

Editorial

Newer Physiology is Growing

The recent developments in Physiology are encouraging and noteworthy.

With a bold step, the Medical Council of India (now National Medical Commission) has come out with amendment in regulations on animal experimentation, as under:

“Animal experimentation should continue to be included as an integral part of the competency based curriculum of postgraduate courses in Physiology and Pharmacology in medical institutions...,” (Postgraduate Medical Education (Amendment) Regulations, 2019).

It is a great opportunity and I am convinced that it could result in building up the body of knowledge in the domain of fundamental research. Research in such domain is a must for advancement of core Physiology and Pharmacology. It will also see the reacquisition of lost skill sets required to handle animal experimentation which have dwindled over decades (IJPP Editorial 2015, 2nd issue). I am optimistic and confident that now India will wake up and be charged up for contributing to the fundamental research in Physiology and Medicine.

The recent growth in the field of clinical physiology is remarkable. The country has seen the steady growth in the field of Autonomic Physiology for 3 decades, emergence of human sleep Physiology and Polysomnography over 2 decades and Clinical Neurophysiology (especially Intraoperative monitoring) during the last decade. The field of applied physiology too is growing. Cognitive neuroscience has made its dent as it was taken as a thrust area in the country. Non-Invasive interventions of pain and other functional disorders, Exercise physiology and wellness clinics are finding their places. The research in Yoga remains forte as low-hanging fruit for physiologists, albeit more fundamental research is needed to explore the fundamental mechanisms. The interventional Physiology is, thus, gaining momentum where physiologists can play a leading role. I am sure the fields of Respiratory function testing, cognitive function testing, routine clinical neurophysiology and several other domains of physiology will witness the growth.

The recent activities in the field of space exploration has opened the new arena of Space Physiology. There are several analogous experiments that may be pursued on earth at molecular and cellular level, in small organisms, animals and humans. This covers a large number of organ/system areas. Therefore, the field of Space Physiology and Medicine is a novel and versatile area which has lots of potential to explore.

I am happy to see several physiologists and pharmacologists, including heads of the departments are full of enthusiasm and coming forth to take the subjects to a higher level including several young scientists as they are our future leaders. This is apt and opportune time when APPI is organising the “Physiologists Leaders Summit” in Goa in the beginning of the year. I am sure the meeting will be successful in its deliberations.

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year.

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Executive Editor