



## *The Journal of Maharashtra Orthopaedic Association*

Dear Friends,

This is my last editorial of the tenure as a founder editor of our journal. Looking back, I have mixed feelings about last 2-3 years. It was great satisfaction to be able to contribute to the development of our association by initiating the scientific journal and making a platform available for the young and not so young, the seasoned and the novice writer to publish their work. Everybody has appreciated the major role played by the scientific journal in getting the Best chapter award of IOA in 2006 for MOA.

That was about the brighter side of the story. On the other hand the lethargy, which I initially thought was just an apprehension of the uninitiated, of the majority of our members was very disturbing to put it mildly. Though I tried to coax and cajole the prospective writers in to putting the words together and assuring them of a well edited article in their name I was more often than not disappointed by the response or rather the lack of it.

The labor one had to put in collecting and storing the data in pre-computers era is the thing of the past. Now we have all the information and the references in the world literally at our finger tips. What we are lacking is the culture of publishing the work. Does the apathy lie in our roots? The tradition of not keeping the written documents of the huge development our country had done thousands of years ago and thus losing the invaluable knowledge has not taught us anything. We are still shy of committing anything in writing and I feel that the teaching methods have themselves to blame for it.

Can't we start cultivating the new ideas and grooming the young thinkers rather than putting the faith (many a times blindly) in the so called experience? We will have to make it compulsory in the syllabus to have a couple of publications in national and international journals before one even appears for post graduate examination. That will develop the CULTURE of reporting everything we do and to report we will have to record. In the era of Evidence based Medicine what survives is the recorded knowledge and nothing else.

We have majority of us doing a lot of work which if recorded and presented properly will have impact on world literature of Orthopaedics. The world will look at and follow the Indian orthopaedics rather than we following the western world. Only because certain surgery is popular and shows results in western world we feel that it is the only correct way of treating a particular disease without

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considering socio-economic and cultural scenario of our country. The example of AMP always comes to my mind. We talk of how useless is the hemi-arthroplasty surgery from the podium but ignore the fact that we do large number of hemis and the number is not going down. If this surgery was so bad and the results so poor, will any orthoped perform it in his private set-up where his existence depends on the clinical results of his surgery?

Jewette nail and codylar blade plate for the femur are other two examples of step-motherly treatment dished out to these surgeries which have given excellent results for decades if not centuries when performed in proper indication and with proper technique.

So coming back to the point, if we record the results of all AMPs being done in India and publish it I am sure the proponents of THR for every hip problem will think twice before denouncing the hemi-arthroplasty summarily. For this we will have to start writing and publishing. One more myth or fear is how to report negative results. One has to be very clear in his mind that what is right today may be wrong tomorrow and have broad mind to accept it. Then only the person and science will progress.

Change is the sign of progress and I am very happy in announcing the change in guard of the journal of maharashtra orthopaedic association. Dr Ajeet Phadake of Yavatmal is taking over the chief editorship for the next three years and I am confident that he will look after the project and the JMOA will progress by leaps and bounds under his leadership.

Though I may not meet you in Editorials, I will keep meeting you as secretary of MOA for next 2 years and request you to extend the support and co-operation in future also.

I remember late Dr Sharad Chodhary, the founder secretary of MOA and the person instrumental in starting the journal in his President ship as a great visionary. We should all be grateful to him for starting this project.

It will not be out of place to thank Dr Varunjikar and Dr. Tanna for their encouragement and Dr Ashok Patil for the support in keeping the spirit high and keep the show going at all odds. As Dr GS Kulkarni said to succeed we should not let the publication stop.

Dr V M Iyer, my teacher guided me through out with valuable suggestions on editing.

All great things have a small beginning. I have made a small beginning and you will have to contribute to make it a great thing.

**Dr. Rajendra Abhyankar**  
Editor