

SPIRE FALL INTERNSHIP 2026; ACADEMIC PROGRAM, (PINK BOOK)

SPIRE® — Academic Consultancy

**Social Action for Progressive Innovation,
Research & Education**

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INTRODUCTION

SPIRE is an independent academic initiative aimed at innovation, research, and education. We are a group of motivated, experienced, and networked academics with a shared vision of a world where evidence is furnished through ethical and scientific inquiry. We offer academic and research mentorship and support to our collaborators through recognized and fair channels. This document outlines the terms and conditions for initiating and maintaining an academic collaboration with SPIRE. We collaborate with individuals as well as institutions.

SPIRE is currently involved in research collaborations in KP and Punjab, Pakistan. We claim to have the largest databases on anti-microbial resistance in Punjab and Northern Pakistan, pre-hospital use of anti-microbial drugs in Northern Pakistan, sudden cardiac failure in children in Northern Pakistan, Retinopathy of Prematurity in KP, Pakistan, Acute Respiratory Infection in children in low resource settings in KP, Pakistan and obstetric anesthesia related complications in Punjab, Pakistan.

This is the first time a thrice yearly research internship program is offered for medics in Pakistan. The fee for this program is 50% subsidized to allow maximum participation. We received an overwhelming response from many medical students and students in other health related disciplines. This internship is entirely online and will require one to two hours per day of concerted effort and focus. We encourage our interns to work towards a publishable manuscript during their internship. Listening to people “explain” research concepts and mentioning big names in research history is not at all a healthy way to learn research. SPIRE has a simple, “Learning-by-Doing” strategy that is solution based. Our interns will have an opportunity to learn this method.

It is important to note that SPIRE is not a “medical writing” consultancy. While we mentor our collaborators at each stage of medical research from conceptualizing a research idea into a viable research question up to the submission of a publishable manuscript, we do not support or offer “freeloading” in the form of “Gift” or “Ghost” authorships. We aim to function as a professional consultancy who will be contributing towards publishing genuine data from our region and furnishing useful evidence for our patients.

In summary, we hope that our interns will learn how to be “self-starters” in research? How to critically appraise medical literature for their own practice? And above all, how to perform ethically sound and professionally applicable research?

We welcome you aboard. We look forward to eight weeks of academically charged and intellectually stimulating interactions with you. At SPIRE, we are focused on giving you the outcomes and results that will help you become the academic and the researcher that you envision for yourself.

Regards and Dua

Afshan H. Khattak, Director, SPIRE

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

SPIRE – PROSPECTIVE INTERNEES

SPIRE recognizes the sanctity of personal, academic and research data and specimens. All information/data/specimens collected under this MOU will be used solely for the purpose outlined in this MOU and treated as highly sensitive and privileged information, not to be released to third parties without permission from SPIRE team. A breach of this statement may lead to disciplinary/legal action by SPIRE team.

Here are the main reasons we gave you this form to fill:

1. All research collaborations must begin with a formal and written understanding between the parties. Research is a complex and tough arena of academia. We need to start our research journeys on the right footing with clear planning and achievable objectives.
2. Most of you give very generic answers to Questions about your expectations. This is a mistake. When you are asked about your expectations, learn to express yourself very clearly and objectively. Some examples of “objective” answers are given below:
 - A. I expect to be able to organize my data and interpret it for research purposes in cohort studies.
 - B. I expect to learn why it is so important to do medical research. No one is doing research honestly. Why is it still the number one parameter in interviews and job searches?
 - C. I expect that I will be guided to write an article out of my fourth-year project in these eight weeks.

FALL 2024 SPIRE RESEARCH INTERNSHIP
INTERNSHIP CURRICULUM
October 15th – December 15th 2026

Internship Week	Weekly Zoom Sessions	Friday Assignment or Quiz	Feedback
Week – 1	From Topic to Question Connecting the Dots	The Research Question	
Week – 2	Available Resources Selecting References	Background Search	
Week – 3	Scientific Writing Avoiding Plagiarism	Writing Introduction	
Week – 4	Inserting References Referencing Styles	Referencing	
Week – 5	Scientific Significance Presenting Results	Compilation of Results	
Week – 6	Live Demonstration Reviewing Discussions	Discussion writing	
Week – 7	Manuscript Designs Journal Selection	Organizing Manuscript	
Week - 8	Scientific Style	Manuscript – First Draft	

SPIRE: Support Systems: ALLOWED by this MOU

1. SPIRE Office/s
2. IT support
3. Logistic support for local events
4. Qualified human resource/workshop facilitators/teachers/scientists for events
5. Proof reading and publishing support

Human Resource OFFERED by SPIRE

Research degrees (PhD qualified faculty members in various clinical and basic sciences departments)

Appendix – B: Checklist of Steps Towards a SPIRE Collaboration

S. No	Action Required	✓ Date/s
1.	Develop a research idea / concept / proposal Identify a need that SPIRE can help you with Gather a research team of like-minded faculty/students/individuals	
2.	Contact SPIRE, Email: palwasha.bibi@gmail.com Website: www.neadfoundation.com What's app groups of SPIRE	
3.	Watch the RESEARCH-101 sessions on YouTube https://youtu.be/E510TvH1308?si=uRENpWlqOfEYbhr-	
4.	Organize the FREE SESSIONS for orientation and initiation of your research journey.	
5.	Discuss your research question and need for learning with your faculty and team. Decide whether a SPIRE collaboration will actually benefit you in your research journey or not?	
6.	If you decide to collaborate with SPIRE, obtain Departmental permission where you wish to do your research and Institutional Research Board, IRB or Ethical Review Committee, ERC permission from your institution.	
7.	Submit your proposal, Budget, SPIRE MOU and IRB/ERC Clearance to SPIRE via email.	
8.	SPIRE will contact you with the approval and suggested timeline of your project. This is the START DATE of your SPIRE Collaboration. Identify the authors and the order of authorship and submit to SPIRE.	
9.	Follow the timeline till the required sample size is entered in the database.	
10.	Once the Database is closed for data entry, data analysis will start.	
11.	SPIRE will supervise writing of parts of manuscript, Introduction, materials & Methods, Results and Discussion with contribution from each author.	
12.	Manuscript is reviewed by SPIRE reviewers.	
13.	Manuscript is submitted for publishing.	
14.	Manuscript is either PUBLISHED or REVISED for publication.	