

Five years of J-AIM

I am happy to write the 20th Editorial on the occasion of J-AIM completing five years of successful and timely publication. At the outset on behalf of the editorial board, I wish to thank all the active members of the Editorial Board members and reviewers without whom this journey would have been impossible. We owe thanks to Medknow, now part of Wolters Kluwer for their professional support.

Many developments have happened during the five years. J-AIM was born as a part of the AYUSH funded Centre of Excellence initiative of Institute of Ayurveda and Integrative Medicine under the parent body The Foundation for Revitalization of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT). The FRLHT has sponsored a Trans-disciplinary University, the first of its kind in India. The University was legislated by the Government of Karnataka in 2013–2014, under the name “The Institute of Trans-disciplinary Health Sciences and Technology.” This University is expected to provide a platform for serious research on integrative health sciences. This is a good beginning and we hope that with increased support from State and Central Governments this university will emerge as an international center of excellence for translational research, integrating modern science and Indian shastra to develop new paradigms and knowledge in biology and medicine.

THE MOST PREFERRED JOURNAL

The journal has consistently progressed during the last five years and has shown impressive improvements in the number of submissions from 146 in 2010 to over 400 this year. The quality of submissions is steadily increasing, and the editorial team spends substantial quality time by engaging with the authors, giving them critical advice and sufficient opportunities for improvements. At present, J-AIM is able to accept about 12% of the submissions. The peer review process is becoming more stringent, and the scientific rigor of published articles is consistently improving.

J-AIM is now indexed in PubMed, Scopus, SCImago, Google Scholar among many other scientific databases. With the highest h-index among Ayurveda Journals, J-AIM has emerged as the most desired choice of scientists, faculty, and students from Ayurveda and Integrative Medicine disciplines. SCImago Journal Rank (SJR) indicator is a measure of journal's impact, influence, and prestige. In the category of complementary medicine, as per current SJR ranking, J-AIM stands at the 38th position among 100 top journals, at 8th among Asian region and at the 3rd position among Indian Journals. Of course among Ayurveda category, it globally stands at No. 1 position. The diversity of disciplines and number of reviewers and authors from different countries has substantially increased. To continue with an author-friendly policy, from this year J-AIM has started the facility of ‘ahead of print online publishing’ to reduce the time from acceptance to publication.

J-AIM maintains due transparency and compliance with ethical publishing and is a member of Committee on Publication Ethics, World Association of Medical Editors, and Indian Association of Medical Journal Editors.

WORLD AYURVEDA CONGRESS

The electrifying presence of Honorable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, at the valedictory ceremony of 6th World Ayurveda Congress on November 9th, 2014, has given a positive signal and hope to the AYUSH community. It is necessary to introspect on the subtle messages from his valedictory address. For benefits of our readers, we are happy to publish the full transcript of this inspiring speech in this issue.

We are happy to note that the Government of India has established an independent Ministry for AYUSH. This will certainly attract more attention and resources to facilitate mainstreaming of AYUSH in India. This Ministry is expected to usher in a progressive roadmap and resources to facilitate mainstreaming of AYUSH in India by integrating AYUSH into India's Public Health System. It is 12 years since the last national health policy was formulated in 2002. It is timely for the new government to consider framing a new integrative health policy in 2015 which explicitly restructures the public health system in India to make it genuinely integrative. Such a policy will have radical implications for reform in medical education, research and regulations for medical practice. The new Ministry for AYUSH should support

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strategic experiments that demonstrate the value of co-location and co-posting of AYUSH in the ongoing National Health Mission to enhance the quality of primary and secondary health care.

India with its rich heritage of traditional knowledge needs to take global leadership in the emerging space of integrative health care. High impact research and long-term cohort studies need to be supported by this Ministry to demonstrate the clinical strengths of AYUSH systems. We expect that the new Ministry will encourage trans-disciplinary research and will closely interact with other scientific departments such as Department of Health Research, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Biotechnology and other scientific councils to promote convergence in forging a new national health research agenda that focuses on integrative healthcare.

WORLD YOGA DAY

As many of us may recall, during September 2014 in the United Nations General Assembly, Indian Prime Minister stated that “Yoga embodies unity of mind and body; thought and action; restraint and fulfillment; harmony between man and nature; a holistic approach to health and wellbeing.” He proposed the idea to observe World Yoga Day. This proposal received overwhelming support from 170 nations including all the countries of the European Union. As a result, starting from year 2015, every 21st June will be celebrated as World Yoga Day. At present, for health protection and disease prevention, Yoga is being integrated with modern medicine at many top medical centers in the world. In India, we need to systematically integrate Yoga,

not only with modern medicine but also with Ayurveda for efficient health protection and affordable primary health care.

WAY AHEAD

It is heartening to note that a high power committee has been set up under the chairmanship renowned Yoga thought leader and J-AIM Editorial Board member Dr. H. R. Nagendra. This committee is reviewing the existing structure and will propose a plan for holistic health program integrating all systems of medicine. AYUSH medical education reforms need to be taken on the priority agenda along with teacher training and scientific capacity building. As a country with a rich heritage of traditional knowledge, culture, and biodiversity, it is also important to engage with global communities.

As a global scientific platform, J-AIM will continue to contribute in the efforts toward revitalization of Indian health traditions. We heartily thank our editors, reviewers, advisors, authors, readers, and well-wishers for their support during last five years.

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