

Editorial

Setting editorial goals

The IJPP has come a long way to its 56th year since its inception in 1958. It was started during the period when basic medical sciences in India were in their infancy. They needed support, conducive environment and a lot of efforts to nurture them. Our journal did serve this purpose to a great extent. It steered through the difficult times keeping its pace moving ahead. Throughout its journey the credibility of IJPP has been upheld by our valued authorship, contribution and enthusiastic readership. It has represented the face of Indian Physiology and Pharmacology. It has been the official journal of APPI and it has always given a very strong platform to a large number of scientists, teachers, physicians and our budding authors to express their scientific creativity and research.

At the very outset we, the Editorial Board, would like to set certain goal for ourselves. In this age of technology we should keep pace with the new trends and advancements. In near future we will achieve full online submission and tracking facility and full archival digitization for our journal. A journal does not fulfil its purpose if it is not available to its readers for their required needs in time. Thus, we wish to enlarge the volume and scope of the journal which is available at fast speed. We will improve our refereeing procedure by creating a referee resource for rigorous and constructive yet fast review procedure.

Our readers have always given us unconditional support and co-operation. A constant support, encouragement and timely feedback will certainly be necessary for us to keep up the system working with utmost efficiency. We commit ourselves for the advancement of scientific ethos and development of Physiology, Pharmacology and Allied Sciences.

Our roles and responsibilities as physiologists and pharmacologists have been changing. It reminds me the words of Prof B. K. Anand, who expressed them in editorial on the 40th year of publication of IJPP: "Now we have a transformed, dynamic society, with an accelerated pace of development, in almost all fields.we have to keep pace with that in our country. It has rightly been said in the words of ancient wisdom, that of all the marvels and mysteries of this universe, nothing is more marvellous than the human being and its body. We Physiologists have the privilege of trying to measure man, and at least in a small way APPI and IJPP are expected to help in the same".

I convey my sincere thanks to Prof. D. Ghosh and his team who have taken great pains to continue this journey with their able editorial acumen.

K. K. DEEPAK
Executive Editor, IJPP

Editorial

MENTORING AND OUTREACH STRATEGY OF APPI AND IJPP

In the annual meeting of the Association of Physiologists and Pharmacologist of India – APPICON2011 – in December 2011 held at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, there was a special session on ‘Vision: APPI 2020’ organized by Professor H.N. Mallick of the Department of Physiology, AIIMS. In this meeting, the importance of mentoring and networking for scientists and teachers was discussed. In the General Body meeting, a resolution was taken to the effect that APPI and IJPP may proactively create a forum of ‘mentoring’ young and aspiring scientists and teachers towards a research career and thus help to facilitate the development of human resources in physiological and pharmacological sciences in India.

A mentor is a trusted guide and a counselor. A mentor can help in letting the mentee understand and practice what is needed for success in given field at a particular place and time. The umbra and penumbra of this success include individual career success to institutional development and over all scientific progress, respectively. Also, effective mentoring not only gives guaranteed outreach to the dependent, it also gives new kind of inputs to the provider as well. Thus, it bears the potentiality of ‘win-win’ story, if steered appropriately. As it has been observed in a workshop, ‘...although establishing a mentor-mentee relationship may take some time, the effort is not onerous and should be rewarding to both parties’ (1).

The task however is not easy. The first hurdle is to identify an agency which can proactively take the charge. In our case, APPI and IJPP can take up the challenge. The second hard task is to identify a group of suitable mentors from different parts of India. A mentor is suitable when he or she can draw necessary output from the mentee, has right sense of responsibility, ethical values, discreteness, commitment and honesty. If necessary, program for training mentors is to be initiated under the auspices of APPI and IJPP to get it going effectively (2). It is also a huge task to make eco-systems of the mentee conducive to mentor-mentee interactions. ‘Overall, the ‘take-home message’ is that a mentor should equip the mentee with necessary advice and tools to establish them as a researcher, while the mentee must be prepared to translate advice into action’ (1).

The bottom line that scientists cannot ‘go it alone’ and that interacting with others can greatly benefit both mentor and mentee has to be appreciated and practiced in today’s science. APPI and IJPP should play the role of catalysts in this strategy and be part of a silent scientific revolution in India.

DR. D. GHOSH
(Ex-Executive Editor)

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