EDITORIAL

BAQAI JOURNAL OF HEALTH SCIENCES: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

The first issue of the Baqai Journal of Health Sciences (Formerly, The Journal of Baqai Medical University) was published almost 19 years ago. Since then, 18 volumes of the journal have been published and now this is the 19th volume. During the last almost two decades many tribulations have been faced by the Editors especially in the past 2-3 years. It was the year 2013, when it was finally felt that this journal should be brought into the international horizon like many other national journals. The undersigned was appointed as the Associate Editor and given the responsibility to manage the shortcomings under the supervision of Prof. Syed Riaz Baqar, who was the Editor-in-Chief at that juncture. The major hurdle towards the recognition of the journal was that no website or online material was available at that time. The quest began with the development of a website with a complete archive. All previous issues were gathered, typed and scanned for the development of an archive. A webpage with all necessary information of the journal was created with an online submission facility. Another important lacking was the two years backlog in publications. The name of the journal was changed to include a wide range of allied health disciplines so that the backlog of volumes can be covered up by receiving more submissions. The Editorial Board was also reformed. Unlike the previous board, which contained members only from the Baqai Medical University, this time a vast majority of high-quality researchers / professionals were selected from reputed international organizations as well as from within Pakistan.

It is needless to mention the problems faced during the development stage but still couple of plights need to be highlighted. One of the major problems was very few number of submissions. The other or the biggest dilemma was the hacking of the journal website, not once but twice. This was fun for some people but it was a total washout for us as the hacker destroyed our webpage and almost completely removed the archived manuscripts for no reason. This caused a serious delay and rejection from different important indexing / abstracting services. Although this badly affected the progress but we did not lose our focus towards the set goals and objectives.

It was not an easy task but in spite of these problems, we managed to cope-up and started with full zeal. The webpage went again under maintenance and now it is available with better features than the previous one. Repeated call for papers and getting indexed / abstracted internationally by some of the agencies / database services sorted out the problem and finally the backlog has ended. The journal is again under consideration by many indexing / abstracting services and hopefully, soon it will be available on many important web portals.

The main target is to get this journal recognized not only with the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan and Pakistan Medical & Dental Council (PM&DC) but also with Thomson Reuters in order to enter its name in the Journals Master List as well as to acquire an Impact Factor. Although it is not a simple mission but valuable quality submissions from authors of medical and allied health disciplines will help us to fulfill this task.

Muhammad Ali Sheraz, Ph.D.
Editor-in-Chief