

Dear friends.

I had the privilege to be associated to the first and the only medical journal in Pakistan related to Pulmonology, the 'Pakistan Journal of Chest Medicine' (PJCM); on directive of the governing council of the Pakistan Chest Society (PCS), the official body of the journal, first as in charge of publication committee, and then since Feb 2009 as the Chief Editor.

These few years of association have been one of the most memorable, learning and thrilling in many respects! With no background in medical journalism, or experience of reviewer ship, editing and the like, it was challenging to say the least. The deficiencies of experience is ubiquitous as I learnt, and so did not shy away from the responsibility. Learning and continuing to learn, was part of the journey. Like many life endeavors, the path becomes less unfamiliar with help of friends and sincere guides. This was no exception. Colleagues like Arshad Javed, Mukhtiar Afridi, Nazim Bokhari, Amir Bilal, Fatema Jawad, Shoukat Javed, Ali Musani, Martyn Partridge, Peter Davies were inspirational. Many others were always helping and available. With hard work of Dr Iqbal Burki, the founder chief editor, it was just a task of carrying on and improving on the foundations.

There were difficulties too nevertheless. With scarcity of medical research in the country, and mushrooming of medical publications over the years, it becomes difficult to get size able numbers of articles all the time. Being a specialty journal makes the funnel even smaller. To many doctors, writing an article for a journal is just an obligation that arises at time of promotion; many articles received were from first time writers with little 'polishing' from their senior co-authors. Then comes the expectations of necessarily getting it published! The choice was to make everyone happy or to lift up the standards of the journal by an acceptable and fool proof process of peer reviewer ship; we chose for the latter. In the process many were unhappy to whom we sincerely apologize.

The scarcity of the received articles meant that the number of published articles was far less than our target. Expressions from the former editor of a fellow journal summarizes it all: 'to get more articles, you have to be recognized; and when you are not recognized, no one sends you the articles!' (REF) The process of peer reviewer ship in itself is one of the most time consuming and patient one. This however did not push us to get 'everything' in. We are highly obliged to all those friends who sacrificed their invaluable time for reviewing the articles; thanks a million. A special thanks to Dr Ali Ammar, assistant editor since last few years, Dr Masroor Afridi and Dr Muhammad Irfan for their invaluable support in the process.

Getting the journal printed regularly and getting it recognized by the competent bodies was our main task. While regularity was maintained throughout, the latter has been achieved with the parent body of the PMDC and some others only; many are still not on the list yet. I can assure you it is just our personal weakness, not of the standard of the journal and its process; the latter has been something we can be quite satisfied about. It is hoped that the new office bearers will take up the task of getting more worldwide bodies giving the journal its due recognition.

With so many years of demanding work, it was but natural that one hands over the gruesome task to fresh and more capable people. On my request, the governing council

at the recent Biennial conference of the PCS in May 2014 in Islamabad, has solved this issue. No one is happier than me to see the journal going to safe and competent hands.

May Allah enlighten us to knowledge and virtues that are fruitful in this world and thereafter. Ameen

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