

EDITORIAL

Online, Open Access, Bimonthly PJCVTs: The New Face of Pakistan Society of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgeons



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Pakistan Society of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgeons (PSCVTS) was founded in 1991 and was registered as non-profit organization in 1993 [1]. In the year 2018 the Society would cross 25 years of its age. Any professional association, by definition, is a nonprofit organization seeking to further a particular profession, the interests of individuals engaged in that profession and the public at large. These objects of a professional organization are usually set out in its memorandum while the constitution, statutes or bylaw of the organization define the structure of the organization. The objectives of PSCVTS are very well described in its bylaw [2]. The main spirit of these objectives is to encourage collaboration for the education of cardiothoracic surgeons as well as general public for the improvement of cardiovascular and thoracic services in the country. The society has been partially successful in achieving its objectives in difficult circumstances. The current era has unfolded many new challenges and opportunities. The PSCVTS in its early days had less than a dozen fully qualified surgeons. Now the number has crossed three digits and is increasing steadily. This is perhaps the best strength of the society. A larger community with diverse skills and interests needs much bigger platform for sharing experiences. The annual meetings have provided this platform and had always been the most remarkable, or at times the only, feature of PSCVTS. The journal of the society is the other platform. We all experience the difficulties to publish our research in the international journals due to a variety of reasons and this highlights the need to have a high quality journal of our own.

Professional Journals are the true representatives of professional organizations. One

can get a very clear image of the body, mind and the soul of a professional organization by looking at its official journal. Journals also reflect the health of their organizations. However, publishing a medical journal is an uphill task. There are several established requirements of a successful journal [3]. The five basic needs for a successful journal include:

- Financial Security
- Competent Editorial Staff
- Reliable Reviewers
- Quality Submissions
- Responsive Readers

It is not a surprise that even the best organizations in the developed world have found difficulties to meet the above mentioned requirements [4]. Consequently, much has changed in the field of medical journalism over the past 20 years. Most of the journals in the world have moved from print version to online format. The Open Access approach is a relatively new initiative in this regard. One can debate the advantages and disadvantages of Open Access journals [5,6]. However, for readers of low income countries, it has provided a great opportunity for keeping their knowledge updated about the latest developments. The potential of Open Access medical journals for wide scale dissemination of research in shortest span of time is being recognized by the developed world. The governments and the organizations of the US, UK and Europe are urging their scholars to publish in the Open Access journals [7]. There is hardly any doubt that the Open Access approach has bridged many gaps and has brought the researches of *east and west* closer to each other. Gone are the days

when, the latest information was accessible only during the library hours and that too after paying costly subscriptions and membership fees by the privileged few.

Pakistan Journal of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery (PJCVTs) started in the customary print format in 2001. It produced 12 volumes under the Editorship of Dr. Nadeem Fahmi. The Editorial team was mainly based at NICVD and enjoyed the support of all the local surgeons especially Dr. Tariq Siddiqui. The newly elected management council of PSCVTs in October 2017 has decided to move forward and increase the scope as well as the quality of PJCVTs. With the beginning of 2018, the PSCVTs shall have its *new face* in the form of its Online, Open Access, Bimonthly Journal. The PJCVTs has already registered its dedicated domain and has developed its website. It has registered for ISSN and is aiming to get internationally indexed at the earliest. The current issue of January-February provides the outline of its new format and flavor. In addition to Original articles the PJCVTs shall publish case reports, and review articles. The journal would provide update on the recent developments in the fields of basic and advanced sciences which may impact out specialty in the coming days. In this regard a series of review articles shall be published on priority under the category of *Science for Surgeons*. Moreover, another series of review articles shall cover important topics for the candidates of advanced clinical and professional examinations.

The Editorial Board of the PJCVTs wholeheartedly request the members of society to provide their feedback. The best contribution to the journal can be in the form of submitting good quality manuscripts for publications. Those

members who have previous experience of editing should come forward to be the part of editorial team. We believe that journal has great future and would definitely provide priceless opportunities to the members to satisfy their academic ambitions.

Anjum Jalal FCPS-CS, FRCS-CTh

Managing Editor

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