

Silver Jubilee of JCPSP: A Story of Successes and Achievements

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It gives us great pleasure to inform the readers that year 2015 is the Silver Jubilee year of JCPSP. First issue of JCPSP was published in 1991. The visionary founding fellows of the College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan (CPSP), keeping upfront the needs of quality teaching, training and research in the field of biomedical basic and clinical sciences, foresaw the importance of a portal through which research results could be accessed by other. At that time technology was not that advanced and culture of publishing the research was in its infancy. JCPSP thus brought an opportunity for researchers, both from Pakistan and rest of the world, by acting as a link to provide quality journal of international standard through which they could send their scientific papers, which after peer review and in-house editing could be published free of cost, a service that may not be available in other parts of the world.¹

JCPSP started its publication in collaboration with the Department of Medical Education (DME) at CPSP where its editorial office was set up. Its first Chief Editor was Professor Fazal Elahi who was also Director of Medical Education in CPSP. Dr. Shahida Zaidi and Dr. Shabih H. Zaidi were the editors. JCPSP was started as a quarterly journal with four issues per year. In 1996, the frequency of the journal was increased to six issues a year and with an increase in the flow of articles, it assumed a monthly publication from 1999 onwards.²

Looking back at the progress of JCPSP, it is reassuring to note that the journal has moved farther and farther on the ladder of standard and quality biomedical publishing. The efforts of the editorial staff and the continued support of the contributors paid off in the form of indexing with Index Medicus /Medline (NLM, USA) in 2002. JCPSP is also indexed with many leading international medical indexing agencies, attesting to the quality, regularity of publication and the high standard of the publication. The success story continued and in year 2009, it was included in Journal Citation Report (JCR) of Thomson Reuters, earning an Impact Factor (IF). JCPSP was the first biomedical journal from Pakistan to attain the coveted distinction, culminating in achievement of 5-year IF.

The inflow of the articles to JCPSP is ever increasing. Initial assessment is a strong area of which JCPSP is proud of. Many articles are returned at this stage of processing for improvement. Editors provide detailed feedback in this regard thus it is not mere rejection but teaching and training of researchers as how to write a quality scientific article.

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Statistical support is also huge as our statisticians guide authors on this difficult subject. Many articles are assessed multiple times because of which our publication time is long, an area that we intend to improve on. This shall lead to early publication of articles without compromising JCPSP standard. For case reports category we have started publishing dedicated supplements as backlog is huge. This year we have planned to take out four such supplements.

The journal has its website active since several years. JCPSP website was extensively used by researchers throughout the world. During the current year JCPSP website was visited by 96,136 visitors from around the world and the website recorded 1,221,243 hits. The Editorial Board of the journal and IT department of the college are striving hard to transform to a user-friendly completely on-line system for submission, reviewing and tracking of the articles. It will expedite the processing of the articles and reduce cost and labor.

JCPSP is receiving wider coverage/citations, both nationally and internationally, which are reflected in JCR report. IF is expected to rise more as the number of original articles per issue have been increased. JCPSP has started forwarding list of authors and reviewers of published articles to DME CPSP for awarding CME/CPD credits with effect from May, 2014. This is another acknowledgment of contribution to JCPSP by our reviewers and authors.

The Editorial Board has chalked out a plan to celebrate Silver Jubilee occasion and a number of activities are planned. In October 2015, a special supplement of JCPSP will be published with invited articles from editors of other journals on the subjects of medical editing / publication etc. A one-day conference is also in pipeline that shall be organized in collaboration with Pakistan Association of Medical Editors (PAME). We also intend to run workshops on medical writing and peer-review for interested participants.

I thank all the contributors, reviewers, Editorial Board members and staff, as without their untiring support, hard work and dedication, the journal could not have reached this stage.

Wishing you a Happy New Year and happy reading throughout the Silver Jubilee Year of the journal.

REFERENCES

1. The College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan. [Internet] Available from URL <http://www.cpsp.edu.pk/> accessed on December 31, 2014.
2. Chaudhry ZU. Golden Jubilee of CPSP: Achievements of JCPSP. *J Coll Physicians Surg Pak* 2012; **22**:1-2.

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