

Correspondence

Proceedings of 5th International Symposium on Typhoid Fever

I just received a complementary copy of the Pakistan Journal of Medical Science. It contained detailed proceedings of the symposium on typhoid fever held in February 2002 in Pakistan. The report is very useful and helps us to recall the key issues raised. It is very comprehensive and good indeed.

However, I would like to point out one serious error in reporting the speaker from Malaysia. I thought you would have the programme book of the list of speakers. On page 167, second paragraph, the researcher and speaker of the work quoted on molecular typing of MDR is Dr Thong Kwai Lin and not Dr. Shamala Devi. She is not even listed as a co-author of this particular paper (though she presented her work in another paper). As a pioneer in this area of molecular epidemiology of *S. typhi*, I think that this is quite an insult.

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Editor's Note: We are extremely sorry for this inadvertent error, which occurred due to some oversight but was not intentional. As soon as it was pointed out, the necessary correction was carried out in the Online Edition of Pakistan Journal of Medical Sciences effective July 25th 2002.

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Quality Peer Review

I am extremely grateful for the valuable comments of the Reviewers which has helped me to improve the quality of my manuscripts. Let me also say that I have not experienced such a

nice and prompt response from any other medical journal in Pakistan.

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Publication charges

I would like to compliment the editorial board of PJMS for providing a forum to further clinical and research goals of medical community in Pakistan. But, I am also surprised that the Journal requires payment by authors to cover the costs for publication (in addition to cost incurred by author for work, typing, printing and mail). I believe such a condition discourages potential young clinicians/authors who work long hours in a poor society. Most Journals cover their expenses through advertisements and I assume PJMS also draws from its advertisers.

I hope the editorial board will take this into consideration to encourage growth of scientific writing among our young but not so affluent doctors!

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Editor's note: Publication of medical journals in Pakistan is not financially viable for various reasons. There is not enough support from the Pharma industry to meet the ever-increasing publication costs. This issue has been discussed in the Editorial Board meeting many times but for the time being there appears to be no alternative. Besides the print-edition, we also maintain an on-line edition which is very expensive since it involves payment in foreign exchange to maintain the Website. However, we do waive off the publication charges in deserving cases if a request is made by the authors.

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