

PRESS RELEASE

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Research fellows in public health publish more than their colleagues in clinical and pre-clinical departments

ZAGREB – Research fellows employed in the Andrija Štampar School of Public Health are scientifically more productive than their colleagues in clinical and pre-clinical departments of the Zagreb University School of Health, shows a study published in the new issue of *Croatian Medical Journal*.

The study included 117 research fellows from the Zagreb University School of Health, which makes a quarter of all Croatian fellows in the field of biomedicine. Two thirds of all respondents were women, and there were no gender differences between pre-clinical, clinical and public health departments.

A total of 175 authorship and co-authorships in journals indexed in the *Current Contents* bibliographic database were recorded in the entire sample, with no difference between the genders. Thirty-six (29%) fellows published at least one such article in two employment years, and 14 (11%) did not publish any such article during three years of their employment.

Fellows in public health published significantly more than those in pre-clinical and clinical departments. There was no difference between the latter two groups. Apart from being more

productive in publishing research, public health fellows more often attended international training courses.

Statistical analysis showed that three variables were significantly associated with fellows' publication success: undergraduate publication of an article in journals indexed in the *Current Contents* database, positive mentor's assessment, and scientific productivity of mentor's research group.

Authors of the study suggested that the fellows in public health were more productive than others because the fellows in clinical departments do not have enough protected time for research and have a higher workload. On the other hand, financial requirements and more complex research area might explain weak pre-clinical scientific production.

Pointing out the importance of research fellows as valuable human resources for the development of the Medical School's future staff, the authors of the study suggested that „undergraduate publication of an article indexed in major international databases should be one of the main criteria when choosing research fellows“. Furthermore, research fellows should be appointed to scientifically productive mentors, who can substantially contribute to the advancement of a young researcher's career.

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