The Indian Journal of Pediatrics: New Initiatives

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The Indian Journal of Pediatrics (IJP) was started in 1933 by Dr KC Chaudhuri in Kolkatta. He was probably the first physician in India to selectively restrict his practice to looking after children. The aim of the Journal has always been to present updated information on child health for pediatricians in India, and provide a vehicle for publishing research carried out in India. The Journal has zealously pursued that aim over the years. A few years ago we expanded our mandate to be an International journal, with special focus on projecting research work in India. To fulfill this aim, IJP publishes original research articles, clinical briefs highlighting new facets, reviews on topics in which new advances have taken place, and editorials on common problems of children in developing countries.

The Journal was the first specialty journal in South East Asia. It is not surprising that early references to research work in pediatrics in India are all published in this Journal. From quarterly to begin with, it became bi-monthly and now for several years it is a monthly journal. It is progressing with time and became online in 2007.

The Journal is not only involved in the publication of pediatric research but has also engaged in multiple activities to promote child health and pediatric education. A best thesis award is given to postgraduates every year. Selected students are invited to present their research and the best

three receive cash awards and medals. With the aim to prepare the senior residents to become good medical teachers, the Journal has initiated this year a clinical grand (CCR) round competition for post MD senior residents. Selected CCRS will be presented by post MD residents from various institutions and duly rewarded. The Journal also organizes the Dr KC Chaudhuri oration to be delivered by a senior pediatrician, to honour those who have made significant contributions to promote and enhance child health. The Journal also provides travel support and fellowships to young pediatricians to attend various conferences and present their research work.

The latest initiative of the Journal is to extend financial support to practicing pediatricians and other health care workers to hold health camps in rural areas to promote child health. Last year the Journal supported three health camps in Kamshet, Thiruvallur and Thrissur. In this issue we publish brief reports of these camps. We hope to support more such activities in the coming years.

Our main objective has been to improve the skills and knowledge of pediatricians so that they discharge their duties to cure, promote and prevent disease in children around the world. We like to project the research carried out by pediatricians in resource limited settings without any boundaries. We publish reviews and evidence based practice guidelines that are useful for management of sick children. As a result of these features, the Journal gets manuscripts from 66 countries, developing as well as developed ones. The number of manuscripts received for publication annually has increased from 300 to 1,000 over the past few years. Full text of all the papers published from 1936 till date are available online. This is an asset and one

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can see the history of pediatrics in India through these publications.

In May 2007, the Journal became one of the first journals in India to be totally online. This improved our efficiency in the form of rapid response and reduction in time between submission to publication. The average time

to first response is progressively reduced from 94.2 days in 2007 to 55.9 days in 2010. We will continuously strive to improve and enhance the capabilities of pediatricians so that they can provide the best possible care for the children under their care. We welcome feedback from our readers so that we can be responsive to their needs and suggestions.