

Standing on the Shoulders of Giants!

As I assume charge as the Editor-in-Chief of *Indian Pediatrics*, I feel overwhelmed and humbled. My 16 years of association with the journal in different capacities has not only honed my writing and editing skills, but has also helped me develop a more scientific and methodical perspective. But, I am aware that I am stepping into the boots of the thirteen illustrious *Past Editors* who have worked with utmost sedulity and integrity to build *Indian Pediatrics* into a resource to reckon with. The bar is set high and I have a lot to learn. For this I seek support from the readers of *Indian Pediatrics*, who are our greatest strength. It will be my endeavour to give maximum chances to all our readers to showcase their research work in *Indian Pediatrics*, without compromising the scientific rigor or ethical standards. I envisage *Indian Pediatrics* as a stable influence for all authors in their academic journey and hope to build a lasting and fruitful collaboration with all authors.

Original research has been the forte of *Indian Pediatrics* and we aim to publish more of them in the coming years. We will make all efforts to further expand our horizons and in the upcoming issues we will start some newer sections. We will be introducing '*Ethisection*' which aims at stimulating reflection on ethics issues among readers through a case-based discussion highlighting various ethical dilemmas encountered in clinical, publishing or administrative domains. We also will be introducing a section entitled '*Bridging Borders*' with a vision to highlight the challenges in healthcare of children within and outside India, attributed to global as well as region-specific problems like war, climate change, migrant population, cultural practices and poverty. This section will feature ideas from around the world that can inspire and guide efforts to decrease the inequity in global healthcare standards. We also plan to start '*Symposium*' which will comprise of a series of state-of-the-art articles that will cover specific topics in child health comprehensively. We believe this will not only apprise the readers about any recent advances in that field, but also enlighten them about clinical practice protocols. The other sections like Perspective, Journal Club, Guidelines, Clinicopathological Conference, Research Letters, Updates and Images will continue to be published. While we expand our horizons, we will also add a bit of colour in our scientific

lives by introducing a few cosmetic changes in *Indian Pediatrics*. We hope to receive an honest and constructive feedback from our readers to enable us to improve with each passing day.

In the current times of rapid progress and research in diagnostics and therapeutics, there is a need for high publishing speed to prevent the results of a study from becoming outdated. I will try my best to expedite the review process and will aim for a still lesser lag time for editorial decisions and publication. Simultaneously, we will also make efforts to ensure more articles are listed electronically ahead of printing. It gives me a sense of great pride in informing our readers that *Indian Pediatrics Case Reports (IP CaRes)*, the quarterly journal of the *Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP)*, has now been indexed with the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), thanks to the perseverance of the entire editorial team of *IP CaRes*.

Keeping our tradition alive, we plan to continue with the workshops on '*Art and Science of Paper Writing*' to stimulate the budding authors and reviewers. We also envisage starting '*Workshops on Systematic Reviews*', a need which came to the fore during the COVID-19 pandemic when doing clinical research became a limitation and authors sought to satiate their penchant for research by doing systematic reviews. It was also a time, when several universities permitted post-graduates to do systematic reviews as a part of their thesis submission, and thus hailing a new trend.

In the coming year, we intend to bring out the fourth volume of '*Best of Indian Pediatrics*', publish a compendium of '*Rational Diagnostics*' which was a hugely popular section and bring out a coffee table book on '*Clinical Images*' published in *Indian Pediatrics* over the last 20 years. I am sure these books will be particularly useful for post-graduate students and practitioners.

The changing landscape of publishing industry has made our task as editors tougher. With the ability to generate papers "good enough" for academic journals, large language models like ChatGPT have led to an infodemic threat in public health. While artificial intelligence (AI) can detect plagiarism, AI-generated

original content including the “*deepfake*” photos, voice clones and videos, are often imperceptible to even the trained human eyes, mind and ears. With the AI wreaked havoc, the well-intentioned editorial policies are likely to remain symbolic unless regulatory laws and appropriate tools are developed soon. Ironically, we will need more robots to tackle this AI-enabled disinformation.

I will strive continuously to keep the Journal policies and practices in synchrony with the mission of the *Academy*. With a spirited editorial board which provides both zeal and direction for the content, a robust peer review process and a supportive *Academy*, we will march ahead.

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