

Journal of Surgery Pakistan: Journey Through Decades

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Journal of Surgery Pakistan (JSP) is bringing out its 17th Volume in year 2012. The first volume was published in year 1996. At that time, the need of a journal dedicated to surgical and allied disciplines, was identified. The objective was to publish articles related to various disciplines of surgery so that readers could be facilitated. In Pakistan the general journals are more visible than specialty journals. In general journals specialty related articles get diluted and waiting time from submission to publication is also quite long. This downgrades the strength of a research.

Journal of Surgery Pakistan has maintained a high standard through the years and at the same time facilitated contributors in art and science of writing a scientific research article. Rejection is easy on the part of the editorial board but this amount to throwing useful data from our population, down the drain. The responsibility of editors also include facilitation in writing process, a genuine need of our authors, as no formal training is provided to most at under and postgraduate level of medical education. Most do not agree to this role of the editors. Responsibilities are need specific. If this is not done the research from developing countries can not reach to the world and our population shall be the ultimate sufferer.

The high standard of research, as published in impact factor journals, may not be visible in regional journals. Before one makes final comments, it must not be forgotten that the facilities available to researchers from our part of world are far from ideal. Funding is the main issue though donor agencies are present but, can not be tapped. Most of the researchers fail to write an attractive research proposal though there is no dearth of ideas. Thus frequent research proposal writing workshops are needed to train potential researchers.

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Medical editors and their statistician colleagues with bibliographers and epidemiologists, can contribute a lot in this endeavour.

Journal provides a portal through which research is made available to medical community and others including policy makers. JSP is an open access journal and articles can be downloaded easily through website, free of charge. This facilitates spread of information which thus helps in planning treatment of patients with evidence based literature. JSP is indexed with few international data bases as well. It is recognized by Pakistan Medical & Dental Council and is assigned category "Y" by Higher Education Commission of Pakistan though this is quite arbitrary and many editors have reservations to this categorization.^{1,2}

JSP has made significant contributions to the field of medical journalism and maintained a high standard of peer review and publication in the field of surgical and allied disciplines. It has followed guidelines of International Committee of Medical Journal Editors and participated in the activities of Pakistan Association of Medical Editors in achieving the objectives of transparency in medical journalism. We hope to continue with our editor colleagues and contributors, towards this end in future as well.

REFERENCES:

1. HEC Recognized Journals uptill 30th June, 2013. Available from URL accessed on 20 February 2012 <http://www.hec.gov.pk/Inside-HEC/Divisions/QALI/QualityAssurance/QADivision/Documents/Health%20Sciences.pdf>
2. Index Pakistan of our approved journals. Available from URL accessed on 20 February 2012 <http://www.pmdc.org.pk/Home/-IndexedPakistanofJournals/tabid/148/Default.aspx>.