From the Editors Desk...

My Dear esteemed Members of API,

Wish you and your family a Happy and Prosperous New Year 2004.

This issue contains abstracts of the papers to be presented during the 59th Annual Conference of Association of Physicians of India to be held from 18th through 21st January 2004 at Shilparaman, Hyderabad. Out of the total accepted papers 203 are for oral presentation and 342 papers are for poster presentations. These abstracts have been uploaded on JAPI website which can be visited at www.japi.org. I must record my sincere thanks to President-Elect Maj. Gen. S. Venkataraman, Chairman Scientific Committee, APICON 2004 for scrupulously following the time schedule, which enabled me to print and post this issue on time. In addition, to the API scientific program there will be a highly educative programme on 18th January by Indian College of Physicians prepared by Dean of ICP, Dr. Lekha Adik-Pathak, Dr. B.K. Sahay, Organizing Secretary and their colleagues have been working overtime to ensure efficient and smooth implementation of the mega event at the High Tech City of Hyderabad (Cyberabad) where Live relays will be now possible. These three pillars of API with their respective teams will ensure that there will be a scientific academic feast for all.

From February 2003 onwards the new editorial team has taken charge and introduced new cover. Editorial Board meets every month and discusses various issues pertaining to the improvement of the journal, format, language, quality of printing and comments from members, JAPI, CD, etc. Also fastracking for pathbreaking work and current issues like SARS were added. To improve the impact factor and index rating every article full text published in each issue have been uploaded on JAPI website (www.japi.org) every month and it can be viewed free of cost. JAPI is now moving to our new owned premises from its current rental premises. It was possible due to faith reposed in me and Dr. Siddharth N. Shah Editor in Chief, API Textbook of Medicine with President Dr. Manotosh Panja and Secretary Dr. Sandhya A. Kamath and by the Honorable members of the Governing Body and the members of the Editorial Board. On behalf of JAPI and API Textbook of Medicine, API has purchased an office at building called ‘Turf Estate’, near Mahalaxmi Railway Station (West), Mumbai 400 011 and the new office will function from December 2003 onwards.

Three ‘Outstanding Referees’ award for the year 2003 goes to Dr. A. Ramachandran (Chennai), Dr. S.V. Khadilkar (Mumbai) and Dr. Ajay Kumar (Patna).

I must put on record my gratefulness to the members of the Editorial Board, National and International Advisory Board for their guidance and help. The referees of the journal deserve to be specially acknowledged for sparing their valuable time and taking great pains for reviewing the articles. I also thank all the Honorable Governing Body members for their constant encouragement and support and last but not least thanks to you all, the API Members.

The mammoth task of editorial work for this issue was possible due to help from editorial board members. I also acknowledge the support from the pharmaceutical industry particularly, M/s. Unisearch Limited, Unichem Laboratories Limited, J.B. Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Limited, Cipla Limited, Indoco Remedies Limited, Modi-Mundipharma Limited, USV Limited, Franco Indian Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd., Life Scan – Johnson & Johnson, Wockhardt Ltd., Aristo Pharmaceuticals Ltd and Novo Nordisk Pvt. Ltd.

Lastly my grateful thanks are due to the postal authorities, the staff of the editorial office and API office especially Mr. Ramnath, Mrs. Sunita Shukla, Mr. Deepak Rane and Printer M/s. Typo Graphics, Shree Abhyudaya Printing Press, M/s. Ameya Book Binders and others for their cooperation and help throughout the bygone year.

Dr. Shashank R. Joshi
Hon. Editor