

From The Chief Editor's Desk

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Medical journals are a credible source of disseminating research and innovations in the field of medical science. These are consistently ranked higher for sharing information and as a source of medical education¹. Launching a medical journal is a challenging task, but it is an obvious need of time. Reading and writing stimulates computation and comprehension in addition to improvement in clinical care¹.

In Pakistan, 371 journals are accredited by Higher Education Commission (HEC), in various academic disciplines of sciences and social sciences. In medical sciences, Pakistan Journal of Medical Sciences achieved an IF of 0.719; Journal of Pakistan Medical Association IF of 0.718; Journal of College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan (JCPSP) IF of 0.439². These medical science journals are establishing a platform to publish quality research but still the task is tough and requires perseverance and hard work.

Shalamar Medical and Dental College (SMDC) Lahore, strives to promote a culture of research among faculty members and undergraduate as well as postgraduate students. Research and Ethics are considered integral to medical education. Students are persistently urged to indulge in research projects and writing papers by providing them with the required resources. This corroboration between research, academia, and practical practice promotes capacity and scholarship.

As a part of this initiative, Shalamar Medical College successfully launched its maiden journal (Bi-annual) in 2018 with the name "Medical Journal of Sakina Begum Institute". Two issues were published in 2019, Volume 1 Issue 1, January–June 2019 and Volume 1 Issue 2, July–December 2019 (<https://ejmanager.herokuapp.com>). The editorial board came across some technical and administrative issues due to which the name of journal has to be changed. The application with a request for a change in the name of this journal was submitted to Press Information Department (PID), Islamabad. The publication of the next issues of the journal got shelved in 2020. The publication of the journal was delayed in 2020 as the administrative processes at PID took a blow and slowed down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This pandemic was a tough and uncertain time for every person and organization. It required an unanticipated adaptation to distant modes of communication and administration with limited personnel. This led to a further delay in the processing of application. This journey has been painstaking, but the committed editorial team has put forth this latest issue (Volume 2, Issue 1) of "Journal of Shalamar Medical & Dental College (JSHMDC)". The aim of this journal is to share meaningful and conscientious medical information to promote health care. In order to establish accuracy and reliability a blinded peer review policy has been adapted. A well-organized system of online article submission process using the Open Journal Systems (OJS) is being used and administered by the editorial team. The need of ethics and professionalism in health-related reporting cannot be ignored. Therefore, a strict adherence to COPE (Committee of Publication Ethics) guidelines is a mandate of JSHMDC.

JSHMDC is devoted to publish recent advances in research with special emphasis on clarity of presentation and precision of the data. It publishes original research, review articles, case reports, case series and epidemiological studies. Review articles emphasizing important topics in the field of public health, drug research, genetics, and medical education are also invited by authors. Solicited editorials on emerging health issues are invited and also published.

We are looking forward to the reader's comments, suggestions and reviews for our current issue.

References:

1. Coomarasamy A, Gee H, Publicover M, Khan KS. Medical journals and effective dissemination of health research. Health Info Libr J. 2001; 18(4):183-91. doi: 10.1046/j.1365-2532.2001.00349.x.
2. Meo SA, Jawaid SA. Pakistan's Performance in Global Impact Factor Race. Pak J Med Sci. 2018; 34(4): 777-80. doi: 10.12669/pjms. 344.16035.

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