

EDITORIAL

LAUNCHING A MEDICAL JOURNAL FROM A BUDDING INSTITUTION

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Launching a scientific journal, especially from a budding new medical institution is not so easy like it sounds. When in governmental set-up, a lot of formalities have to be fulfilled before the actual labouring task starts. Getting permission to publish, setting up an editorial board, and receiving the articles for publication are some of the corners to turn around before running on a straight track. Kashmir Journal of Medical Sciences has started its publication from a public sector medical school which is yet in infancy itself. Publication of Kashmir J Med Sci is a milestone crossed by the AJK Medical College fulfilling its pledge to impart quality medical education to the people of the region and playing its role in continuing medical research.

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It has been desired by the Pakistan Medical & Dental Council¹ (PMDC) that every medical school in the country should come forward to publish their own medical journal to provide a platform to the young scientists to publish their original research work. The motto behind this was to facilitate those researchers who had good quality research work at their credit but could not afford to pay heavy publication fees to publish abroad. Later the PMDC registered some really good quality medical journals from within the country and accredited them as ‘Standard Medical Journal’ for the purpose of recognition of the work published in them to be credited to the author(s) when considering their appointment/promotion. It is now mandatory to publish specific minimum number of research articles to qualify for initial recruitment and/or promotion of a medical doctor. This step has been much affective, especially for comparatively younger researchers who keep themselves busy in research at least for their promotion. The increased input on natives has brought in many more journals to share the load. Now the PMDC has more than 70 medical journals on its ‘list of recognised journals’ published from all corners of the country.¹

There are three medical schools in public sector and one in private sector in the State of Azad Jammu & Kashmir. The Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) Medical College² is the pioneer public sector medical college located in the capital city, Muzaffarabad. This city was completely destroyed in the 2005 earthquake and is re-built *de novo* by the people. Establishment of a medical school in this far-flung area was a really admirable effort of the government.

Like some other endeavours the AJK Medical College has pioneered, publishing a scientific journal of its own is another feather in the hat. The Kashmir Journal of Medical Sciences will provide a rich platform for presenting the research

work done in the area, region, and globally. The Editorial Board not only has younger blood in it but also has some glowing gems from home and abroad.

As the journey of a thousand miles starts with the first step, the Kashmir Journal of Medical Sciences has taken the first step—publishing its first issue! Though it is the first issue of the Journal, it has not compromised on the quality of the contents and their presentation. All norms and procedures have been adopted and a strict Peer Review process followed before the Journal came into existence. This issue has thirty pages keeping all the standards required for a high quality scientific journal. It is hoped to swell to more volume with passage of time and gathering people’s attraction. It will publish quarterly to meet and keep the requirements of Higher Education Commission of Pakistan³ and Pakistan Medical & Dental Council besides international indexing agencies.

Starting a scientific journal, especially from a budding institution like AJK Medical College is not easy. There are a lot many hurdles on the way, e.g., financial constraints, obtaining official permission, meeting the formalities for press declaration, getting a dedicated website, motivating the contributors to send their write-ups to this yet-to-come-into-existence journal, recruiting and training our young colleagues, and much more. Thanks to the College administration, especially the Principal/Patron of the Journal, and the Government of Azad State of Jammu and Kashmir who have been totally cooperative and gave free hand to the Editorial Board in bringing up this milestone in the history of medical schools of Kashmir.

The long journey has started smoothly and the KJMS is ready to face the challenge ahead. The Editorial Board has a strong promise to its readers not to compromise on quality at any cost and to keep their thirst for scientific reading material quenched

regularly. In return we expect and seek best quality original research work from our learned contributors whose excellence and expertise in their respective fields will be source of inspiration for others.

Last, but not the least, the Editorial Board thanks our Peers who took pains to review the received articles with their wisdom and love for medical research and the researchers to groom them!

REFERENCES

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