

Editorial

“When there's no place for the scalpel, words are the surgeon's only tool.”

- *Paul Kalanithi, When Breath Become Air*

True scholarship lies at the confluence of what is authoritative, comprehensive and cutting edge. In an academic environment densely populated with medical journals, the burden on a young and new publication like the Asian Journal of Medicine & Health Sciences (AJMHS) is immense. It must capture developments in medicine that are contemporary, feature views from leading practitioners and offer a platform for young promising researchers and be backed by evidence that is empirically sound.

Two facts distinguish the AJMHS from its peers. First, the journal actively encourages young medical students and practitioners to not just excel in the pursuit of medicine but chronicle and share their views with the larger public. Second, the journal leverages the power of the internet to produce a web-exclusive publication that is easily disseminated and reaches an audience wider than the professional ecosystem free of cost.

The pieces in this volume are a testament to the diversity of ideas that the journal is trying to cultivate. The chapters in this edition have a significant focus on the quality of life of patients – from a study on the health related aspects among knee osteoarthritis patients to a study of high dependency geriatric care in a private hospital in Malaysia. Another piece highlights the difficulty in the treatment and lack of awareness among patients with gouty arthritis. A rare case of splenic calcification in SLE will definitely arouse interest among readers. At the same time, there are chapters that delve into more contemporaneous questions such as vaccination against cervical cancer and examining the role that Lysyl oxidase plays in promoting cancer metastasis. In this endeavour, however, contributors to this edition have not forgotten to turn a discerning eye towards larger questions surrounding the medical profession. One chapter examines ethical dilemmas around culture, religion and the doctor-patient relationship itself that plague young medical students. Another introspective chapter highlights the importance of wellness and salutogenic practices in mentoring medical students.

This volume of the journal, while being only the second edition, is a rich tapestry of ideas and thoughts, where there is something for everyone – from a seasoned practitioner to a casual observer. I hope that you as a reader find the pages within as enjoyable as we found it to curate.

I am privileged and take this opportunity to thank all the authors and co-authors for this issue of the journal and expect many more of your scientific literature to decorate our very young and ready to bloom AJMHS in near as well as distant future.

Last but not the least I offer my heartfelt thanks to all who have contributed directly and indirectly to make this issue see the light of the day.

Dr Basanta Kumar Mohanty, Chief Editor, AJMHS