

From Chairman's Desk

High-quality research is essential to better understanding and exploring various phenomena affecting the universe in one way or the other. Research must have the potential to add to the existing body of knowledge, to advance understanding, and to ensuring better quality of life. Converting the research findings into reality requires not only authenticity of data but also its relevance to common good to society. In this era of technology intensive industrialization and modernization not only the product improvement but process improvement and production safety related research is equally important. Translation of fundamentals into technology is the biggest challenge before researchers and only evidence based research can prove useful to the end user.



The competition for funds to conduct research should be intense and only merit of the proposals in terms of practical and social relevance should determine receiving grant/ funding. In particular, funding for basic science research should have high allocation. High-quality research requires funds, and quality of research requires evidence by way of importance, relevance and potential for application of the findings as a market success.

Research is not every ones cake. Sound background of fundamentals is essential to proper design and conducting of successful research. Conceiving a research problem and analyzing its application is fundamental to executing the project. A research project must be drafted properly highlighting key issues it contemplates to address, with emphasis on the techniques and supports to be obtained from the explored fields and net implication on deficient areas which remain unexplored or partially explored.

Thus industry-academic togetherness is one of the means to assess utility and usefulness, when findings are bound to translate into product, production innovation, process innovation and finally market acceptance or otherwise. Such research is always subject of critical evaluation and hence must be well focused.

Ideally, the intelligence spent in conceptualizing and designing the proposal enhances the ability to conduct a better study and provides the framework for future work. The proposal should be innovative and must possess a logical sequence for future activities.

Usually, in the international scenario, research grants are of 2 major types: project and career development grants. Project grants generally support a specific research project and normally include only a small proportion of the principal investigator's salary, between about 20% and 40%. However, Career development grants generally provide mostly salary support between about 75% and 100% but relatively little project support. The funding authority needs adequate backing of intellectuals/experts in the relevant field for unbiased peer review and critical analysis of projects in terms of actual/expected application. Only such funding, which is awarded after careful review can yield results, otherwise it is bound to be waste and research simply reduces to paper. Research is major concern both for sinking and growing economies. Sooner research policy is coined merit centric, will be better.

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