

Journal of Asian Medical Students' Association (J-AMSA): The beginning

It seems just like yesterday when we were discussing in Asian Medical Students' Association (AMSA)-International about the possibility of opening up a student-led biomedical journal that could benefit the students of Asia-Pacific and beyond. Within a year of this idea, we are pleased to present this inaugural issue. This, in itself, is an achievement.

Scientific research is the groundwork of modern medicine. Critical thinking, scientific enquiry, and the capacity to generate new medical knowledge are among the most prized assets in physicians, particularly in the present time. It is of absolute essence that physicians understand the implications of the ongoing research in the field to ensure effective and efficient management of their patients. Scientific research is important in providing better solutions to the existing medical problems as well as tackling new threats to the global health.

As physicians and scientists of tomorrow, the medical students of today have an obligation to be well versed in scientific research. Getting involved in research early on ensures that they shape themselves to competent and responsible physicians of tomorrow. History has shown us that student research can have big impact for the entire scientific community; the discovery of Islets of Langerhans as well as Insulin are some of the groundbreaking discoveries contributed by medical students¹. However the sad fact is that the medical fraternity's interest in research is dwindling every day². This should be perceived as a potential threat to the advancement of medicine. As the newest inductees to the medical community, it is up to us, the medical students, to carry the torch of medical research further.

Encouraging medical student research has been a focus of AMSA-International ever since the inception and this fact has been reflected in its regular international conferences. These conferences include academic sessions where both oral and poster presentations of the various student-led research projects are held. Many of these projects are of high standard and would likely interest a larger audience. A student led biomedical journal could serve as a perfect platform for a wider dissemination for these student researches and serve as an incentive for promotion of intellectual curiosity for research among medical students.

It was amidst this necessity that the Journal of Asian Medical Students' Association (J-AMSA) was born in. Here at J-AMSA, we realize the importance of getting involved in research during medical school. We believe that every research conducted and the results obtained have strong implications for the overall community. We understand that student medical journals should be student friendly, both for authors as well as readers. J-AMSA appreciates the efforts that students make working on a research project and reporting it. Here at J-AMSA, we try to promote scientific writing among students and provide constructive criticism but are mindful that the authors are not experts in the field and are just stepping stones into the world of research. In fact, we are willing to provide some guidance and support so that they gain experiences that could shape them in becoming effective clinicians of tomorrow. Meanwhile, we also want to encourage non-research oriented writings encouraging students to share experiences, perspectives and opinions. This is an effort to ensure that the diverse students within this region share their ideas and experiences

on a common platform encouraging fraternity and co-operation across the region. On behalf of the editorial board, it is my pleasure to present to you, this first ever issue of J-AMSA. We hope that we have served our purpose to some extent with the inauguration of this exciting adventure. I thank the entire editorial team for bringing this all together. Let me use this opportunity to officially invite articles for publication in the upcoming issues. We are all excited to have received numerous submissions already and we strongly believe that you

will join hands with us in this young and exciting journey ahead. With the start of this publication, our focus now will be in indexing our journal extensively in various bibliographic databases that will improve the visibility as well as the authenticity of the journal. In order to improve this nascent adventure, your constant feedback and support will be needed.

We hope you will enjoy reading this issue. Please let us know what you feel and write to us; your feedback is much appreciated.

References:

1. Deo M. Undergraduate medical students' research in India. *Journal of Postgraduate Medicine*. 2008;54(3):176-179.

Best Regards,

2. Zemlo TR, Garrison HH, Partridge NC, Ley TJ. The physician-scientist: career issues and challenges at the year 2000. *FASEB J*. Feb 2000;14(2):221-230.

Smith Giri
Founding Editor
Journal of Asian Medical Students' Association (J-AMSA)