
 EDITORIAL

It gives us immense pleasure to share this special JPMA supplement with our readers, published as a supplement to the 2nd Annual Surgical Meeting of the Aga Khan University Hospital. The theme of the meeting is 'Surgical Innovations for the Developing Country,' and submissions were invited keeping this theme in mind.

We received an enormous response from both national and international contributors and a total of 274 manuscripts were received despite a short invitation deadline of just four weeks. We adopted JPMA's strict criteria for publication and each submission was first evaluated for plagiarism through specialized computer software. No manuscript was rejected at this level. This was followed by coding of each submission to insure that the peer-review process remains blinded and transparent. Each submission was then assigned to two independent reviewers, who were subject specialists belonging to the same specialty, again based on standard JPMA policy. In case of discrepancy, a statistical review or a third editorial review was also done. Complete confidentiality of the reviewers was insured. All reviews were carried out on standard JPMA review forms. Case reports, small case series, review articles, non-surgical articles were not considered for publication. Only original articles that were judged by both reviewers to be publishable in their present form; or with minor changes only, were selected. Articles requiring major revisions were not considered for publication.

A total of 41 (3 Original Articles and 38 Short Articles) out of 274 articles were thus accepted for publication giving an acceptance rate of 15% and rejection rate of 85%. This final list of articles was forwarded to JPMA for final editorial review, along with the comments of the reviewers. The rejected articles were also sent back to JPMA along with reviewers' comments. Each contributor was individually informed of the editorial decision. At this point we must mention that some of the rejected articles were actually of reasonable quality, but could not be published, on the basis that they required major revisions in either format or language, which given the short time-line, was not possible for this particular supplement.

We thank our contributors, our team of reviewers, our administrative staff, Shariff Charania and Burhan Ali, who worked tirelessly day and night and made this herculean task possible. We hope you will appreciate the quality of papers in this supplement, and take an active part in the 2nd Annual Surgical Meeting of the Aga Khan University Hospital.

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