

JDUHS: Successful Journey of Seven Years Since its Inception

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The history of medical writing is perhaps as old as that of the mankind itself with the earliest known medical publication, the Edwin Smith Surgical Papyrus dating back to 3000 BC written by the ancient Egyptians.¹ Publication of scientific periodicals and journals has been in vogue since the 17th Century and still continues to evolve with the ever-advancing scientific technologies. Medical journals provide a vibrant platform for the publication of research findings as well as sharing of useful professional experiences with the scientific community across the globe. We, in Pakistan, are now fortunately seeing an advancing movement of medical journalism with greater emphasis on peer-review, evidence base and high quality research.¹⁻⁶

What prompted this editorial? While we are celebrating seven years of continuous publication of the Journal of Dow University of Health Sciences (JDUHS), it was thought prudent to review our performance of the past and share our experiences with our family of Pakistani editors. It was indeed a great honor as well as a challenging opportunity when the founding Vice Chancellor of the Dow University of Health Sciences, Professor Masood Hameed Khan (TI), took me on board and reposed in me the responsibility of the Managing Editor of the newly born JDUHS. The journal was his brain child and he eagerly supported to see it flourishing. With the continuous and dedicated efforts of the learned faculty of the Dow University of Health Sciences and the untiring efforts of the editorial board of the JDUHS, we enjoyed a smooth take-off and have been able to ensure its sustainable publication without any interruption and back-log.

The JDUHS was formally launched as the official journal of the Dow University of Health Sciences in 2007. It has been regularly coming up with two-three issues annually. All the submitted manuscripts are subjected to a stringent peer-review system. The journal has a rich team of highly skilled and dedicated reviewers from across the country, who undertake the mandatory

peer-review and thus ensure publication of high quality research. The journal follows strict plagiarism policy and maintains zero tolerance in this regard. Additionally, the journal's editorial board is regularly organizing different workshops regarding manuscript writing, avoidance of plagiarism and essentials of the peer-review process to educate younger doctors, improve their level of awareness about research eventually leading to quality publications. We encourage online submission of manuscripts by authors and predominantly employ online system for peer-review, editing and publishing. This helps to expedite the entire process with economy of time.

In 2007, our journal enjoyed indexation by IMEMR and PakMediNet and was recognized by the Pakistan Medical & Dental Council (PM&DC). In 2011, the journal's professional credibility was recognized by the Higher Education Commission (HEC). Published articles of all the past issues of the journal are available online on various cyber platforms including PakMediNet, Google scholar and the official website of the Dow University of Health Sciences. Efforts are underway to get the journal indexed with more valuable indexing services including Thomson Reuters for impact factor allocation.

During the last seven years (spanning from 2007 to 2013), a total number of 196 manuscripts of different medical categories have been published in the JDUHS. It included 120 original articles, 16 short communications and 18 case reports (Table 1). In order to maintain quality, we had to take the unpleasant decision of rejecting a small proportion of the submitted manuscripts too (Table 2) where deemed necessary. Our journal enjoyed the honor of submission of manuscripts from countries other than Pakistan also. Overall there were 15 publications from international sources. Table 3 shows year-wise distribution of such manuscripts.

Specialty wise distribution of publications in the JDUHS is depicted in table 4. A high frequency (n=24) of articles was from Medicine, followed by the disciplines of Gynae & Obstetrics and Hematology, each 17 manuscripts.

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Table 1: Year-wise distribution of the manuscripts which were accepted and published during the seven years period (2007-2013)

Manuscript category	2007			2008			2009			2010			2011			2012			2013			Total
	DUHS ^a	Oth ^b	Int ^c	DUHS	Oth	Int	DUHS	Oth	Int	DUHS	Oth	Int	DUHS	Oth	Int	DUHS	Oth	Int	DUHS	Oth	Int	
Case reports	5	2		2	2		2	1		2	1			1								18
Comments			1	1				1	1													4
Commentary	1														1	1						3
Editorial	1	1			1	2	2	1		1	2		1		2	2	1		2		1	20
Issues	1																					1
Letter to editors	1			1	1		1			1												5
Original articles	3	4	1	5	12		9	9	1	12	5		12	5	2	13	5	3	12	7		120
Overview							1															1
Review article	1														1							2
Rev of Literature																					1	1
Rev of Book																				1		1
Short Commu.	1			1						4	1		5	2		1				1		16
Special report				1																		1
Techniques				1															2			3
Total	14	7	2	12	16	2	15	12	2	20	9		18	8	4	17	8	3	16	9	2	196

^a DUHS: Dow University of Health Sciences
^b Oth: Other Institutions
^c Int: International

Table 2: Proportions of the accepted and rejected manuscripts during the seven years period.

Years	Total number of submitted manuscripts	Fate of the submitted manuscripts	
		Accepted Number/Percentage	Rejected Number/Percentage
2007	38	23(60.52)	15(39.47)
2008	50	30(60)	20(40)
2009	50	29(58)	21(42)
2010	49	29(59.19)	20(40.81)
2011	53	30(56.60)	23(43.91)
2012	51	28(54.90)	23(45.10)
2013	64	27(42.19)	37(57.81)
Total	355	196(55.21)	159(44.79)

Table 3: Manuscripts received from countries other than Pakistan

Country from where the manuscript was received	Total number of submitted manuscripts	Fate of the manuscripts	
		Accepted	Rejected
Canada	2	1	1
Iran	7	2	5
Iraq	3	1	2
Saudi Arabia	5	3	2
Turkey	3	1	2
UAE	3	1	2
UK	4	2	2
USA	5	4	1

Table IV: Specialty-wise distribution of the published manuscripts (n=196)

Specialty of the Publications	Year							Total Number
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
1 Medicine	4	4	4	5	3	2	2	24
2 Gynae & Obs	2	3	3	2	4	1	2	17
3 Hematology	2	4	2	2	2	3	2	17
4 Dentistry	0	1	2	3	2	3	5	16
5 Medical Education	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	15
6 Microbiology	3	2	1	3	3	1	2	15
7 Histopathology	1	2	2	1	3	2	2	13
8 Surgery	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	9
9 Orthopaedics	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	9
10 ENT	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	8
11 Plastic Surgery	0	1	2	1	1	1	1	7
12 Radiology	2	1	1	1	0	0	1	6
13 Neurology	0	1	1	-	1	1	-	4
14 Neurosurgery	0	1	1	-	1	-	1	4
15 Psychiatry	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	3
16 Miscellaneous	3	4	3	5	4	6	4	29

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