

The road ahead

The journey of this journal began, when the ISCLP & CA decided to create a platform for the specialists treating clefts in India, to augment and share their knowledge and experience with the rest of the community. Clinical research from our country and most of the developing world sometimes does not get fair consideration in international journals. This might be because of the differences in reporting arising out of the variance in our communities, their attitudes, their social makeup, language, etc. The aim of this journal is to provide a level field for researchers, as well as to serve as a unified repository of knowledge native to our part of the world. It is indeed a great privilege for me to be entrusted with the responsibility of taking this journal forward. At the outset, I would like to applaud the great work put in by Dr. Karoon Agrawal, Dr. Krishnamurthy Bonanthaya, the previous editors and editorial board, reviewers, and contributors in the past.

As the incoming Editor-in-Chief, I intend to continue and reinvigorate the multidisciplinary approach initiated by the previous editorial board. Clefts are complex conditions having a wide range of associated problems that affect not only the patients but also everyone around them in myriad ways. Hence, there is a necessity for varied medical specialties to be involved in facing these challenges. The multidisciplinary team consists of surgeon, pediatrician, various dental specialists, speech pathologist, and psychologist. The number of specialties involved in the treatment of clefts has been growing as we uncover new facets of problems associated with oro-craniofacial clefts.

Our focus will be centered on inviting more researchers from various specialties so that this publication becomes a truly unified platform for new knowledge, contributing quality research dealing with the entire gamut of clefts and associated problems. Currently, most of these specialists prefer to publish their work in their own specialty publications. I think the time is right to change this trend by spreading awareness and diversifying contributions and readership, thereby making our journal truly representative of the multidisciplinary team approach for cleft treatments and not just cleft surgery.

Although the primary aim of this journal is to compile, disseminate, and hence improve the native knowledge, we can still benefit greatly from established protocols, new advances, and experiences from around the

world. To this end, from time to time, we will fall back on eminent, experienced practitioners to give us an invited review in the form of "State of the Art." In this section, the invited author will deal with different aspects of cleft and craniofacial anomalies, from history to evolution to future trends. We will try to bring to our community, all the new ideas and innovations, in the surgical as well as allied aspects of the treatment of patients suffering from cleft and other craniofacial anomalies, happening all around the world.

We are also looking into the possibility and feasibility of categorizing each publication regarding the value it adds to the existing body of knowledge, by classifying it according to the levels of scientific evidence presented.

For our endeavor to succeed, we will need the support of the entire community of cleft practitioners, including all the specialists dealing with the presurgical, surgical, as well as postsurgical management of patients with such anomalies. I look forward to this support from everyone in the form of enthusiastic contribution, as well as in-depth debate and discussion on each topic, so that we are able to achieve highest levels of academic and clinical excellence.

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