

## EDITORIAL

# Birth of the Pakistan Journal of Nuclear Medicine

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*As the founding editor, it is my privilege and indeed an honour to write this inaugural editorial on the launch of the Pakistan Journal of Nuclear Medicine (PJNM), the official journal of the Pakistan Society of Nuclear Medicine and the first nuclear medicine journal being published from Pakistan. PJNM aspires to represent the professional excellence and contributions of the nuclear medicine community in Pakistan at an international level.*

*This peer-reviewed journal aims to contribute towards research and education of physicians in the field of nuclear medicine and allied sciences. The journal shall provide a platform for publishing and disseminating scientific and clinical contributions of the nuclear medicine community nationally and provides an opportunity for exchange of information and collaboration with the international nuclear medicine community at large.*

*The journal welcomes a wide variety of publication formats, including editorials, state-of-the-art review articles, original scientific and clinical research papers, case reports, interesting scans, library cases, letters to the editor, etc. But in view of the busy schedules and service demands on the nuclear medicine specialists, PJNM specially promotes and encourages publication of brief case reports and submission of interesting scans. For this purpose, we have introduced the "Imaging Gamut" section to facilitate and expedite submission of rare, unusual or interesting scans. This new easy-to-write format is based on the widely*

*accepted elements of a good quality report with additional comments and relevant references. The popularity of this format is evidenced by the large number of cases in this issue of the journal.*

*Nuclear medicine in Pakistan has a long history spanning more than five decades. The publication of the first nuclear medicine journal from Pakistan is a significant milestone for the specialty in the country. Indeed, the nuclear medicine professionals in Pakistan have long aspired for a specialty publication that will help foster the specialty nationally and internationally. The birth of this new journal is a huge triumph and a source of pride for the members of the profession and not only heralds the emergence of a non-biased avenue for publishing clinical and scientific research but also assures dissemination of the published material to a broad range of readership.*

*Over the years, the specialty of nuclear medicine has constantly experienced new challenges as a result of developments in non-nuclear diagnostic modalities; some having eventually replaced or supplanted the established radionuclide functional imaging and non-imaging diagnostic techniques. The practitioners of this discipline are well cognizant of the inherent changeable, dynamic and evolving nature of the specialty due to the constant and steady progress in the field of nuclear medicine itself, but equally, due to the emergence of new diagnostic modalities and concurrent progress in other established specialties. Nonetheless, the last few years*

have seen a hitherto unprecedented escalation in the speed of change, due to the advances and expansion in molecular imaging through the introduction of new radionuclide imaging tracers, technological developments in imaging equipment and the introduction of hybrid imaging, which had a significant impact on the specialty and redefined the clinical role of radionuclide techniques in medicine.

The current ongoing integration of functional and structural imaging has irrevocably changed the nature of the specialty. It is therefore, essential that we not only accept this change as a *fait accompli*, but more importantly, embrace and welcome this opportunity to broaden the scope of nuclear medicine. Nuclear medicine is a multidisciplinary specialty, not only in its own right but also delves into several clinical specialties. Therefore, traditionally, the nuclear medicine practitioners have maintained and fostered a close liaison with clinical specialties such as oncology, cardiology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, urology & nephrology, surgery, and other clinical clients of nuclear medicine.

This exercise of taking a fresh new look at the nature of the specialty was instrumental in defining the "aims and scope" of the journal. PJNM is unique among nuclear medicine journals by taking an initiative aimed at expanding the scope and variety of publications through encouraging and inviting a wider participation. Therefore, in addition to nuclear medicine and allied sciences, the journal proffers contributions from structural imaging as well as the associated clinical specialties.

As the Founding Editor, given the mantle of launching the PJNM, I was mindful of the great confidence and responsibility entrusted to me and promptly started with the task giving myself and other members

of the team a very ambitious time-frame for the launch of the journal. However, I did not have a prescient insight into the many unexpected hurdles and encumbrances that I might encounter nor could I envisage the need for a steep learning curve having to master new technology (web site building, digital image processing, cover and web design and desktop publishing) in a very short time, due to factors such as a lack of organisational support and planning, that were further compounded by logistical problems. Nevertheless, I was buoyed by the heartwarming support, applause and recognition of my endeavours from the nuclear medicine community, which were the catalysts for my motivation and drive and provided me with the necessary impetus to complete this difficult venture.

The original plan was to print the journal in the traditional hardcopy format, but in order to provide an avenue for ready access to guidelines for manuscript preparation and submission, I built a web site for the journal. The site also provided a means of facilitating and expediting communication with the authors and providing information on the status of the submitted manuscripts. However, as time progressed and I started publishing the individual manuscripts online for proof reading by the authors, the process naturally progressed to an online journal format. The PJNM is now being published both in the hardcopy format and as an open-access, peer-reviewed online journal dedicated to publication of top quality original work and review articles. The dual publication format provides the benefit of having a shelf copy of the journal without a need for reprints and the electronic format has the advantage of the ease and speed of access to the work published online.

The foundations of PJNM are based on the professional and academic aspirations of the nuclear medicine community from Pakistan.

*The journal has been launched with the strong and enthusiastic support and participation of all members of the profession.*

*The responsibility and onus of ensuring the future growth of this publication rests individually and collectively on the shoulders of members of this community.*

*I would also avail of this opportunity to address the many nuclear medicine international professionals of the Pakistani diaspora, and request them to join hands and*

*lend their support to the journal through their active participating in the publication process by submitting manuscripts for publication in the PJNM.*

*The future success and growth of PJNM can only be sustained and assured by a dedicated and responsible nurturing of this nascent publication by our collective endeavours, active involvement in the process of clinical research and publication, and through collaborative support for the journal.*