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EDITORIAL

Goodbye PJNM, Hello PJNMed

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Congratulations! PJNMed is an impressive journal, the systems in place are of international standards, and the editorial process is second to none. PJNMed has come a long way from PJNM, but remember; without PJNM, I am unsure if there would ever be PJNMed.

I see PJNMed as the evolved form of PJNM. At the time of this first print issue of the PJNMed (3rd e-issue), I hope we can reflect and acknowledge all the hard work that went into creating the PJNM. I would be remiss if I did not appreciate Dr. Qaiser Siraj, the Founding Editor in Chief, and Dr. Hamid Naseer, the Publications Secretary, who accepted the challenge with me and believe me; it was a massive challenge of creating first Journal of Nuclear medicine for Pakistan. None of us knew about publishing, there was no infrastructure, and there were very little funds; certainly not enough to hire a publication company. Hence, Qaiser learned a desktop publication program and spent his own money to get the journal website registered, and I became the editor and reviewer. Qaiser and I decided that we would not refuse any article for issues of language and that we would edit for clarity ourselves, thus making it easier to publish in the journal. Hamid was in charge of getting the paper-print out and struggled with permits and authorizations before finding a local printer. Spending several hours in a cramped printing press in a narrow street in Urdu Bazaar, in sweltering Lahore. He ensured the quality of printing, the accuracy of pagination, and the clarity of images both within the journal and on the cover. I remember distributing flyers in conferences in Bangladesh and South Africa, persuading authors to publish in our young journal, and we finally got the first issue out. The rest, as they say, is history.

Of the many challenges we faced, and I think the new editors will face too, the biggest would be the general reluctance of our Nuclear Medicine Community to write for the journal. Those who are prolific writers, prefer to submit to more established journals and this journal will not become established unless we get those productive authors. This creates a catch-22, for the journal.

I have confidence that the present chief editor, Dr. M Babar Imran, will rise to these challenges. I am delighted to see so many well-known professionals on the editorial board and am particularly happy to see that there is at least one non-nuclear medicine professional on the board, Dr. Ashwani Rajput, a surgical oncologist from the US. I hope the editor can interest others from allied specialties so that we can listen to those for whom we practice, the referring physician. I also see Dr. Ali Nawaz Khan here, a radiologist of international repute, a tireless author, and a superb human being. I would urge the editor to ask Dr. Khan for a review for every issue.

Finally, a few words for the nuclear medicine community of Pakistan. PJNMed will not thrive unless you own it, value it, and strive and work for its success. It will rise or fall the way you want it to. Contribute and the journal will become strong and add value to the pool of knowledge; ignore it, and it will flounder and finally sink into the abyss, joining millions of well-intentioned projects that we no longer remember.

As I very happily pass the torch on, I do so with hope, confidence, and the wish that Dr. Babar Imran and his team will take the journal to a position of respect among the medical journals of the world.

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