

## FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S DESK

# THE INAUGURAL ISSUE OF THE JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY OF OBSTETRICIANS & GYNAECOLOGISTS OF PAKISTAN

Thanks be to Allah, the Almighty for having fulfilled my long lasting desire of editing the journal of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Pakistan (SOGP). This society having been formed in 1957, the year I graduated, existed over the years well enough, until around 70s or so its history became checkered, when it was divided into North and South Pakistan components. Having been given the opportunity of becoming the Secretary General of the Northern component, called Pakistan Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (PSOG), it was my utmost desire to get the two ruptured apart bits, reunited. With the profound support of Late Prof. Bilquis Malik, the President of the PSOG, and other senior and influential officials, my dream came true. At the eve of PSOG and resurgence of a single national Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Pakistan to be recognized internationally, I edited and published a journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology through sole dedicated efforts and selfless devotion as Vol. 1, No 1, in April, 1985. Further more fully financing this journal myself, I transferred the PSOG funds to Late Prof. Mahmooda Saeed, the president of SOGP, at that time. I had hoped that the journal of the society I had published would continue, but alas this did not come true, with the change of SOGP President and for other reasons, better not spelt out.

The society kept on going through curvilinear courses, with excellent performances at times. But now under the dynamic leadership of Prof. Lubna Hassan, the society is bound to emerge as ONE scintillating unit of scientific eminence, with its satellites uniformly distributed all over the country, gaining the advantage of nationwide expertise of highly accomplished teachers and professionals, fulfilling her multifaceted aspirations amicably, including that of the publications of this journal. Personally I am thankful to her for having invited me to take over the gigantic responsibility of Editor- In-Chief of the journal of SOGP, which is of course a pleasure in view of my decades long experience and enthusiasm in this hard task field.

In the publication of this journal the authors had a responsibility in conducting genuine research and preparing and submitting the manuscripts according to the journal's specifications. Without their efforts there would have been no journal.

Amidst the chain of ethical research, data analysis with consideration of various variables, biostatistics, manuscript preparation (as asked for), peer review, proof reading, editing with final amendments and publication, the "Editors conform a major link" between the evidence

arrived at and the policy makers, for they can voice the importance of incorporation of the medical professionals, (in our case the Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of substance) into the actual system of policy making and its implementation.

Peer review being an unbiased, independent, critical assessment is an intrinsic part of all scholarly works. This double blind process ensures quality publications.

The eventual goal of the whole exercise in our field being the improved and an updated management of gynaecological problems and optimal care of the expectant mothers and their unborn and newly born off springs.

Editing on the other hand is an art and skill of its own kind, learnt the hard way round, and that too if someone is really interested and keen to do so as it entails hours, days and nights of application, concentration and sacrifice. The only reward being that more and more people will learn at least to organize their work or appreciate and benefit from the corrections made in their submitted manuscripts, strictly according to the laid down requirements, as given in the instructions to the authors at the end of this issue of the journal.

Going through the pages of this inaugural issue of the journal it will be observed that ancient history of medicine with reference to Obstetrics and Gynaecology has been included with the belief that “those of us who do not cherish, honour or even remember the great scholars and medical practitioners of the gone by era, shall never progress in future and their shadows will fade away with passing time.”

Among other contents the original articles on various fields of our discipline have been included, along with the burning issue of yet tremendous maternal mortality. Cases of importance and rarity are also incorporated. Under graduate medical education has formed a component because its uplifted quality will lead to formation of better doctors, with inherent skills of CME, so helpful in postgraduate life, with Obstetrics and Gynaecology being no exception. An annotation has been written with reference to one case report, just to introduce this style of commenting.

To enhance the uplift of the journal, Gynaecological and Obstetric “Quiz” pictures are added and they in turn are supposed to lead to brain blasting, searching for the answers. The pictorial series on the other hand on the page inside the back cover should be educative. The search from the literature to find out what is new in our field is another dimension for inculcating the habit of looking up either the electronic or published versions for the latest developments.

Despite all this, there are bound to be short comings, which are inherent to such initial and speedy works, please consider them conducive towards further betterment. Constructive criticism however will be most welcome.

At this point I would like to express the desire, that the editors of this peer reviewed journal; all being highly qualified and accomplished professionals; will become members not only of the Pakistan Association of Medical Editors (PAME), but in due course of time also of Eastern Mediterranean Association of Medical Editors (EMAME) and later still of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), also.

Furthermore it is aimed that JSOGP will be recognized by PM&DC and HEC in retrospect from the date of publication of its first issue, to authenticate the original work of the authors, and later by the other national organizations and then be indexed by the WHO cumulative Index Medicus of EMR Journals and of global organizations, in due course of time.

Although the writing process had started centuries ago by the feathers on papyrus and went through enhancements like the press and so on till the electronics of today which have not only increased the speed of work but also its efficiency, yet the publication of printed material will never perish.

Finally I would like to wish the journal, “your journal” progress by leaps and bounds and favourable winds.

It now remains to acknowledge the input of the authors, advisors, peer reviewers/editors, whose contributions have been highly appreciated. In particular I would like to thank the managing staff specially Dr. Shazia Syed (Senior Registrar) and the Computer Graphics expert Mr. Shakil-ur-Rehman, for their tremendous help and in total layout of the journal. Last but not the least Prof. Rizwana Chaudhri devoted tremendous energy toward this venture both at the scientific and managerial fronts.

Prof. Lubna Hassan herself has been a driving force for the publication of this journal.

She in her message has acknowledged the enormous support extended by Himont pharmaceutical company and the editorial board joins her in that.

Prof. Khalida Adeeb Khanum Akhtar  
Editor-in-Chief

**Your speedy submission of carefully prepared Manuscript for JSOGP will help the timely publication of further issues of this quarterly journal of yours.**