

A Letter from the Editor

Dear readers, I am Dr. Ijaz Hussain, the new editor of *JPAD*. To edit *JPAD*, no doubt an honour, is an uphill task. To accomplish this challenging assignment, I shall be assisted by Dr. Farhana Muzaffar, Dr. Zahida Rani and Dr. Faria Asad, three enthusiastic and energetic ladies and prolific writers. I shall also be enjoying the support and good wishes of an elegant editorial board comprising of acclaimed writers, whose advice will be an asset in shaping the future of *JPAD*. As an editorial team, we vow to sustain your trust and publish only accurate and truthful material in this prestigious journal.

By the grace of God and the hard work of my predecessor editor, Dr. Yasmeena Khan, *JPAD* stands amongst the forefront of national medical publications. It is recognized not only by the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council but also is indexed in the College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan MEDLIP, Ulrich's International Periodical Directory USA, ExtraMED, London, EMBASE/Excerpta Medica (the Netherlands), and Index Medicus of WHO (Alexandria, Egypt), a great achievement indeed. We will strive to keep *JPAD* as a standard journal amongst the national periodicals.

To achieve our objective we have certain plans and the foremost amongst them is the regular publication of our journal. For this we need a continuous inflow of papers as no journal can thrive without this input. We look forward to involving all our readers of dermatology and allied specialties. Articles based on original research, reviews, case reports, history, debates/controversies, quizzes, conference/meeting proceedings etc. will be highly appreciated. The manuscripts along with a floppy diskette may be sent to *Dr. Ijaz Hussain, Associate Professor,*

Dermatology Department, Mayo Hospital, Lahore. The submissions will be catered on the first come first served basis.

Our team also intends to streamline the peer-review system, a normal practice observed in all international and many of the national journals. Nevertheless, this should not be taken as an obstacle or hurdle by the budding writers. In order to help the energetic youngsters, International Committee of Medical Journal Editors' uniform requirements for submitting manuscript to medical journals have been reproduced in the present issue.

To keep abreast with the latest developments in the medical journalism, authors submitting manuscripts to *JPAD* are requested to report clinical trials conforming to the CONSORT statement. Leading journals of dermatology e.g. *the Archives of Dermatology, Journal of American Academy of Dermatology, British Journal of Dermatology* and *Clinical and Experimental Dermatology* are already following this practice. The current issue of *JPAD* gives a brief account of CONSORT.

Index Medicus/Medline is the website most commonly referred to. Indexation in this journal source is also amongst our future goals, although a far-fetched idea at this juncture. Last but not the least, if resources allow, we plan to make *JPAD* an online journal. Similarly, online submission of manuscripts and review would be our next target.

With the change of editor, just the eyes have changed but dream remains the same how to bring *JPAD* at par with frontline journals of dermatology. Can we win all above-mentioned laurels for *JPAD*, possibly yes, but only with your cooperation.

