THE MOVING FINGER WRITES AND HAVING WRITTEN MOVES ON.

Arshad Javaid

Address for Correspondence:
Professor Arshad Javaid
Chief Editor
Pakistan Journal of Chest Medicine
Department of pulmonology
Lady Reading Hospital,
Peshawar - Pakistan
E-mail: arshadj34@gmail.com

It gives us great pleasure to present to you the first issue of the journal under the new editorial board. Before commenting on the new board and its vision, it would be greatly amiss if we did not acknowledge the selfless contribution of two stalwarts of the society who brought the journal here—namely Dr I S Burki and Dr Sohail Akhtar. Dr Burki as the lone crusader started and ran the journal single handedly with little help from the society and zilch contribution from the members. Against all odds this lone wolf kept the presses rolling for longer than most of us can remember. He was followed by Dr. Sohail who with his usual meticulousness and selfless academic fervour revamped the journal and put it in more scientific/current lines with peer review and paper tracking. Now the journal has been handed over to Peshawar team, which comprises a remarkable blend of old and new, the young and not so young, bringing together experience of the seniors and enthusiasm of the juniors, the vision of the experienced and the energy of the youth, the anecdotes of the grey haired and the Google exploits of the new generation.

Now that the baton has been handed over to us, we intend to take the journal to the next level and the next and the next till we place it where we envision it, i.e., amongst the top peer reviewed, indexed impact factor journals of the country. The longest journey begins with the first step. The Board has already taken the following steps.

1. Mailing lists of members are being revised in an effort to ensure that every member receives his hard copy regularly

2. Peer review by both national and international reviewers for each article.

3. Purchase of soft ware for PJCM to be fully online so that any author/reviewer/editor/nosy parker can locate any article at any time and know about its progress and status. The same soft ware will archive all issues of the journal

4. Purchase of soft ware to detect plagiarism

5. Putting the journal on the web is work under progress

The above steps would improve the quality of the journal, increase its exposure and audience and contribute towards the impact factor—all of which are requirements for indexation.

A chain is as strong as its weakest link. The weakest link here is the members. All of the above would be an exercise in futility if members do not contribute articles to the journal. The track record of the society in this respect is more than just dismal; it is appallingly dismal. The society has no dearth of experts, academicians and researchers. However ask them to contribute an article and they seem to disappear.

Now it is up to the members. The editorial board has the vision and the infrastructure in place to take this journal to dizzying heights to take its rightful place amongst the galaxy of international journals. However if the members continue to be just the readers and no contribution, then all they get would be just a journal not so regular and low in quality. Choice is yours.