

FROM THE DESK OF CHIEF EDITOR – LAUNCHING FIRST ISSUE OF KMJ

Dear Readers,

A new medical research journal “KUST Medical Journal” (KMJ) representing Kohat University of Science and Technology is at hand for your readership.

The primary objective of all scientific journals is dissemination of scientific knowledge. Scientific publications stimulate thinking and research. It acts as repository and provides permanent record of facts. Medical publications of research journals likewise play a vital roll in dissemination of new data.

Launching scientific research oriented journal is certainly an uphill task. KMJ needed to have governmental permission that is granted to persons of standing publication experience. It was then approved by *Advanced Study and Research Board* (ASRB) of KUST as an in house requirement. The board assesses abidance of HEC criteria in developing the publication and editorial policy in conformity with LISTSERV of WAME, finding appropriate editorial board, advisors and reviewers. The next stage is to invite and obtain research articles, case studies etc. Who cares to provide their articles for publication in a journal that is not recognized by PMDC, indexed with EMRO at a minimum or at best indexed with internationally reputed agencies like index medicus and medline, WAME, index copernicus etc.

There are only few Pakistani medical journals including JPMA, JAMC, JCPSP, JPS indexed with index medicus and are on Medline (Pub Med). Only two Pakistani journals are indexed on the Website of World Association of Medical Editors (WAME) Member Journals. At present, PMDC recognizes only 33 journals, published in Pakistan, in addition to those recognized by Index Medicus.

KUST Medical Journal is a peer-reviewed, open-access, printed as well as on-line journal dedicated to the exploration of international allied health professional practice, research, and education. It will become 52nd journal available on PakMediNet¹. It is funded by KUST and has no financial competition of interest. Peer review and strict tracking for publications are to be its hallmarks.

Our publication policy is designed to adhere to the Essential Guidelines for Authors, Reviewers and Editors of medical and dental journals, a document published by PMDC in 2002² and is based on recommendations of three important international bodies i.e. International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE),

World Association of Medical Editors (WAME) and Institute for Scientific Information (ISI).

Policy of the publications in KMJ is well outlined in the sections of this first issue. However, it is just to stress that all articles shall be subjected to plagiarism testing. Intellectual contribution is desired to be defined by the authors. A declaration regarding competing personal, commercial, political and financial interest shall be mandatory to be provided. One author (corresponding author) is to own the responsibility for the originality of the article. It is advised that authors obtain publication consent from the patients where ever applicable.

Selection of manuscripts shall be based on originality, clarity of message, relevance to the journal's mission and importance of the content as well as subject. Editorial independence of the editors has been assured. Reviewers are supplied with the review parameters. Appeals of the authors shall be entertained and resolution of the conflict shall be arbitrated by the Advance Study and Research Board of Kohat University of Science and Technology, Pakistan or any other forum recommended by it. WAME recommendations regarding ethical policies of medical journals publications shall be given due consideration³.

KMJ policy is strongly for cooperation amongst the editors of the various medical journals within country and also internationally in order to benefit from each other and to improve quality of publications. WAME, EMAME, PMJA shall be approached to get their membership and confidence in this respect.

I hope you will find reading this first issue beneficial. It will be to our encouragement and boosting the progress of the journal to have comments and suggestions from the readers that shall be cherished and published in next issue if applicable.

Prof. Dr. Tariq Saeed Mufti
Chief Editor

REFERENCES:

1. <http://www.pakmedinet.com/>.
2. Essential Guidelines for Authors, Reviewers and Editors of Medical and Dental Journals. Pakistan Medical and Dental Council, Islamabad 2003.
3. <http://www.wame.org/websites.html> 2006