

STARTING A NEW HEALTH JOURNAL- THE NEW EDITORIAL TEAMS PERSPECTIVE

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Although the Khyber Medical College Peshawar has its own Medical Journal named “the Journal of Medical Sciences Peshawar (JMS)”, due to the growing number of research work being carried out in the institution, there was a dire need for starting a new journal in our institute.

This journal is primarily intended to publish the work of students` research being carried out in our institution and outside by undergraduate and postgraduate students. The following discussion highlights the challenges faced before the start and during the publishing of the first issue.

The aims of starting a new health journal in an academic medical institution are to facilitate its faculty and students in their research work, provide a platform for external researchers to publish their work, and encourage research work within the organization and outside.¹ Many medical teaching institutions in Pakistan publish their medical journals on a regular basis.

However, starting a new journal is always a challenge. Some of these challenges include; institutional, governmental, and academic staff ownership, finding like-minded and research-versed people for the editorial boards, finding research articles for publication, finding internal and external reviewers for peer review, and many others.² We started our journal following these steps:

1. By looking at the number of articles in our official journal (JMS), and the delays in publishing these, the editorial board felt the need to start a new journal that can cater to the need for undergraduate and postgraduate research work publishing. Moreover, with the introduction of research teaching to undergraduate students since 2018, many of them have started their research under the mentorship of different faculty members.
2. The institute’s research committee discussed identifying faculty from within the institution and outside to form an editorial board. Dedicated people from within the institute were identified and notified as editorial

board members.

3. The Department of IT was requested to develop a website with its own domain name (www.pmsrj.com), using the online journal system (OJS) platform.
4. The editors developed the editorial policy and reviewing process and identified the publishers and composing team.
5. In the first issue, the students were told to submit their research work for publication. At the start, many researchers were reluctant to submit articles to a journal that has no recognition by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC). However, after a lot of effort, we were successful to process 8 articles for publication.
6. After the first publication, the editorial team will apply for ISSN, HEC, and PMDC recognition and will later on proceed for the Directory of Open Access Journal (DOAJ) at the first instance.
7. The journal includes original articles review articles, editorials, case reports, infographics, and medical students` success stories from disciplines like medicine, dentistry, nursing, and allied health sciences.
8. Articles belonging to public health, epidemiological research, and clinical and social sciences are included.

The editorial team is fully aware of the challenges faced in the coming days regarding the finances, availability of articles, indexations in different scientific portals, and peer reviewers to point out a few. We have developed plans to overcome these challenges.

Starting a new journal is a challenging task and its sustainability is more taxing. It requires dedication from a competent team of experts belonging to different disciplines with an understanding of research.^{3,4} After indexation in different scientific portals, the journal will be able to survive and flourish.

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