

The New IJMPO: The Phoenix is Ready to Fly

The phoenix has resurrected itself from the ashes and is ready to fly. IJMPO was delisted by PubMed for a variety of reasons. It is with this background that we begin our journey.

We are actively engaged in trying to change the philosophy of IJMPO from “I” to “US.” We have a team of more than 15 section editors and senior section advisors. This team is well supported by special content experts such as a statistician, scientific content advisor, and language editor. We are also seeking inputs from domain experts such as infectious disease specialists, medicolegal experts, radiologists, pathologists, geneticists, and radiation oncologists both from within the reconstituted editorial board and outside it. We have also assembled national and international advisory boards comprising accomplished individuals with a long track record of distinguished medical practice or academics or both in a variety of fields. They will guide the editorial team in the strategy for revival, will write editorials in key themes, and will multidimensionally mentor the junior members. It will be our utmost endeavor to create a strong and motivated team of peer reviewers.

In our efforts to reinvent IJMPO as a niche journal for the oncology community, we have started various initiatives. In the current information era, patients are increasingly aware of their rights and are more assertive. The society is more litigious, and the doctor–patient relationship needs serious attention from both the parties. Medical professionals need to be aware of various state, national, and international regulations and their implications. Our medicolegal experts will help doctors to prepare themselves better for this current scenario.

Trainees form an important part of any academic community. We wish to involve them constructively in the editorial activity of IJMPO with the overarching aim of preparing future editorial leaders well versed in the nuances of manuscript writing and evaluation, peer review, and editorial process. The “Trainees’ Corner” will have a trainee editor and will solicit submissions from oncologists in training about the science as well as art of our discipline. We also hope to publish about handling stress, burnout, and related themes that are of great importance, not only to trainees but also to the entire oncology community.

The armamentarium of the medical oncologist is expanding rapidly. There are newer and more effective drugs. It is an increasingly difficult task to keep ourselves updated with all relevant information. Our new section “Drug Reviews” will help oncologists to quickly review the most essential information about chosen drugs including uses,

administration, toxicity, black box warnings, and regulatory restrictions.

We all are humans. To err is human, but the cost of a doctor’s mistake is sky high. There is financial, ethical, and moral cost involved. Doctors are constantly under stress and have a high rate of burnout. Healing is a complicated process and involves medications, psychological interventions, and doctor’s verbal and nonverbal communication – all of them associated with unpredictability and uncertainty. Our senior doctors will help the readers understand such aspects of cancer treatment – “Oncology Beyond Science.”

The original and review articles form the core of a journal like IJMPO. The case reports with associated literature review, although rated lowest category of evidence, guide the oncologists in the treatment of rare tumors and continue to be relevant. The “Practitioners Section” has interesting clinical situations whereas the “Letters to Editor” gives the reader an opportunity to express him/herself. All these will form an important part of IJMPO.

We are open to suggestions and ready to modify and evolve. Our readers and critics can reach us on editor@ijmpo.org with constructive criticism. IJMPO is the face of changing oncology in a new India. We will try our best to fulfill the aspirations of our members as well as scientific community and society at large. Happy reading!

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