

Editor's Note

Steps towards Search and Research

Dear Readers

I am happy to see the first issue of the Journal of Society of Indian Physiotherapists(JSIP) ready to go to press. The JSIP has been conceived by highly motivated physiotherapists who are academicians, researchers or specialised clinicians. Their vision is of a gradual development of an excellent top level research journal in physiotherapy and related health areas. The Society of Indian Physiotherapists (SIP) members understand that conducting research, the knowhow, the guidance, and the formalities of channelizing the research through various committees is a daunting task and deter many individuals who do not have an institutional back-up, or are clinicians who are slightly ignorant about the research process. The SIP has created an ethics committee and a research committee which will guide such individuals towards research and help them report the gargantuan amount of clinical and research data which can be collected in a populated country like India.

The JSIP will include publication of articles of high quality, original research focused on clinical and research topics related to all specialties of physiotherapy and health and fitness. It will provide a platform for physiotherapists and healthcare professionals to present their research, debate and discuss through moderated comments by members of the editorial boards, peer reviewers or subject experts.

The JSIP is committed to quality assurances and have systems to detect manipulated and plagiarised data. Academic integrity will be maintained by requesting all authors to have gained ethical approval and patient consent. Clinical trial registration will be mandatory to reduce publication of redundant research. The JSIP will be committed to ensure that commercial considerations do not affect editorial decisions and that all articles (sponsored or otherwise) receive the same peer review process.

This issue is the introductory issue where the founder members as well some of the editorial board members have shared their feelings and their passion for the profession, their struggle as they made their professional journeys and the eternal comparison of the way things were and the way they are. This edition addresses issues about research processes and tries to highlight the fact that there are no short-cuts to good research and the process of research is well paved for researchers willing to walk that path. Guidelines are easily available, given that these are the days of electronic information available in our personal laptops/desktops.

It also makes me reminisce of my first foray into research. As late as early 90s, in India, one had to spend days in libraries trying to get one or two articles. More than often, physiotherapy journals were not the priority in most libraries. Finding a much sought for article gave rise to feelings that were akin to receiving a gold medal in the Olympics. The National Medical Library in New Delhi accepted article requests, but one had to know someone there. Even then, it took a good 4-5 weeks for an article to reach the researcher. The situation was indeed better in countries like the UK where I did my master's in late 90s. But there too, university libraries would often accept slips for article requests and send it to other libraries. Too many requests were frowned upon.

I am glad that things have changed. Accessibility to research articles have improved considerably with

a good number of journals offering open access. The merits and de-merits of open access journals are beyond the scope of this brief writing. It has to be conceded that easy availability of research articles does make the research process easier and paves the way for quick development of research ideas and their implementation. In some ways, the old-fashioned in me feels that easy access robs the excitement, but the pragmatic in me dominates, and I appreciate the easy access compared to the struggle of yesteryears. The registration of clinical trials, adoption of the right procedural guidelines for research (CONSORT, PRISMA, STROBE etc) are all initiatives from the world of research which encourage systematic conductance and accuracy, completeness and clarity in research. Although at face value, processes appear tedious and perhaps frighten some, in a way, conforming to these guidelines makes the research process simpler.

The JSIP editorial board and editorial office is thankful to all those who contributed to this issue. All the academicians, researchers, clinicians, serious thinkers, writers, cartoonists and artists can connect with us at editor@sip-physio.org. We are equally open to comments, criticisms and suggestions.



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Editor