

Why KUMJ?

With the establishment of the Nepal Medical Association – A “Trade Union” of medical doctors of Nepal, the first Medical Journal subsequently titled JNMA, saw the light of day in the year 1962. For the first three years only two issues came out. Then it became a quarterly and though an attempt was made to bring out the JNMA every two months, it did not succeed. The JNMA is still a quarterly. The journal continues but is now peer reviewed and has become more regular. The IoM Journal became the second one to be started and the NEPAS journal the third. This Paediatric Journal has the distinction of being the first specialist publication of this type. Other specialty publications by different specialist associations e.g. physicians, surgeons, psychiatrists, ophthalmic surgeons have come up over the years. They are bringing out souvenirs / proceedings with original and reviewed articles, case notes etc. at time of the conferences. Besides this the Post Graduate Medical Journal was more regular but has not come out after the establishment of NAMS.

With the opening of more medical schools – currently numbering eleven and the establishment of a P.G. Institution NAMS – many of us have started taking interest in writing papers. The reasons maybe for name and fame, for academic career advancement and faculty postings and positions in medical schools, to obtain research grant from NHRC, WHO and/or pharmaceutical industries, to find a forum to speak in National and International conferences and seminars etc. Many of the standard original articles are based on the field and institutional research studies in Nepal carried by national and international experts. Majority of them ignore the Nepalese Medical Journals and go for the publication of research articles in International Journals – which are peer reviewed and indexed and carry “impact factor”.

Nepalese Medical Journals should publish the standard original articles based on well carried out field and institutional studies, be well structured under the acronyms “IMRAD” (Introduction, Method, Result, and Discussion). The writer should choose a catchy title, and abstracts should be the essence as many readers go through it before deciding to read the full paper. Too many tables, figures and big list of references makes the article unnecessarily long and hence should be avoided. Case reports presented should be unique, with unusual findings and not just one with the classical textbook presentation. The Journal should also have special sections e.g. office practice, “research” for practitioners and also “CME” for postgraduates. Student corner, book reviews, letter to editor, medical quiz, history of medicine and great medical scientists of the past. Certain worldwide reputed journals even devote space for obituaries.

With the limited readership of Nepalese Journal and with the advent of World Wide Web free to readers, the longevity and sustainability of Nepalese Medical Journal hangs in a balance unless they are of international standard. KUMJ (Kathmandu University Medical Journal) has taken up the task to bring five medical colleges under KU viz., Manipal College of Medical Sciences, Pokhara; Kathmandu Medical College, Sinamangal, Kathmandu; College of Medical Sciences, Bharatpur; Nepalgunj Medical College, Chisapani, Banke; Kathmandu University Medical School, Kavre; under one roof to pool the research articles from these medical schools and to give credibility and sustainability to the Nepalese Medical Journal. It is going to be quarterly journal, peer reviewed and also an indexed journal with “impact factor” so that national and international researchers doing research in Nepal and abroad will be encouraged to publish the articles in this journal.

The copy you have in your hands is the first inaugural issue of Kathmandu University’s very own medical journal – KUMJ. It is the beginning and we promise to give you an international journal. However, for all this we need your contribution in the future issues.

Happy writing and see you in the pages of KUMJ

MRB