The prime vision of bringing out a medical journal is to encourage and disseminate quality research. College of Physicians & Surgeons Pakistan (JCPSP) is a world recognized Institute of postgraduate medical education and its sole objective is to promote specialist medical practice through coupled facilitation of postgraduate medical training and research. Journal of CPSP is an Impact Factor peer-reviewed research journal. It always strives for quality publication. It is a non-profitable journal, which is beyond thinking, in the current era of commercial publication. Authors do not have to pay for publication at JCPSP. The articles are available on the website by the first week of publication, being an Impact Factor journal, large number of bytes are reported. This portal, therefore, encourages authors from all over the world to send their quality research for publication to JCPSP. In 2017 (till 20th December), 321 out of 1,028 (32.1%), manuscripts submitted to JCPSP were from outside Pakistan. In order to facilitate future researchers that is the trainee Fellow, CPSP conducts workshops on research methodology, basic biostatistics, epidemiology, and medical writing, publication ethics, proposal / synopsis writing, and reporting research as per standard guidelines of medical journals.

Health related issues are quite unique for different regions of the world. Burden of disease and its associated morbidity and mortality is huge in developing countries. However, medical research currently dominated by affluent countries, hardly address these issues. This highlights the importance of Impact Factor journals from developing world, in which quality research papers can be published. JCPSP is one such journal. It receives a number of articles from developed and developing countries on various subjects, both basic and clinical sciences. With strict criteria at initial assessment, laid down according to the scope of the Journal and communicated through the guidelines to prospective authors, many articles are returned for addressing the deficiencies or considered unsuitable for processing in JCPSP. Authors are, therefore, encouraged to read ‘instructions to the authors’ carefully before submitting their manuscript to JCPSP. Our website provides a checklist for all the essential components of manuscript that must be followed before submission, specially "authors’ certification form”, and authors’ contribution as per ICMJE criteria, IRB / ERC formal approval / exemption letter, declaration of conflict of interest and adherence to guidelines of reporting various types of studies. For facilitation, authors are advised to go through CONSORT statement for standardized reporting of randomized trials (RCT), registration of RCTs, STROBE checklists for reporting of cohort, case-control, and cross-sectional observational studies. It also includes STARD flow diagram and checklist, MOOSE, QUOROM and PRISMA guidelines.

JCPSP has recently indigenously developed its own Online Journal Management system. In future, we plan to receive articles through this system. We will continue to follow hybrid system, a mix of current pattern of submission and new OJS of CPSP, till authors get used to it. It will help in quick processing of articles and will decrease waiting time from submission till publication. The authors can personally track the stage of processing of their submissions. JCPSP has also acquired Digital Object Identifier (DOI); it will help the visibility and citation of the articles published in JCPSP.

JCPSP, as per policy of the parent institute CPSP, always collaborated with editors from Pakistan and abroad. The sole purpose of this collaboration is to improve quality of publication. CPSP recognizes quality journals, published from elsewhere in Pakistan for its residents, seeking fellowship, to publish research-based articles in lieu of dissertations as part of requirement of residency training. This increases the number of submission to national journals. CPSP criteria of recognizing national journals are far more stringent than both the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan and Pakistan Medical & Dental Council (PM&DC). It is apparent from latest list of HEC recognized journals, where a journal regretted recognition by CPSP, is given X-category. CPSP has also conducted conferences for medical journal editors and collaborated with the Pakistan Association of Medical Editors (PAME). The members of editorial board of JCPSP have participated and made several presentations in various conferences, and conducted workshops for editors, peer reviewers and authors.

Editors of the medical journals have responsibilities towards investigators, peer reviewers, readers, and the society as well. Accuracy of research findings is of
utmost importance as published articles contribute to guide and modify the medical practice, and may even impact the health related policies of statutory bodies. To ensure timely publication, a vigilant editorial board is needed. At JCPSP, a team of competent editors and staff work hard to meet this task. Here, I would like to pay tribute to Late Muhammad Zafaruddin, Executive Editor JCPSP, who passed away after short illness few months back. He played an important role in running the day-to-day affairs of the journal. We will always remember his contributions towards medical journalism. I end here by saying that at JCPSP editors enjoy editorial freedom as they have complete authority to run the affairs of the journal without external influence. This is the reason why JCPSP has unique standing in the field of medical journalism. I wish all of our contributors a happy new year and eager to receive any suggestion for further improvement.