

## Editorial

### Innovations in Physiology : Way to Make Rapid Advances in Research

An overview of research publications in Physiology in India suggests that mostly we have been pursuing research in a linear fashion-connecting to the last link left in the literature. Most of us try to find out the lacunae and fill them by our research. No doubt, this is the traditional method, but in modern times we need to think and act differently to make rapid advances in the field of research.

The best way to do research is to ask a pertinent question. Answering the question with an open mind, usually results in an innovation. If you innovate a new method, you give a tool to the scientific community for doing advanced research. By doing innovations in techniques, you actually take quantum jumps into logic. The advantages of using innovations are manifold; you may use it for innovative research, you may patent it and do the *Transfer of Technology*. The *Transfer of Technology* gives you an added advantage since the innovations are available to a large number of researchers, initially in our country. It also gives you an opportunity to become an entrepreneur, thus, providing you an economic advantage. At the end of the day innovations in Physiology would enrich Physiology from academic point of view. Several innovations in Physiology will help in boosting research in this field, since funding is an issue for doing fundamental research. Therefore, innovations in techniques or in scientific thoughts would give us an edge.

In our country, large amount of latest research equipments/devices are imported for doing fundamental research. Unfortunately, our country has not been able to do enough innovations for having indigenous devices. When you do research by using imported devices, it will never give you an edge in doing research because by the time you use an imported equipment most of the linear research with the equipment has already been done in the west. By the time new technology reaches us 5-6 years or even a decade have already passed since its inception. Therefore, the research using the equipment remains repetitive/fill in the gap type. Innovation is the only answer to this problem. Let us begin today.

Our association- Association of Physiologists and Pharmacologists of India (APPI) has long back realized the innovation as important activity in physiology/pharmacology. Therefore, there are two awards for innovations.

The current government policies have given us an opportunity for doing innovations in a big way. The government policies are there to support. Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Department of Science and Technology (DST), Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and several other Govt agencies have carved out several programs for supporting innovations. This is the time when Physiologists/ Pharmacologists and other basic disciplines should make their way to innovate at all levels. It could be a thesis research for MSc, MD, DM, PhD or other courses. The tradition has been not to use innovative research paradigm for thesis work. The time has come that we should change our approach to handle physiology/pharmacology in a better way. I believe that this is the fastest way for rapid advances, the way saltatory conduction does to the nerve impulse.

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