
EDITORIAL

NEW DAWN, NEW DAY, NEW JOURNAL

A journey of thousand miles starts with a small step. APMC Vol: 1 No.1 was published in January 2007. The very first sentence of the first editorial by Prof. Riaz Hussain Dab was a quote “PUBLISH OR PERISH”. However whatever you publish should have impact factor and this is only possible if your publications is accredited/ recognized by your local Medical Council.

This is the first copy following recognition by Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) vide Index Pakistan No. IP/0044. I must acknowledge the efforts of our previous and present Principals to achieve this goal. Similarly I congratulate the editorial board, associate editors and young researchers / writers, without their contribution this milestone was not possible to achieve.

The name “Annals of Punjab Medical College (APMC)” was conceived by Prof. Dr. M.Y. Shah and approved by the Academic council of Punjab Medical College. Prof. Dr. M. Y. Shah has reminded us on many occasions that he is waiting for the last two years to receive Rs. 5000, prize money declared to be given to that person whose proposed name is selected for the journal. I hope that our worthy Principal Prof. Riaz Hussain Dab will definitely hand over this prize money in future to acknowledge the positive and healthy criticism of Prof. M. Y. Shah for the improvement of the journal.

In future we are expecting to receive more articles for publication. More load is expected and there would be choice for the editor to select or reject on individual basis. However for us not only the research topic / work is important, ethics has its own role. Therefore we have tried to keep the ethical standards high and have published the work of those researchers who have followed the maximum standard discussed in our ethical committee meetings.

We need to remove the inertia and slow pace of work regarding research projects. For example the research approval committee approved one of the key research projects on tissue culture proposed by the Eye department. As I know, the project is still on papers and physical start still awaited. Let me quote the work of Dr. Anthony Atala, director of the Institute for Regenerative Medicine (Anne Underwood Newsweek Aug 3, 2009, Page 44).

Dr. Atala has produced urinary bladder by tissue culture to replace in needy patients. He starts by taking a small bladder biopsy from the patient and extracting his or her stem cells.

After allowing the cells to multiply in the lab for about a month, he spreads them onto a collagen scaffold fashioned in the shape of a bladder. He then incubates the would-be organ in a bioreactor that provides the same temperature, oxygen level, growth factors, and nutrients that would be found in the body. In two weeks, he has a small but functional organ, ready for a patient.

Now he has moved on to other possible replacement parts. He is working on 22 tissues and organs, including kidneys, heart valves, and cartilage.

Millions of patient worldwide could one day be the beneficiaries. One can imagine the importance of such a work (Anne Underwood Newsweek Aug 3, 2009, Page 44). The committee knows the importance of such work and is ready to help the Department of Ophthalmology to break the inertia and starts the proposed projects.

I pray that we should be able to keep the standards high to earn respect among the scientific and medical community of our country and abroad.

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