

SILVER JUBILEE YEAR 2012**JIMSA: 25 YEARS OF CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS.****P. D. Gulati***Editor, JIMSA**Senior Hony. Consultant in Nephrology, Tirath Ram Shah Hospital & Metro Hospital, New Delhi, India***INITIAL PHASE: IMSA NEWS LETTER**

International Medical Sciences Academy (IMSA) was founded in March 1981. At its Board of Trustees meeting in 1983, it was decided to have IMSA quarterly Newsletter. Dr P S Gupta and Dr P D Gulati was requested to take up the responsibility by the then President of IMSA. First Newsletter was published in July 1983 and the second 6 months later. First one focused mainly on IMSA's objectives & scope, academy activities; chapters in India and abroad, with names of the chairmen, secretaries and also some excerpts from the constitution defining assignment of various chapter heads. Second newsletter, besides giving the news of the IMSA activities, included salient points from the minutes of the Board of Trustees / Central Executive Committee meetings, held during the quarter. Since the Academy could not afford the cost of printing and dispatch the IMSA newsletter was discontinued.

JIMSA LAUNCHED IN APRIL 1987

As the Academy grew, the financial position became somewhat better. Board of Trustees/Central Executive Committee members, at a meeting held in early 1987, decided to have a journal as an official publication of IMSA. Prof. P S Gupta who was also present at the meeting accepted the responsibility as Editor and Dr P D Gulati was named joint Editor. The first issue of JIMSA was published in April 1987; it contained 2 original, 2 case reports and one update.

Because of shortage of funds with IMSA, the editors were requested to make the journal self sustaining at the earliest. However, for the first issue, editors were able to motivate few pharmaceutical firms for financial assistance; major expense still came from the Academy funds.

GROWTH OF JIMSA

An appeal was issued by the Editor to all fellows / members of IMSA to send scientific contributions to JIMSA. Proper editorial board of 6 members and 16 advisors was formed in 1988. Being a multidisciplinary journal; the scientific contents included original/review articles, case reports from different disciplines, extracts from the current literature; new drug profiles, academy news (selection of fellows, IMSACON news) gradually started coming and we were able to print approximately 30 page issue. Soon the "Instructions to the Authors" were framed and were regularly published in the quarterly issues. Each article was reviewed by the referee before being accepted.

In the year 1997, Prof. P.S. Gupta, on account of his professional commitments expressed inability to continue; Dr P.D. Gulati was appointed the Editor; he nominated Dr. S. N. A. Rizvi and Dr P.Chatterjee as joint and assistant editors, respectively. Editorial Board was enlarged to 10 and Advisory Board to 26 eminent experts in different disciplines of Medicine. The size of the journal was increased to 50 pages per issue. Since then, JIMSA never looked back and made consistent improvement in the publication schedule and standard and variety of scientific content and quality of printing. All articles were subjected to a peer review before being accepted for publication.

Over the years as the fellowship and membership of IMSA grew; circulation was widened; there was a need to increase the number of copies of JIMSA being printed. It was only 350 copies in the year 1987, was increased to 550 copies in the year 1997, to 650 copies in the 2000, 1000 copies in the

year 2003, 1400 copies in the year 2008; publication remained quarterly all these years. Several changes were made in the cover page, overall get up, quality of paper etc. In an attempt to make the journal nationally and internationally acceptable; the standard of the original articles and case reports and other material improved remarkably because of the rigid peer review; several new features were added to attract the postgraduates, specialists, teachers, like introduction of the scientific editorial based on one of the leading original articles being published in the issue, special issues containing 10 to 12 review articles on a subject of current interest were introduced in 1998 and were intended to be published every alternate quarter. Later in the year, in order to give an academic uplift to the regular quarterly issues containing original article/case reports, updates; symposium having 4 to 6 articles on a theme selected by the editorial board, was introduced. Special issues and symposia were generally contributed by senior faculty members from medical colleges; several eminent specialists from all over the country volunteered to contribute to the journal.

JIMSA FINANCES

Since the supply of journal to all elected fellows and members of IMSA was intended to be free of cost as per policy decision and the funds collected from advertisements were quite inadequate, 60% of the publication expenses were drawn from IMSA funds till the year 1997. Subsequently with increasing efforts put in by the editor and with the help of editorial board members 80% expenses were covered by the advertisements received from the pharmaceutical firms during the year 1998. Later through the personal efforts of the then Secretary General, Dr I P S Kalra, Department of Science & Technology, CSIR sanctioned the first annual grant of Rs. 40,000/- in the year 2006 which has ever since been coming regularly; and the sanctioned amount was increased to Rs. 50,000/- in 2008, Rs. 75,000/- in the year 2010. Simultaneously, the President made an appeal to all fellows / members in the year 2000 to contribute Rs. 1000/- each to meet the partly the cost of printing of JIMSA, a sum of Rs. 1,19,000/- was collected as donation from fellows. The President, in the year 2006 allocated Rs. 1000/- (share of fellowship fee) per newly enrolled fellow to JIMSA so as to cover partly the cost of despatch of JIMSA.

JIMSA WEBSITE

It was in the year 2005, the editor proposed the idea of having JIMSA Website and through his influence a donation of Rs. 20000/- was received and website with full article text access, was started. Ever since the journal is being accessed on the website which is being regularly maintained through donations. This has saved the cost and postage to fellows and members in countries abroad; it has facilitated access to JIMSA-full text of articles and other news of the academy.

At present, approximately 10% articles are being received through e-mail. In view of advances in technology; the present editorial board is aware of the need and is striving hard to make the publication and processing of the articles 'online'.

IMPORTANT LANDMARKS OF JIMSA

1983 IMSA Newsletter started in 1983-two newsletters in the year. Dr. P. S. Gupta and Dr. P. D. Gulati appointed editors.

- 1987 Journal of International Medical Sciences Academy (JIMSA)-**launched** as quarterly publication; 30 to 35 page issue containing original research, case reports, updates; total 350 copies each per issue were printed in the year 1987.
- 1988 **Editorial Board was constituted** with 6 members and Advisory Board 16 members (Peer Reviewers, JIMSA).
- 1989 New Section introduced-**Journal Scan, Drug Profile**.
- 1997 **Dr P. D. Gulati** took over as '**Editor**'. Revision/expansion of Editorial/Advisory Board; all major disciplines/super specialies covered. Number of pages increased to 50 per issue. **Dr. (Mrs.) Sachdev**, the then Secretary General of IMSA was the main guiding force for the upliftment of JIMSA.
- 1998 "**Special Issue**" containing 10 to 12 articles started; first issue was on "**Advances in Nephrology**" compiled by Dr. P. D.Gulati and Dr. S.N.A. Rizvi.
- 1999 "**Symposium**" containing 4 to 6 articles as part of regular issue introduced; first symposium was on "**Age-related disorders**", compiled by Dr. (Mrs.) S. Sachdev.
- 1999 "**Scientific Editorial**" based on the leading original article largely intended to be of National Health importance, started, first editorial was on "Medical Treatment of Bimgh Prostatic Hypertrophy by Prof. V. J. Anand."
- 2000 "**JIMSA Circulation**" widened; several Institutional members, individual members enrolled; decision was taken to send complimentary copies (50 to 60 per issue) to major Government Medical College libraries; number of copies per issue increased to 650.
- 2000 "**Department of Science & Technology (CSIR)**" recognized JIMSA as an important academic activity of International Medical Sciences Academy; first grant of Rs. 40000/- sanctioned for its publication received in the year 2000.
- 2001 "**E-mail ID**" installed for IMSA.
- 2003 "**JIMSA format**"; journal cover page changed; printing and paper quality also upgraded, number of copies printed per issue increased to 1000.
- 2004 "**JIMSA Best Paper award**"; intended for 3 best published research work in JIMSA the proceeding year instituted; during Awardees were selected by the Committee of 6 members from amongst the editorial advisory board members.
- 2005 "**JIMSA Website**" launched to increase the visibility.
- 2008 **IMSA fellows and members** increased; number of copies per issue increased to 1400.
- 2011 **Prof. S.C. Tiwari** nominated as **Associate Editor** and **Prof. N. S. Neki** and **Dr. Ashok Patel (USA)** as **Section Editors**. *Section wise responsibility* assigned to the Editorial Board members.
- 2011 "**JIMSA Travel Grant**" (2 such grants for less than 45 years of age reseachers) started.
- 2011 "**JIMSA Indexed**" in the largest Indian Data base **IndMED-(NIC)**.

JIMSA BEST ARTICLE AWARD

In order to encourage original research work, awards for the 3 best published papers during the year, were instituted. Each award included citation, gold medal, cash prize. Because of the rigid selection criteria, the award committee selected only one candidate in 2005; none in 2006, 3 in 2007, none in 2008, 2 in 2009, 3 in 2010 for JIMSA best article award.

JIMSA TRAVEL GRANT

In an effort to encourage young medical researchers, JIMSA instituted Travel Grant for research work to be presented every alternate year at IMSACON, the annual conference of the Academy held at Hyderabad in 2011.

The criteria laid down were:

- Research work defining clearly the objectives, selection of material, methodology adopted, result analysis with statistics, discussion and conclusions. A summary in 350 words highlighting why the paper should be considered for the award, must be enclosed.
- Each grant of Rs. 8000/- per awardee, to cover the travel expenses

with in the country (total of 2 such grants).

- Selected candidates are required to submit full manuscript (3 copies along with one CD) prepared as per the format of JIMSA to be sent to the Editor, JIMSA for consideration of publication in JIMSA after proper review by the referee.

Total of three (3) papers were submitted for JIMSA Travel grant in 2011 for Hyderabad Conference; none was found suitable for the award.

JIMSA INDEXED IN INDMED, NIC

Editorial Board of JIMSA has been trying for the last 3 years to get the Journal indexed in the largest India database, IndMED. It is a matter of pride for all of us that Journal Selection Committee (constituted by ICMR) has approved JIMSA Indexing in IndMED - <http://indmed.nic.in> on August 3, 2011.

JIMSA will host full text of journal articles at MedIND - <http://medind.nic.in> and all articles will be available regularly free of cost. This will ensure wider publicity of the scientific material being published in JIMSA. It has been a **landmark achievement** for the journal. Editorial Board expects better standard of research submitted for JIMSA.

JIMSA TODAY

- JIMSA is an INDEXED Journal today. Its annual scientific inputs include 12 to 13 original research articles, 10 to 12 case reports, two symposia & two special issues on subjects of common interest contributed by experts in the field.
- JIMSA serves an important medium for the post graduates, teachers, specialists of all medical subjects for updating their knowledge.
- JIMSA is an important source of information for the medical fraternity; the journal serves as an impetus for medical professionals to join the International Medical Sciences Academy.
- On time quarterly publication is always ensured.
- JIMSA now has a rigid peer review system for processing of the articles.

FUTURE OF JIMSA

Editing a medical journal is a stupendous task, specially when one is chasing deadlines and at the same time, waiting for articles especially invited ones to arrive till the last moment and expecting perfection in publishing. The efforts of the editorial board are always to concentrate on the quality of the journal and publish high standard articles conveying the key message of the creative research. I am still not sure about the impact of our on going efforts since not many critical inputs have been received from the readers of JIMSA.

The image of a journal depends on the quality of scientific content and we certainly need to introspect on that.

Editorial board members have been striving hard to improve the journal over the years. No doubt a lot has been achieved due to continued cooperation and help of the members and guidance from the Board of Trustees especially the President, Dr K. Jagadeesan and Dr Sandip Mukerjee, senior BOT member & Trustee JIMSA. A lot more has to be done to bring the journal to international standards.

There have been increasing number of requests from the authors for early processing and publication of articles; Editorial Board is trying to device methods to cut down the time from one and half year to less than one year; online publication system is being worked out. Inclusion of a professional proof reader to improve the English is being planned, if funds permit.

JIMSA has completed 24 years of steady growth. Editorial Board is committed to raise the image of JIMSA to greater heights with continued constructive suggestions from all concerned during the Silver Jubilee Year 2012.

We have succeeded in getting JIMSA indexed in Natioanal database IndMED; Friends, JIMSA is an international journal and we must put in our best to get it internationally recognized – the ultimate goal should be to get JIMSA indexed in PubMed.