

Editorial

Diamond Jubilee of Journal of Association of Physicians of India 1952 – 2012



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The Beginning

Association of Physicians of India (API) was founded in the year 1944 at Madras. Till 1952, the association had no journal. In fact the presidential address delivered by Dr. Jivraj Mehta, the first president of the association was published in the Journal of Indian Medical Association.

The first editor was Prof. S. S. Misra, from King George Medical College, Lucknow. The journal was then called "Medicine". Prof. Misra did not have any money to run the journal. On his request Dr. J. C. Patel, then the Secretary of API, donated the whole amount that the association had i.e. ₹.1000/- ! The first editorial of Prof. S.S. Misra is reproduced below, both for its historical importance as well the philosophy and scope of the Journal as envisaged by him.

"We, of the Association of the Physicians of India, have been thinking, for a long time, about the starting of an official journal of our own. This is our first. In the first instance, we propose to have four issues in a year. Later, if conditions permit, we plan to convert it into a monthly journal.

We propose to publish original articles on medical and allied subjects of a good standard, and invite contributions from all over the country and from abroad.

In addition to original articles, we will have, later on, detailed reports on clinico-pathological conferences, extracts from current modern literature, and association notes etc.

Finally, we would like to add that ours is a non-profit making organisation and that our aim is to help promote medical research of quality in India."

The First Change

The money however dried up soon, and for lack of financial support after 3 issues the publication was discontinued until 1955 when George Coelho of erstwhile Bombay was appointed the next editor. Before this Dr. Coelho had been successfully publishing "Medical Bulletin" since 1932. The Journal was now named "Journal of Association of Physicians of India". Since then the Journal has not looked back with consistent improvement in publication schedule, quality and variety of contents and quality of printing.

The Editors

So far nine individuals have held the prestigious editors position. These being

1.	Dr. S. S. Misra	1952 – 1955
2.	Dr. George Coelho	1955 – 1971
3.	Dr. N. J. Modi	1972 – 1978

4.	Dr. K. G. Nair	1979 – 1981
5.	Dr. G. S. Sainani	1982 – 1988
6.	Dr. V. R. Joshi	1989 – 1991
7.	Dr. P. J. Mehta	1992 – 1996
8.	Dr. S. K. Bichile	1997 – 2002
9.	Dr. Shashank R. Joshi	2002 – 2008

Dr. Siddharth N. Shah, the 10th Editor, has the privilege of being Editor of JAPI (The Journal of the Association of Physicians of India) as it is popularly known as in the Diamond Jubilee year of its publication.

The process of appointment of editors has changed over the years. Initially it was by selection, then election and now by nomination. Except for the first editor, Prof. S. S. Misra, all the editors have hailed from Mumbai. This has ensured continuity of function. The head office of API being at Mumbai is an added advantage.

Over the years the Journal office has shifted from place to place. Since 1989 it was housed in the API rented place. The journal since the year 2000 now has its own office purchased along with The Association of Physicians of India at a very specious location "No. 006 & 007, Turf Estate, Dr. E. Moses Road, Opp. Shakti Mill Compound, Mahalaxmi (West), Mumbai 400 011. The journal also has its dedicated staff working.

The Growth

Initially the Journal was published quarterly. In 1959 it became a bimonthly journal and since 1961 it is published every month. Thus from less than 500 pages per year, the number increased to 1604 in the year 2002. Pari pasu with the growth of API has been the increase in circulation of the Journal. From monthly 3000 copies in 1982, 16,000 copies are now printed every month. Today the Journal receives over 650 manuscripts per year. On an average over 300 articles are now published in the Journal per year. The financial position of the Journal was poor at the beginning. It did not improve till 1982. Since then a positive balance has been achieved despite the fact that API has stopped its contribution since the year 1999. The financial situation was so bad in the early eighties that the then editor, Dr. G. S. Sainani put in the following insert in the Journal:

"May I request the members to please give us helping hand in getting advertisements for JAPI so that we can further improve the printing of JAPI. JAPI offers 10% commission to those who help JAPI in getting direct advertisements (Sainani GSJAPI – The future – *J Assoc Physicians of India* 1985;33:1337)".

Since then today JAPI is self sufficient and does not draw any contribution from API. The journal is also publishing "Special Issues" of interest to the practicing physicians contributed by eminent specialists of the field from the country.

Some important landmarks in the history of the journal are given below.

1952 Launching of the Journal – then called Medicine

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- 1955 Renewed & regular quarterly publication now called Journal Association of Physicians of India
- 1959 Published bimonthly
- 1961 Published monthly
- 1973 Leading articles introduced (Now called editorials)
- 1982 Acronym JAPI introduced
New sections introduced
Special issues introduced (1st was by Dr. D. B. Pahalajani)
Expansion of editorial board
Expansion of advisory board (Till 1982 there were only 10 advisory board members)
- 1989 Statistical evaluation of papers
Professional proof reader
(later discontinued)
Section-wise responsibility to editorial board members
Special series (1st was on statistics by Dr. A. Nanivadekar)
- 1998 Web site started
- 1999 e-mail ID
- 2000 CD Rom (1991 – 2000 contents)
- 2002 Publication of treatment guide-lines

What Does JAPI Mean Today

1. It is an important source for consultants and physicians for practice guide-lines
2. It is an important source of Indian literature for post-graduate students
3. Improved market value. An incentive to physicians to become API member

The Future

There are areas which need to be improved to raise-the journal to world standards. There has been a consistent demand to increase the number of pages of JAPI and reduce the time interval for accepted articles to be published from 1 – 1 ½ years to less than one year. The present editorial board is aware of this need and are striving their best to look into the demands. In view of advances in technology the editorial board is thinking to make the publication and processing of articles online as there is a growing demand for the same. We intend to publish newer sections like point of view, C.P.C., Radiology and ECG teaching series and others to improve the standard of the journal.

I must place on record the untiring and exclusive efforts made by former editors of JAPI namely Drs. N.J. Modi, D. Coelho, S.S. Misra, K.G. Nair, G.S. Sainani, V.R. Joshi, P.J. Mehta, S.K. Bichile, Shashank R. Joshi, for continuously spearheading JAPI to its present state. I would endeavour to raise the standard of the journal to greater heights with your continues constructive suggestions.

The task ahead is challenging and the Editorial Board is striving its best to fulfill the aspirations of one and all. Hope you enjoy the newer changes made in the Diamond Jubilee year of JAPI. The Journal has had 60 years of steady growth. It is still young, and vibrant with continued support from all members of API. For the future editors only sky is the limit.


