It gives me great pleasure to write this foreword for the first International Journal of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine (IJPAM), which will be an international reference reflecting the need to focus on quality care and leadership studies in the area of pediatric and adolescent medicine care.

Almost a quarter of the world’s population are children and most of these children live in emerging economies. Thus, the generation of knowledge within these geographic areas and the function of this scientific platform as an exchange of expertise and knowledge are important.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as a country, has a fairly young population with a median age of 26 years, and more than one-third of the population are children and adolescents. This young population is the focus of new research and development in the areas of pediatric and adolescent care.

The country has made significant strides in healthcare in general over the past few decades, as evidenced by the increase in life expectancy at birth to 75 years. There has also been a decrease in the rates of neonatal mortality to 5/1000 live births, infant mortality to 8/1000 live births and mortality under 5 years to 9/1000 live births. These numbers are a testament to the significant improvement in the health of the population, which is in part due to the health services provided. Moreover, we also have one of the highest vaccination rates in the world, and achievements have been made in other multiple areas of public health.

Currently, the Kingdom has more than 20 hospitals that specialize in Maternity and Children’s care serving all regions.

Given the increased urbanization of the population and the significant growth rate of our population, which is estimated to be approximately 2.7%, it is natural to focus on the area of knowledge generation and scientific research. In this context, the inauguration of this journal comes as an important milestone for the development of health services for children and adolescents and will ultimately improve patient care at the core by focusing on the quality of and access to appropriate levels of care for children and the sustainability of care for children.

HM King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz has spared no effort in his support of healthcare reform as well as academic endeavors to ultimately improve the overall quality of patient care in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

I congratulate King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre, one of the major flagship hospitals in the region, for leading this important initiative, and I look forward to seeing it grow and foster further improvements for children’s health in the Kingdom, both regionally and globally.

Lastly, I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Editor in Chief, Dr. Sami Hussain Al Hajjar, Professor of Pediatrics, and the Editorial Board for their hard work and commitment to the publication of this journal.

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