

Analogue to digital dentistry, Human to Artificial Intelligence & Open access

Welcome to the 45th year of Pakistan Oral and Dental Journal. The journal's journey is guided through the vision, dedication, perseverance and unparalleled leadership of Prof. Dr. Ahmad Iqbal, the founder of the journal, who has decided to retire. Hats off to him (I salute him on behalf of the editorial board members). During the past over four decades, the journal has witnessed ever-expanding world of sciences. It has been dissipating available contents at its disposal to Pakistani and international readership audience. The achievements and impact of the journal are numerous; I will confine myself to only one at the moment. The untold and unacknowledged achievement of the journal is that it helped many "academics" to be positioned in universities around the globe. Hopefully, they remain in gratitude and recognition to the vision of Prof. Iqbal and the journal. Throughout the numerous obstacles and uncertainties, he kept the journal alive. He contributed to serving the profession not only as a mentor, but a visionary leader full of passion and a sense of responsibility. Above all, his self-less demeanor made him a very special member of our dental fraternity. His leadership was not void of criticism, which he faced with humbleness and wisdom. May Allah SWT bless him long, healthy, happy retired life and reward him with His eternal bounties.

As we are witnessing the transforming times, our profession is moving fast from analogue to digital dentistry. Human intelligence is being assisted by Artificial intelligence (AI) and open access publications. We have to embrace and acknowledge the rapidly changing scientific arena cautiously keeping its pros and cons in mind. We have to elevate our flagship journal, PODJ to the high level, getting its recognition internationally by Scopus, Web of Science, Medline / Pubmed in the foreseeable future. We have to work harder to raise the scientific contents and publication standards of the journal through high quality research and clinical articles. This is possible through a rigorous review process, and meeting the evidence-based standards and norms of international scientific journalism.

I would like to introduce our editorial team, Profs. Abdul Samad Khan, Saeeda Abdullah, Shahjahan Katpar and Drs. Fareha Iqbal, Ammar Siddiqui and Intisar Siddiqui. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to our founding editor-in-chief, Prof. Iqbal, past editors, national and international advisory board members, regional bureau chiefs and reviewers.

On a personal note, Dear Prof. Iqbal, rest assured that we pledge ourselves to continue your legacy and inspire our scientific community for years to come, In Sha Allah. Once again, thank you very much for your trust and everything you did for our profession.

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JULY 17, 2025

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