a well-connected network of research enthusiasts among Medical Students and master's students at The Lebanese University, Faculty of Medical Sciences.

Members

- LU Medical students: 3rd → 7th year + LU residents (if possible)
- LU Masters' students at the Faculty of Medical Sciences

We are committed to:	
1	Enable LU students to build their research skills starting from their pre-clinical medical years in their faculty, by providing them with regularly updated resources related to research skills, and research training workshops.
2	Facilitate contact between different students, researchers, and faculty physicians in order to promote inter collaborations, dissemination of information, and sharing of resources.
3	Present LU students with the opportunity to undertake independent research projects, succeeding in providing them with the appropriate supervision and encouragement needed.
4	Help in assisting, guiding, and creating new research opportunities for LU students with the support and mentorship of our faculty doctors.

Scope of Work

Phases	Start	Finish
Send google Form to all Med students and Masters' students at the Faculty to join the research unit + join the research unit's general WhatsApp group.	23 March 2023	29 March 2023
Send all students a google form to assess their needs in research in order for us to provide it in the next phase.	29 March 2023	7 April 2023
Prepare an open-access database of research skills resources, courses, tools, and templates... updated each month and available on the WhatsApp group.	29 March 2023	6 April 2023
Organize Additional Training workshops given by experts (systematic review and meta-analysis, validation of scales, bibliometric analysis, case report) + based on what students request assistance in.	April	--
Provide 5 research projects at least, for students to join (the research unit committee will prepare the projects with the assistance of our faculty doctors)	April- May	
Send a google form to all the research unit's students for research suggestions (they can suggest ideas, topics, and	Continuous	Continuous

possible gaps in knowledge...) → Equip the students with the tools and resources needed to realize their research ideas		
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Resources Needed from the Faculty of Medical Sciences

	Resource
1	Access to paid research databases (EMBASE...)
2	Location: office or room for students to meet and work on their projects
3	Support and urging IRB application approvals for possible research projects
5	Permission to have on-site workshops

Reporting and Communications
<i>The research unit's committee (formed by 2 representatives of each medical year at least) will report back to the Advisory Board of the Unit (Doctors willing to be assisting us, support us, and guide us when needed...)</i>

Advisory Board (Possible) Members

Name	Status	Contact Info
Dr. Andre Megarbane		
Dr. Mirna Chahine		
Dr. Inaam Nasrallah	Agreed	inaamkoteich@gmail.com
Miss Khadija Ismail		

Closure

Future Documents and agreement	Signed Off
Implement MEDICA- LU Research Unit as an official research unit at the Faculty of Medical Sciences	
Sign a Memorandum of Understanding between MEDICA and the Research Department at the Faculty of Medical Sciences (تكليف و موافقة)	

Students representatives' committee

Contact	Email/Cell
Jana Kotaich, 4th year	Janakotaich@gmail.com - 76855348
Ali Ismail, 5th year	aliismail1961999@gmail.com - 81 696 324
Jina Hassan, 4th year	jinahasann@gmail.com - 78 896 268
Ahmad Aftouni, 4th year	Ahmadafyouni2000@gmail.com - 71 589 885
Laura Ganem, 3rd year	lauraghanem33@gmail.com - 81 714 702
Mohammad Barakat, 4th year	muhamadbarakat20@gmail.com- 70 126 434
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