



## WHAT CONSTITUTES AN M MED RESEARCH REPORT

This report refers particularly to the M Med/M Dent Research report, but also applies to other masters research reports.

### 1. NAME

To note that the M Med research component is correctly termed a "Research Report".

### 2. TYPE OF RESEARCH THAT IS ACCEPTABLE

#### a) A Clinical Audit

This would be a review of topics in clinical medicine with prospective or retrospective collection and analysis of data from clinical cases.

#### b) A Review of the Literature

This would be acceptable provided it is a comprehensive review of the literature with extraction and extrapolation of data or is a meta-analysis using recognised research methods or is a formal systematic literature review along the lines of the Cochrane Collaboration (<http://www.cochrane.org/resources/handbook/>).

#### c) Research Study

This would be a retrospective or prospective study involving laboratory-based research and would constitute the traditional type of research report.

#### d) Contract Research

An analysis of cases collected in contract research projects may be suitable for presentation in a research report. These should not normally represent a small sub-analysis of a much larger study. Formal permission would be required from the sponsor to present the data as a research report.

#### e) In Exceptional Circumstances: A Case Study

This would be acceptable in certain circumstances, such as in extremely unusual or rare cases, if important contributions have been made to the investigation, understanding or management of the case(s), or if the presentation is accompanied by an additional clinical audit or a systematic review of the literature.

### 3. FORMAT OF THE RESEARCH REPORT

The report may be presented in either the standard research report format or on the basis of published papers. With regard to the latter, the research report may be constituted from one or more substantial papers, published in indexed, peer-reviewed journals, within the last two years. In either case the quality and presentation should follow the recognised criteria and the protocols be scrutinised and approved by the postgraduate committee in the usual way.

The research report would vary in length, but the body of the text would not need to be greater than 60 - 80 pages, excluding the preface, dedication, abstract, table of contents and references. This would constitute approximately 10 000 words. The format should follow the recognised style guide for the Faculty of Health Sciences.