

# A JOURNAL FOR ADVOCACY OF NEUROLOGICAL SCIENCES IN PAKISTAN

Ten years have passed since this journal was started with dedication to promote neurological sciences in Pakistan. There has been tremendous growth in number of neuroscience specialists, training programs, education and neuroscience research programs during last ten years. Part of the credit goes to this journal and its previous editors (professor Nasrullah and Saad Shafqat).

Burden of neurological diseases and chronic diseases is growing in our country. Stroke is growing to an epidemic proportion. Depression and other mental health disorders are rampant. Our national health policy makers are ignorant of this fact. Major issue is non-availability of credible prevalence data regarding neurological diseases in Pakistan.

Professional organizations have done a great job in promoting public awareness, continuing medical education for physicians and funding and conducting research during last decade. College of Physicians and Surgeons (CPSP) has responded to the call for action. Number of accredited neurology programs, supervisors and trainees has increased substantially.

Despite all the progress, we have about 160 trained neurologists in a country of 160 million people (one neurologist for one million). Most of the medical colleges do not have a neurology department or trained neurology faculty on board. Most of the practicing doctors have not received any formal neurology training in medical colleges or during house job or residency.

This journal is destined to play a critical role in promotion and advocacy for neurological sciences in Pakistan. We want to establish a joint platform including basic neurosciences, neurology, neurosurgery, psychiatry and neuroradiology for this purpose. We stress upon importance of population based prevalence data related to neurological and psychiatric diseases in Pakistan. We believe that burden of neurological diseases is high in our country and based on prevalence data we will advocate for enhanced neurology training for medical students, general practitioners and general medicine trainees. We need a health policy with some focus on neurological diseases. Advocacy for neuro-psychiatric diseases in Pakistan will be one of the most important tasks of this journal.

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