

Editor's Note

A meeting of the Editorial Board of Pakistan Journal of Medical Sciences (PJMS) was held at Karachi on May 18th 2002. Dr. Maqbool H. Jafary Chief Editor and Chairman of the Editorial Board presided. The meeting was attended by twenty-one members of the Editorial Board from Karachi besides three observers. Those who were present included Dr. Maqbool H. Jafary, Prof. Abdus Samad, Prof. Mrs. Jehan Ara Pal, Prof. H.R. Ahmad, Prof. Hassan Aziz, Prof. Ejaz. Ahmad Vohra, Prof. Rasheed Jooma, Prof. M.A. Arif, Prof. Z. A. Bhutta, Prof. Moinuddin, Prof. Essa Abdullah, Prof. S. M. Inkisar Ali, Prof. Manzar Saleem, Dr. Mohammad Mukhtar Ahmad, Dr. S. A. Siddiqui, Dr. Alam Ara, Prof. M. Pervez Iqbal, Dr. Mervyn Hosein, Dr. Inayatullah Padhiar, Mr. Shaukat Ali Jawaid, Dr. Syed Ehsanullah, besides three observers Dr. Waris Qidwai, Dr. Niloufer Sultan Ali and Dr. Masood Jawaid.

Welcoming the participants Dr. Maqbool H. Jafary said that the full meeting of the Board is taking place after a significant lapse of time. However, smaller meetings have been held from time to time to discuss editorial issues. In future we will ensure that we meet regularly and more frequently. Efforts will be made to organize a meeting in Karachi in the first quarter of the year and at Lahore for Editorial Board Members from Lahore, Multan and Rawalpindi- Islamabad in the third quarter every year.

Mr. Shaukat Ali Jawaid Managing Editor of PJMS highlighted the suggestions put forward during the last two meetings and the progress made so far as regards their implementation. He also gave details about the manuscripts received, published and rejected during the Year 2000 and 2001. The participants were also briefed about the developments regarding Indexing of the PJMS in the Index Medicus by

National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, USA.

Many members felt that there was a need to expand the scope of write-ups accepted for publication. The Journal must have something to offer to each and every healthcare professional including the GPs and Family Physicians. After detailed deliberations, it was decided to further expand the contents of the Journal to include Clinical Updates, CME write-ups, Photo Quiz, Controversies, Debates, Surgical procedures, Good Reviews, Short communications etc. Students Page and Family Physicians section should also be added.

Some members suggested that there should be a separate proforma for Original Article, Reviews, Case Reports and Short Communications etc. While reviewing a manuscript, reference to local studies should be ensured. Some members felt that comments of the reviewers should be presented in such meetings so that we can also benefit from their views. The need to train research mentors was also highlighted. Another suggestion put forward pertained to inviting experts to deliver a talk on a relevant subject including peer review system which will make these meetings much more productive. Dr. Maqbool H. Jafary informed the participants that Pakistan Medical Journalists Association (PMJA) was working on these lines and soon we intend to organize a workshop on Peer Review System. It was also suggested that experts from different fields and Members of the Editorial Board can be requested to contribute as to what is new in their specialty on regular basis. Starting a series on basics of various subjects like ABC of different specialties will be an interesting addition to the contents.

Reconstitution of the Editorial Board also figured in the discussion. It was pointed out that this remains under constant review and efforts are being made to induct more research

scientists and investigators with academic interest particularly from the young talented healthcare professionals affiliated with various medical institutions. At the same time, those who are too busy and do not have time will be relieved of their responsibilities with appropriate replacements in those disciplines. About half a dozen members have already been inducted from overseas while search for more continues. Their contributions will further enrich the contents of the journal. All members of the Editorial Board were also reminded that as per decisions of the last meeting, they are supposed to contribute at least one write-up every year. A

journal is only as good as its Editorial Board hence their personal contributions will go a long way in promoting the quality of its contents.

In the end Dr Maqbool H. Jafary thanked all those present for their valuable remarks, comments and suggestions and assured them that sincere efforts will be made to implement their suggestions. A similar meeting will be organized for Editorial Board members from Lahore, Multan, Rawalpindi-Islamabad at Lahore during the third quarter of 2002.

SHAUKAT ALI JAWAID
Publisher/Managing Editor