

Editorial

MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF DWINDLING MEDICAL RESEARCH

What does a newly elected Editor of Pakistan Heart Journal say to his readers? For starters, I must say "Thank You"! Even though the Journal has no office, no fulltime staff, not even a typist, meagre funds and no spontaneous article contribution worth speaking about—it is still a great honour and even more so a great challenge to carry the flag of research and continuing medical education.

There must be something very peculiar about a medical community which feels the need to have a medical journal of their own but leaves it to one man to beg, borrow and solicit contributions just barely enough to give a minimal semblance of a journal. We have washed dirty linen in private long enough. It is time to do some soul searching out in the open. It is a handful of names that keep re-appearing on the authorship list. But then, this is not the problem of cardiology alone. This is a state affecting all aspects of our national life, medicine just reflecting the general trend. I do not know what occupies the brilliant minds I meet every day but it is certainly not a burning desire to search and research and share the thrill and pride of a discovery, however small, with one's contemporaries.

Now that we have pointed our finger at the culprit i.e. the lack of interest in research, even small clinical projects, let us do something about it. Where do we stand in the comity of nations in this regard? Look at our next door neighbour in the sub-continent. Index Medicus lists almost thirty journals from that country. What have we to show the world? Every soul-searching means bringing to surface ugly facts about ourselves. I know we have the moral courage to do it. Let us overcome the inertia that has bogged us down. Let the rewards of continuing medical education and research be visible for all to see and cherish.

I am confident we can and will overcome our problems or else I would not have accepted this office. This is your Heart Journal and let us make it worthy of being the official organ of the Pakistan Cardiac Society. Let this first editorial be the last editorial of its kind.

— EDITOR.

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