



## Saudi Medical Journal of Students (SMJS)

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### MEDEDU TABUK: A FACULTY NEWSLETTER THAT NURTURES STUDENT TALENT AND HELPS REACH OUT TO THE COMMUNITY

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A University newsletter is an effective means of communication for sharing knowledge, curricular and extracurricular activities, inspiring novelty, engaging work, providing information, and reaching out to the community. Direct student involvement as Editors in the Editorial process can achieve a loftier goal: establishing an appropriate environment for creativity and innovation that is essential for physical, behavioral, cognitive, and emotional development.

#### MEDEDU TABUK

MedEdu Tabuk (MET) is the official newsletter of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Tabuk. Established in 2016, and after five years and 98 published issues, MET currently reaches to over 50,000 subscribers [1]. The newsletter acts as an avenue of expression for publishing a wide

range of interests of all faculty, students, administrative staff, and the community. MET is part of the SMJS-MET publications that include the peer-reviewed journal, the Saudi Medical Journal for Students (SMJS) [2, 3, 4]. SMJS, established in 2019, is the first student medical journal in the Gulf region.

MedEdu Tabuk started in 2016 as a newsletter for the Academic staff of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Tabuk. With increasing popularity, it gradually included the administrative staff and later the healthcare workers of Tabuk province. By 2018, the newsletter had attracted more than 1000 readers and started inviting its first student Editors [5]. The inclusion of student editors ushered in an era of creativity and dynamism. Student contribution started to increase, and issues containing discoveries,

skills, artwork, sketches, and stories of talents, vision, accomplishments, and community service work garnered the attention of other Faculties and Universities. In 2020, the readership of MET skyrocketed to 50,000, reaching out to all students, faculty, and administrative staff of University of Tabuk, and additionally subscribers from the community and readers of other Universities.

### SMJS-MET EDITORIAL TEAM

MedEdu Tabuk, part of the SMJS-MET publications, runs under one administration, a unified SMJS-MET Editorial Board, with 82 Editorial Board Members (EBMs) consisting of students from four different Universities who work voluntarily [Table 1]. They are supervised by an Advisory Board made of Faculty Editorial Staff. One of the authors (MTR) is a Faculty member and the founding Editor-in-Chief of SMJS-MET. The author (RDA) is the student editor responsible for managing the Editorial Team of SMJS-MET. [6]

SMJS-MET team is divided into Editorial units responsible for well-defined tasks. Each unit is headed by the Unit Manager and mentored by a Faculty Editorial Staff. The coordinators support and report to the Editor-in-Chief in the day-to-day running of the journal. University students (Undergraduate and Postgraduate) across Saudi Arabia are eligible to become EBMs of SMJS-MET. Vacancies are advertised on the Journal website and on social media.

### THE EDITORIAL TASK OF A NEWSLETTER

The publication of a faculty newsletter can be



**Figure 01:** MedEdu Tabuk Cover design by Ishtiyag Abuzayid, 5<sup>th</sup> year Faculty of Medicine, University of Tabuk

a formidable task and is distinct from publishing a Peer-Review Journal. The publication goals and Editorial philosophy differ. Newsletters need to be accurate, attractive, engaging, and readable as well as timely and informative [7]. MET reaches out to a large community with varied interests and needs; therefore, the newsletter has established a method for obtaining reliable and interesting information. Ergo, the editorial team composed of a motley crew of students from different faculties, such as Medicine, Pharmacy, Science, Business, Art,

**Table 01:** Editors of Saudi Medical Journal for Students-MedEdu Tabuk as of August 2022

University and Faculties	Editors <i>n</i>
University of Tabuk	
Medicine	25
Pharmacy	8
Business Administration	2
Computer Science and Information Technology	1
Qassim University	
Medicine	11
King Khalid University	
Medicine	1
Sulaiman Alrajhi University	
Medicine	1
Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University	
Medicine	2
King Abdulaziz University	
Medicine	1
King Saud bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences	
Medicine	1

and Design [Table 1], helps achieve its objectives. It has made MET be more appealing and expand further.

The Editors of SMJS-MET coordinate all stages of the publication process of both the journal and newsletter. Responsibilities include manuscript submission, checking suitability, assigning peer-reviewers, contacting authors, proofreading, and publicity [4]. They ensure that the contents

are within the publication's scope and simultaneously meet the expectations of the targeted readers, publishers, the scientific community, and the public.

### THE BENEFITS OF BEING AN EDITOR

A properly trained Editorial staff working in coordination is essential for achieving better results consistently. The Editorial development initiatives include workshops, seminars, and long-term mentorship. Mentorship allows the Students Editors to develop a one-on-one relationship with faculty. Topics for seminars and workshops for Editors include Editorial skills, communication, interprofessional teamwork skills, and time management.

Capable healthcare professionals need to develop interprofessional teamwork skills. Training to develop these skills for health care students should begin in the early stages of their education. [8] Editors must interact with stakeholders from different fields. They must have the skills, courage, and diplomacy to talk to people they have never met before. Speaking fluently and choosing the right words to represent themselves appropriately is a required attribute. SMJS-MET editorial team has students from different faculties, including Medicine, Pharmacy, Science, Business, Art, and Design. These interactions allow them to work in a multi-professional environment.

There is a good correlation between good time management skills and higher academic achievement among university students [9]. This skill can be developed through training, workshops, and seminars. EBM's must work on a strict schedule to deliver their work within a specified time frame. They learn to

**Table 02:** Units of Saudi Medical Journal for Students-MedEdu Tabuk as of August 2022

<b>Name of Unit</b>	<b>Principal Responsibilities</b>
Ahlan	Represents the first point of contact between the authors and the SMJS team. Manages all the forms and requirements for an article to be accepted for publication, as well as contacts the author to ensure the authors follow the author guidelines form.
Administration	Responsible for maintaining office issues, releasing the office schedule, reporting the office activity as well as communicating among the student editors
MedEdu Tabuk	Responsible for the management of MedEdu Tabuk, the newsletter with more than 50,000 Subscribers. We publish photos, articles, travel experiences, poems, achievements, and many more
Formating	Prepares, and formats manuscripts for publication
Branding	Responsible for spreading the awareness of SMJS-MET as well as its organizations through social media, events, and other platforms
Quality	Ensures that every manuscript in the publication process fills all the criteria that need to be met for an article to be of the utmost quality, including a full review of the article and its contents to confirm that the submitted article has followed all the requirements
Estikshaf	This unit is responsible for the peer-review process. They contact expert reviewers, Authors, and Faculty Advisors. SMJS follows a double-blinded peer-review policy.
English	Checks the English Language of all manuscripts and provides feedback to the authors
Design	Responsible for designing SMJS-MET content such as covers, posters, certificates, and brochures

adjust their work schedule between Educational, Editorial, and Personal activities. SMJS-MET Editorial membership gives

prestige and fame. But most of all, according to Alaenzi and Raza [4], the opportunity to help peers in their career is a priceless incentive for an Editor and sufficient to keep

them motivated.

### **MEDEDU TABUK (MET) AS A SOURCE OF REFERENCE**

Newspaper and newsletter articles are valuable sources of information. Faculty and student resumes emphasize positions and publications, proved through certificates and citations. Applicants face difficulty providing reliable evidence of the much more comprehensive range of contributions, skills, and community services. MET has proved to be a credible source through its archived online content. The Quality and Development Unit of the Faculty of Medicine has relied on reports published in MET as documentary evidence. Students use reports published in MET as references supporting claims in their resumes.

### **MET AND ITS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM**

One of the goals of the newspaper is to serve the community. It achieves this by raising awareness, participating in activities, and providing students the guidance to do their work correctly.

MET organizes regular seminars and workshops for a diversified interests. The breast cancer awareness seminar on "World Breast Cancer Awareness Day" targeted women in society and was provided by a consultant specializing in that topic. A seminar on English attracted more than 100 participants and another on designing attracted more than 250 participants from National and International Universities.

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, the MET contributed an awareness-raising project with school students in the same region, where the

editors educated a group of students about health precautions to combat the virus, so the students filmed videos of what they had been taught to share with their peers and increased community awareness. There was a ceremony, and each participant received a certificate.

In addition, faculty members and experienced doctors publish articles weekly in the newsletter, disseminate their experiences and highlight the latest information, keeping students and society up to date with the best sources and information. In conclusion, the clinical practice involves gathering, synthesizing, and acting on the information. Multi-modal solutions are required to address the information-associated problems in health care [10]. Research findings, medical updates, treatment options, awareness, and understanding of healthcare issues need to reach the desired audience. Newsletters have massive potential in achieving the goal.

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