

MEASURING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE (EI) AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AMONG FIFTH YEAR MEDICAL STUDENTS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

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BACKGROUND

- Emotional intelligence has become an increasingly important measure for doctors and health care practitioners to identify, assess and control emotions of themselves and that of their patients and others around them.
- Emotional intelligence breaks down communication barriers between patients and health care practitioners.

METHODS

- A self-administered scale, the Schutte Self -Report Emotional Intelligence Test (SSEIT) was used to assemble the data.
- The scale had 4 subscales: Perception of emotion(PE), Managing Emotions in the Self (MES), Managing Other's Emotions(MOE) and Utilizing Emotions(UE).
- The respondents scored themselves from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) based on a 5-point Likert scale. The data were scrutinized using IBM SPSS Version 26.

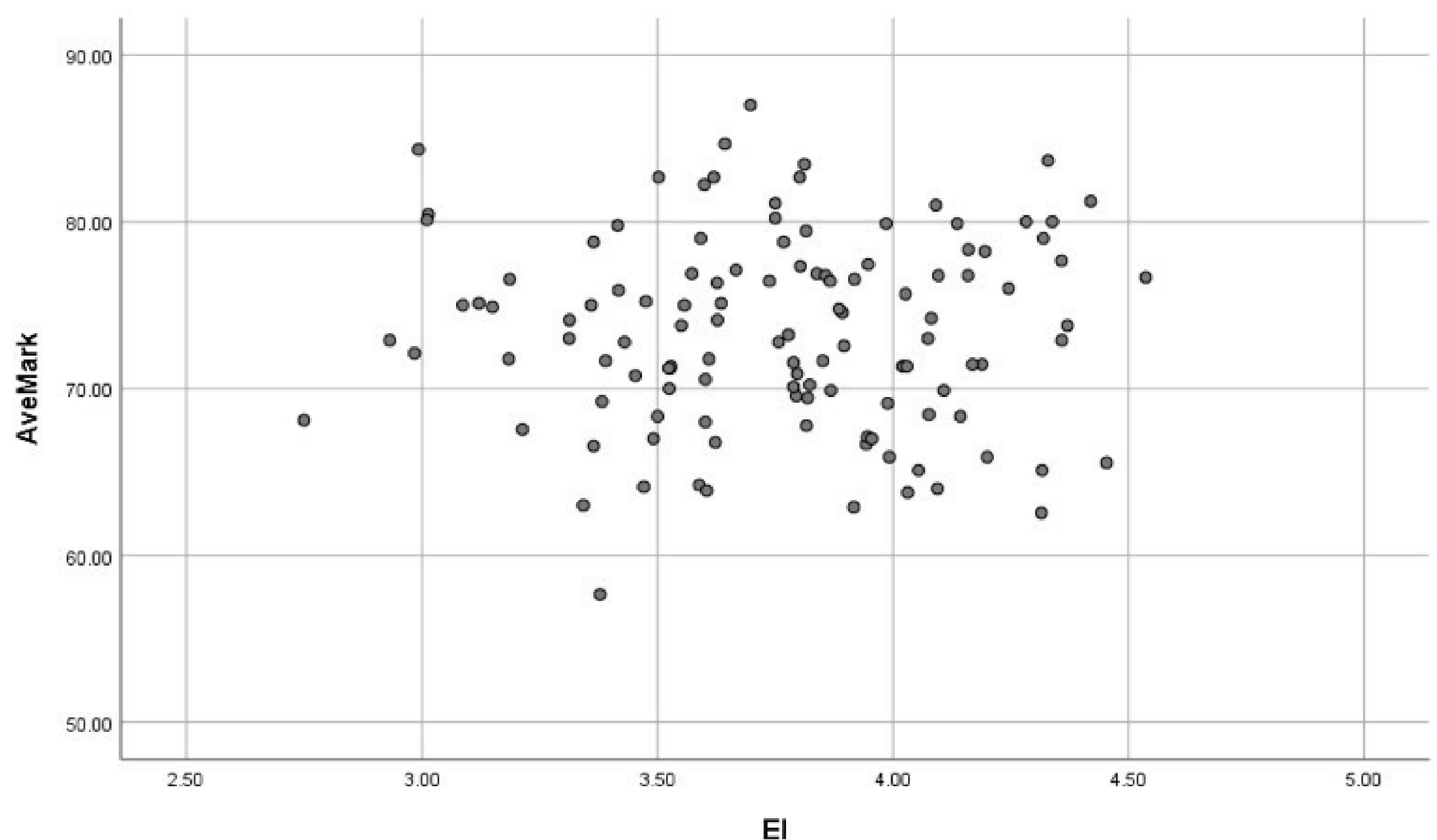
AIM

The study was designed to measure the relationship between emotional intelligence and academic achievement amongst 5th year medical students at the University of Pretoria.

RESULTS

- **Of the 121 MBCHB students invited to the study, 119 participated.**
- **48 male students (40.3%) and 71 female students (59.7%) participated**
- **Mean age was 23.98 years.**
- **No statistical difference in gender and age was reported.**
- **SSEIT subscales average distribution ranged from 2-5, with a good average of 4 being reported.**

Below is a scatterplot showing no relation between Emotional Intelligence and Academic Achievement



CONCLUSION

- No significant correlation was found between EI and academic achievement of the medical students, however, they did show good emotional intelligence.
- Further research is needed to explore the value of the concept of EI in the medical school curriculum.