The Impact of the Doctor of Medical Science (DMSc) on Scholarship Productivity Among PAs

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Background

- There has been rapid growth in the number of programs offering the Doctor of Medical Science degree (DMSc).
- One of the principal goals of the DMSc is to advance the PA profession, including in areas of peer-reviewed publications.
- The purpose of the study is to examine the peer-reviewed publication productivity of PA-trained DMSc graduates.

Methods

- LinkedIn profiles were searched for PAs who have earned a DMSc between 2018 and January 2022. 272 randomly selected candidates were selected. The search term used was, DMSc, PA-C. And the results were filtered by colleges and universities that offer the DMSc degree.
- Peer-reviewed publications of each DMSc graduate were identified using Google Scholar.
- Publications were then cross-referenced by searching for the graduate’s name in SCOPUS.
- Lifetime and post-DMSc peer-reviewed publications were tallied for each graduate.

Results

- Total number of DMSc Graduates: n=272
- Individuals Who Never Published: n=201
- Individuals Who Published: n=71
- Individuals who published before and after DMSc: n=23
- Individuals who published only before DMSc: n=31
- Individuals who published only after DMSc: n=17
- 207 total publications
- 77 publications post DMSc
- 22 publications from first time publishers post DMSc

Discussion

- 71 out of 272 (26.1%) graduates had EVER published. Of these:
  - 40 (14.7%) published after obtaining DMSc.
  - 17 (6.3%) published for the first time after obtaining DMSc
- 77 out of 207 (37.2%) publications were published after obtaining DMSc.
- About 44% of publications were by 10 individuals. Those same 10 individuals accounted for 40% of the work published after graduation.

Conclusion

- Nearly half of peer-reviewed publications by DMSc graduates are produced by only a handful of individuals, many of whom had a history of publishing before obtaining a DMSc.
- DMSc programs should find ways to promote, support, and motivate students to publish peer-reviewed publications.

Limitations

Small, convenient, random sample – total number of DMSc graduates to date is unknown

References