It gives us great pleasure to inform the august readership of the Journal of College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan (JCPSP) that the Journal has successfully completed 25 years and is entering 26th year of regular publication. This is an occasion for us to celebrate and at the same time identify and prepare for future challenges. Recounting the successes, it is gratifying to note that the Journal has achieved numerous milestones during this 25-year period. The journal is not only recognized in the country but also internationally. This is evident from the fact that it is indexed with world’s leading international medical indexing and abstracting agencies including Index Medicus/Medline (NLM, USA). This is tantamount to the quality, regularity of publication and the high standard of its content. In fact the Journal has become almost a research ambassador of Pakistan from its geographically wide readership as well as authorship.

The international recognition of the Journal has continued over the years. JCPSP was included in the Journal Citation Report (JCR) of Thomson Reuters and was awarded 5-year Impact Factor (IF) way back in 2009. This is a great honor as JCPSP was the first biomedical journal from Pakistan to attain the coveted distinction. Within the country, it is included in the highest “W” category list of Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan and is recognized by Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC).

The readership circle of the Journal has also widened. The number of hits at dedicated JCPSP website is tremendous and ever increasing. It is now accessed from all over the world. Same trend is reflected in the manuscript submission pattern. The Journal is receiving ever increasing number of articles from abroad, particularly, China, Turkey, India, Iran, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom, USA and many other countries. These achievements are made with the help of our valued contributors, reviewers, editorial board members, and the editorial staff of the Journal. The support of the CPSP in promoting the Journal is unwavering. The great distinction is that the Journal does not charge the submitters and prospective authors at any stage from submission to publication and then hard copy dispatch despite paying the reviewers a token of honorarium in addition to CME credits. It has also started giving CME credits to the authors for the benefit of those who are not affiliated with an institute authorized by the PMDC for awarding CME credits, and yet contribute to the medical research literature from Pakistan.

In a recent meeting of the “Journals Recognition Committee” of Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan held on 19th October 2015, few areas were identified where JCPSP has to work. These include more user-friendly online article submission, review and editing process. The IT department is addressing to it and the JCPSP contributors may hope to use this submission and tracking system in the year 2016. It would require a prompt IT support and continuous upgradation adding to the cost of publication again without charging the authors. Plagiarism check remains a difficult area to address. In collaboration with HEC, use of software “Turnitin” is also in pipeline. Acquiring digital object identifier (doi) number is also being planned for which html formatting of the article is a mandatory requirement which again adds to the cost of publication. We also intend to use social media to disseminate information about new research article available from JCPSP.

JCPSP has also contrived in recent years to create awareness among its readers against the various publication related frauds, fake journals, fake impact factors and fraudulent editing companies, mostly through our editorial write-ups and from our editorial staff contributing to the journal. This is to safeguard the local researchers who are not yet aware of this cyber piracy and lose not only the research credit that they would have acquired from a reputable honest journal taking due time for publication compared to speedy publication in a shadowy journal, but in many instances their money as well. Through the platform of the Journal, CPSP intends to uphold and improvise the standards of legitimate, regular, and reliable biomedical research publication in the continuing years.

Wishing you a Happy New Year and happy reading throughout the 26th year of the Journal.