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FROM EDITOR'S DESK

With the scientific & technological advance taking place at an incredible pace, it has become necessary to periodically refresh and update the existing knowledge. The present issue of JIMSA is devoted to a highly academic and research - oriented subject – 'New Developments in Laparoscopic Surgery'. This procedure is now an established minimal excess surgical technique being popularly practised by the general surgeons, neurologists, obstetricians and gynecologists. Many abdominal surgical interventions which were earlier being performed through abdominal incisions are now being carried out under laparoscopic visualization; benefit to the patients being minimal hospitalization stay and minor morbidity. During the last two decades many surgeons have acquired training, skill and expertise in this technique which has now become a routine procedure for a large number of surgical conditions.

Friends, we are fortunate to have versatile and knowledgeable general surgeon – **Dr. Brij Bhushan Agarwal** as the **Guest Editor** of this special issue. I am extremely grateful to him for his personal interest and pains taking efforts in bringing out this excellent monogram. The topics have been appropriately selected covering major disciplines of medicine; various chapters have been contributed by experts in their respective fields from all over the country and abroad.

Dr. Agarwal's laparoscopic bloodless breast surgery without using potentially harmful 'energy source' leaving scar performed in over two dozen breast-lump cases, has been internationally recognized. Dr. Agarwal has very rightly emphasized that laparoscopic technique should be used judiciously and must be avoided in situations where the surgeon does not feel confident due to inadequate expertise. The write ups of various subjects provide useful and practical information; I am confident the issue will not only benefit the practising surgeons but will also enrich the knowledge of postgraduates, researchers in the field and teachers of various medical institutions. I really feel indebted to Dr. Brij Bhushan Agarwal and the team of experts who have contributed to this issue; no doubt, a commendable task has been achieved.

I take this opportunity to thank all the members of Editorial and Advisory Boards for their help and suggestions and also the various pharmaceutical firms without whose financial help this publication would not have been possible.

P. D. Gulati

JIMSA BEST PUBLISHED ARTICLE AWARDS

Journal of International Medical Sciences Academy has instituted award for **three (3)** best original articles published during the previous 3 years; **guidelines** are as below:

- (1) **Original articles** belonging to any discipline of medicine published in JIMSA during the previous three years.
- (2) Age Limit for the principal author/main researcher should be 45 years and below.
- (3) Number of awards: Three (3) annually, carrying a gold plated medal, citation and cash prize (1st Rs. 3000/-, 2nd Rs. 2000/-, 3rd Rs. 1000/-)
- (4) Awardee should preferably be a fellow/member of IMSA; non-fellows/ non members can also be considered for the award if the original work is outstanding; and if selected for the award will be required to apply for fellowship/membership of IMSA.
- (5) Awardees should preferably plan to receive the award at the annual IMSA conference - IMSACON.

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