

Editorial note

Editing the Nepalese Journal of Ophthalmology: a voyage of five years

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Until about five years ago, the ophthalmologists of Nepal had to struggle very hard to get their research findings published for dissemination among the members of the scientific community of the world. National data relating to the practice of ophthalmology and development of eye care were either not published or were limited to presentations in conferences or to publications in a local souvenir. The clinical experience of the growing number of Nepalese ophthalmologists could also not be shared with colleagues worldwide. This was, of course, grossly inadequate. But there was a long-cherished dream of launching a journal of ophthalmology in Nepal (Shah, 2009) so that the national scientists and researchers could have an arena for sharing their research findings at the international level. We were convinced that the scientific knowledge and experience had to be incorporated in practice (Ruit, 2009) for which publication of a journal was indispensable.

It was also thought that a peer-reviewed academic journal of ophthalmology of Nepal would be a contribution to further development of ophthalmic services in Nepal and of ophthalmology as a science.

Today, we can be happy that we have realized that dream. We can also take some pride in that the Nepalese Journal of Ophthalmology has been indexed in the pubmed and is listed in 'HINARI'. The number of papers that the journal receives from Nepalese ophthalmologists is increasing every year. The journal has also been able to draw the attention of researchers at the international level.

The national and regional scientific conferences play a positive role in improving the scientific merit of the submitted articles because of the critical comments, interactions and the scientific deliberations. Periodic workshops on research methodology and scientific writings are useful for the practicing ophthalmologists and young researchers. The activities of the Nepal Ophthalmic Society in addressing these issues are highly appreciable.

Dreams, too, like computer programs need to be regularly 'updated'. We now have to work harder to bring the scientific merit of the journal to a new height so that the citation index and the impact factor continue increasing. The impact factor of a journal increases if the papers published in the journal get cited by the other authors in other scientific journals.



The voyage of the five years of editing and publishing the journal of ophthalmology in Nepal has had its ups and downs, but, as a whole, was a challenging and educational opportunity.

However, we have been once in a while encountering some unacceptable behavior on the part of some potential authors of papers submitted to us. They are, particularly, plagiarism and duplicate submissions. These significantly disrupt the overall publication work, make it difficult to bring out the journal on time and present the Editorial Board with unnecessary frustrations. We are very much aware of these and have been making every effort to detect them by using the available software programs. But software programs are not omnipotent. We plead to the sense of honesty of all the authors to together develop our journal as the product of fully honest academic and scientific endeavors.

Some very good articles, material-wise, may not be accepted or be delayed in getting accepted if they are not linguistically satisfactory or do not strictly adhere to the prescribed house-style of the journal. We advise our potential authors to take this matter into account before submitting their work to the journal.

The authors should take the full responsibility for the articles submitted by them. We wish to receive manuscripts that are easy to read, easy to edit and that would draw the attention of the international scientific community.

We also take this opportunity to thank all of you who have helped in the job of the editorial board for these five years. Bringing out a journal, like most fruitful endeavors, is a team work. Let us all pledge to make the next five years in the life of our journal more robust than its first five years.

References

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