Editorial

Sanjiv Nair

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It is with feelings of elation that I assume office as editor in chief of the journal. The journal has seen consistent improvement over the years both in format and matter. The efforts of past editors deserve mention in this regard. The publication has, however, had mixed reviews regarding its contents. Any scientific journal requires sufficient research papers to infuse life into it. Publication of case reports, interesting as it may seem, are essentially anecdotal experiences. Its acceptance and publication should not therefore be at the cost of original research or review articles. The journal has seen an overwhelming inflow of case reports in the last one year. Publication of these both online and in the quarterly volume needs to be streamlined and restricted to one or two in each issue. This is to prevent adverse impact in our endeavour to improve the journal.

As Editor, my priorities at this stage would be to quicken the review and decision process of submitted manuscripts to allow its timely publication. This will enable the journal to be indexed at the earliest. There has been a long standing need for the journal to include more activities of the association, hence a few pages will be set aside to highlight the association activities.

The association has grown considerably over the past decade and seen enthusiastic enrollment in life membership. Student memberships have unfortunately remained

low. I have successfully sought online access for student members. This should be incentive enough to improve membership. I would also hope that there are more research and review articles submitted by students.

There has been an increasing interest in advanced head and neck surgery by maxillofacial surgeons. The introduction of several postdoctoral fellowships by the medical universities is a right step in this direction. The question, however, remains whether there is sufficient sound training at the postgraduate level. The success of any program is based on a concrete foundation of surgical principles gained during the post graduate training. If after three years of unsound training an aspiring surgeon hopes to acquire surgical skills in a one year crash course it can prove disastrous. Therefore, all efforts to improve the curriculum and skills during the postgraduate training should be the primary focus of the program.

I request all contributors to help publish articles of high standard. Our journal follows the double blinded peer review system. The reviewers have done a wonderful job thus far and will continue to be the backbone of the journal by helping in the timely review process. I sign off with the hope that the journal will reach new heights under my stewardship with ample support from the editorial team.

S. Nair (✉)
Maxillofacial Surgery, Bhagwan Mahaveer Jain Hospital,
Bangalore, India
e-mail: snmaxfax@gmail.com