

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES!

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With the change of editor in chief the centre of publication of Pakistan Heart journal in 2011 shifted to Peshawar after being published for 44 years in Karachi. The journal has been published regularly for eight years with its office in Lady Reading Hospital, Peshawar by a dedicated team of editors supported by reviewers.

The first issue from here carried an editorial titled, 'The Rejuvenated journal'. Some plans were drawn for the future and most of them wore the attire of reality except a few. The editorial asserted, "So far, it was published biannually but from now onwards it shall be published quarterly. The number of articles will be increased by two to three folds. Newer sections will be added and we will welcome input from our esteemed cardiologists in the form of original research, reviews, short reports, clinical quizzes, brief communications and letters to the editor. The editorial board has twelve different sections and has a unique mix of national and international cardiologists from all over the world."¹ For the first time, an interactive website with state-of-art facilities for online submission, peer review and tracking of articles under review was launched. Enhanced visibility on web attracted more articles and hence elevated the stature of journal. Full text articles of old journals were made available in archives hence preserving the old issues. More importantly, the website now offers author and subject based search since 1978 with free availability of full text articles.

The journal celebrated silver jubilee two years ago. At this junction, it may be in order to put it on record the services rendered by chief editors of the past. Prof Ali Mohammad Chaudhary was the first Chief Editor who started PHJ, published six monthly, in 1967 and served for nine years. Prof AbdusSamad took over the reins in 1976 and added new flavour to the journal. Prof Azhar Faruqi started a marathon journey of sixteen years in 1980 with newer vigor and enthusiasm and improved the journal. PHJ started publishing quarterly and it continued as such till 1989. Prof Mansoor Ahmed took over as Chief Editor in 1996 and continued till 2011. In 2011 Prof. M. Hafizullah was elected as Chief Editor of the journal and this continues till now. Now, with the change of baton, this shall be the last issue to be published from Peshawar. The journey of research and preservation of research in cardiology, however, has to go on!

I wish to place on record my whole-hearted appreciation and gratitude to the whole team of editors and reviewers for their extreme hard work and ultimate dedication.

I am especially beholden to executive editor Prof Adnan Gul and managing editors Dr Tahir Shah-volumes 44-48, (12 issues) 2011-2014, Dr Abdur Rauf-volumes 48 and 49 (5 issues) 2014 -15 and Dr Umair Ali- volumes 49 -52 (16 issues) July 2015 till December 2019 for their wonderful and whole hearted contribution. In a whole we published 33 issues. Since 2012 Pakistan Heart Journal is being published regularly quarterly. It is indexed and abstracted in WHO IMEMR, Current Contents, Index Copernicus Poland, and registered with International Serials Data System of France. It is recognized by Higher Education Commission of Pakistan and approved by Pakistan Medical and Dental Council. The journal is covered by Pak medinet, google scholar and new jour.

In these few years PHJ earned a respectable reputation and became the focus of attention and research. Three esteemed medical journals were selected - namely Journal of the College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan (JCPSP), Pakistan Heart Journal (PHJ) and Pakistan Journal of Surgeons (PJS) to analyze citations of core Pakistani journals in the field of medical sciences. All volumes and issues published in the last ten years (from 2007 to 2016) were analyzed. Pakistani journals were more frequently cited by these three reputed journals of medical field. Journal of Ayub Medical College (JAMC) was the most cited journal. In PHJ, most (27.71%) citations were three authored followed by four authored citations in JCPSP (27.17%). The frequency of recent citations (up to 05 years old) was PJS (33.34%), PHJ (30.28%) and JCPSP (29.99%). Furthermore, 90% citations in PHJ were covered from journal sources.²

A bibliometric study to explore publication trends of scholarly literature published in Pakistan Heart Journal covering period from 2005 to 2018 was published recently.³ A similar study was published online analyzing data from 2005 to 2015.⁴ This quantitative study applied bibliometric methods to analyze original articles, authorship pattern, citations, contributions from different regions and other relevant parameters. The study revealed that the number of articles published in issues of the journal from 2005 to 2011 was 11.4 per year. The frequency of publications increased to quarterly and average number of articles published in ensuing seven years from 2012 to 2018 was 43.8 – four times of the previous journals. In cardiology, the main subject area covered in the articles were stable Ischemic Heart Disease as leading topic (15.46%), followed by Preventive Cardiology (14.40%), interventional cardiology, Heart failure and Acute Coronary Syndrome (13.6%). Articles with three authors were more in numbers (23.30%). Journal proved to be the more cited source of information (95.53%). Variation was found in the number of references cited in each article; out of total, 153 (40.05%) articles had 11-20 references. Article's length was analyzed and it was revealed that a majority (30.22%) of articles comprised of five pages. In regards to productivity, more authors belonged to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa region (40.96%). Number of articles submitted by foreign authors showed a steady increase, reflecting international acceptance and recognition.^{3,4}

Pakistan Heart Journal is more than fifty years old and saw a gradual increase in number of articles and quality in the last eight years. PHJ's main contributors during these years were from Lady Reading Hospital, Peshawar(69), AFIC/NIHD, Rawalpindi (30), NICVD, Karachi (18) and Ch Pervez Elahii Institute of Cardiology, Multan (16). Enhanced visibility due to active website attracted articles from all over the world especially from UK, USA, Iran, Turkey, India, UAE, and Saudi Arabia. International contribution now stands at ten percent meaning that every journal carries one to two articles.

What is the way forward on this journey? Regular, timely and more frequent publication of the journal, high quality articles through rigorous peer review, introduction of newer sections and launch of new journals of specialties like interventional, electro physiology, pediatric and preventive etc. Eventual aim remains indexation of the journal. Let me conclude the way I did eight years ago, "Proactive efforts are required to inculcate the culture of research at all levels and we need to formulate a research agenda for Pakistan. PHJ wishes to foster exchange of information among clinicians, researchers and health care professionals. The eventual goal is to translate the research and scientific advances to improve patient care. Journal reflects what is submitted and the quality can only improve if we all work harder and contribute more."¹

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