

From the Editor's Desk

We enter the new year-2023 with a silent Prayer: O' Lord help us all to work honestly. Let us have the ability to differentiate between right and wrong. Give us the strength to perform our duties efficiently- Amen.

It has been a difficult past-2022. The changes in rules of the regulatory bodies, to publish more, has made it difficult for the medical professionals to acquire success in their achievements. There seems to be a rush to publish research. Everyone desires to have a long list of publications with little time in their busy lives, meagre knowledge for conducting good research and no ability to write it. The time and efforts to learn this art are taken as a requirement of the olden days. It is strongly believed that in the modern era, the new gadgets and artificial intelligence can take over the functions of the human brain. This has ended with a tremendous rise in unethical acts.

JPMA has had a gradual increase in submissions. It was over 2650 in 2022. The standard of these articles has deteriorated. On the ethical requirements, one can only pray for reforms. The approvals from the Institution Review Board is taken as a joke. In many institutions no such entity exists. A lot of time and efforts are wasted in settling this issue with the authors. Authorship eligibility is another debatable subject. Everyone desires to have their names as authors even without any contribution. It was a female professional who added the name of her son, a young engineering student in China, as a co-author. On refusal to accept the names, she blamed us for discouraging the younger generation. There is a long list of experiences of this sort.

Despite these odds we keep on struggling to work honestly and ethically. The articles are rigorously triaged and rejected if sub-standard. All necessary support documents are checked. No leniency is shown on a missing certificate. This makes more work for the core team but eventually brings out a transparent document. Honesty has been our pride.

Another observation is the declining numbers of good peer reviewers. Although every one desires to become a reviewer for a standard journal, but the knowledge and experience is inadequate and most of all the efforts for improving the skill are insufficient. It is advisable for all senior members of this field to organize training sessions for peer reviewers. New members have to be inducted as how long will the seniors work.

I take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to all our office staff for maintaining the regularity of the publication. Mr. Adil, Faizan, Munib, Nasir and Ramzan headed by Mr. Ahmed Abdul Majid are the strong back bone of JPMA. The core members of the editorial board include, Drs. Anwar Siddiqui, Sina Aziz and Syed Muhammad Mubeen. They are the decision makers and have important responsibilities. Presently there are four students Warish, Kanza, Maida and Maryam helping out with all types of office work along with it they are learning the responsibilities of the editorial staff. Gratitude is extended to Mr. Imtiaz Jafri of Pak Cyber for maintaining an efficient website for JPMA. Lastly but most important are the peer reviewers who form the heart of the journal. May you be Blessed with good luck.

I sincerely Pray that the New Year-2023 brings better working conditions for all affiliated with JPMA, more understanding in the authors and extra zeal in all the peer reviewers.

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023 TO ALL.



Dr. Fatema Jawad

Editor-in-chief