

Editorial: Change of guard



All good things must come to an end sometime. My term as Editor-in-Chief is drawing to an end and it is time to pass on the baton. This is the last issue that will be published under my Editorship. I am glad to introduce and welcome Professor S. Ramakrishnan, Professor of Cardiology, at the prestigious All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi (picture), who will take over as Editor-in-Chief from January 2021. Professor Ramakrishnan has been one of the pillars of the Pediatric Cardiac Society of India and has been its driving force for many years. He has also been the Assistant Editor of the journal and has also been actively involved with the Indian Heart Journal. In his able hands, the Annals of Pediatric Cardiology should scale even greater heights. His dynamism and innovative thinking should infuse fresh energy in the journal.

The journey of the past 3 years has been exciting, educative, and enjoyable. The journal has steadily gained a wider reach and popularity judging by the quality and geographic distribution of the submissions and much credit is due to the foundations laid by the past editors of the journal. The rise in number of submissions emboldened us to increase the journal frequency from three issues a year to four issues a year. I hope the next Editor is able to push it up to six issues a year! I wish to thank all the contributors for their belief and faith in the journal and will exhort them to continue with their contributions. I also need to express my profound gratitude to all the reviewers who have so painstakingly and willingly reviewed the innumerable submissions that I have sent to them. Good reviewers enhance the quality of manuscripts, which, in turn, improves the image of the journal.

Journals today are facing numerous challenges. Competition has grown with the addition of newer journals in the field of congenital heart disease and a mushrooming of online and open access journals. Publication costs are constantly on the rise while avenues of revenue are under constant downward pressure. Increasing the Impact Factor is one of the main goals

of the Editor, but it is easier said than done. Authors understandably like to send their best research to journals with a high impact factor and the less important ones to the others. This creates a vicious cycle where the low impact factor journals do not attract the best research and so cannot improve their rating. Nevertheless, the APC has continued to encourage and publish research from this part of the world and has provided authors from the low and middle-income countries a platform to showcase their unique problems. I hope the relative ease of publishing in the Annals of Pediatric Cardiology makes it more attractive also to high quality manuscripts.

The last year has also been especially challenging with the COVID pandemic creating a global upheaval. As I had written in my last Editorial, the pandemic has had a majorly disruptive influence on the delivery of pediatric cardiac care in the country. Despite the challenges of the lockdown and other restrictions, we managed to stick to our timelines and managed to bring out the online journal issues on time. It was apparent that the enforced break from regular hospital work gave our contributors the opportunity to catch up with their manuscript writing and the journal witnessed a record number of submissions during this period.

I also wish to thank the members of our publishing team Medknow/Wolters Kluwer, especially Mr. Hanumant Pawar, who have been ever-supportive and diligent in the processing of the articles. I wish to thank them for their guidance in rolling out the issues in a timely manner and for taking care of the innumerable processes that are involved in bringing out a journal. The online Editorial Manager has also been migrated to a new platform which is expected to improve the submission process and enhance the author experience. We hope our contributors find this new platform more user friendly.

Parting is never easy but as the saying goes - "the old order changeth, yielding place to new." I wish Dr. Ramakrishnan the very best while taking over the reins of the Annals of Pediatric Cardiology.

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Submitted: 14-Sep-2020 **Accepted:** 15-Sep-2020 **Published:** 05-Oct-2020

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Access this article online	
Quick Response Code: 	Website: www.annalspc.com
	DOI: 10.4103/apc.apc_216_20

How to cite this article: Iyer KS. Editorial: Change of guard. Ann Pediatr Card 2020;13:279-80.