

Pakistan Orthopaedic Association (POA): A Quantum Leap towards excellence in Orthopaedic Care

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It is a matter of honour for me to write this editorial for Journal of Pakistan Orthopaedic Association (JPOA). In my short career of more than two decades in Pakistan, I have seen Orthopaedic grow from trauma service and few individual shining stars to rapid growth of orthopaedic subspecialty. This trend is spreading to all major cities of Pakistan. The opportunities for young orthopaedic surgeons have never been so widespread.

Orthopaedics is passion and is not for the faint at heart. So, I believe and so was my motto when I took onto orthopaedic surgery as a career. I have come a long way down the road and as immediate past president of Pakistan Orthopaedic Association (POA), it is a matter of immense pleasure for me to have represented the orthopaedic fraternity of this country at the highest possible level. I have represented Pakistan internationally at various orthopaedic congresses at USA, Australia, UK, Turkey, Singapore, China and Malaysia.

Orthopaedic surgery itself has evolved during my career. From the era of composite orthopaedic training and surgeons who would perform mainly most basic procedures, we have entered the modern phase of developing subspecialties. In the last decade, there has been exponential growth in orthopaedic subspecialties, and this has set pace for the race to be the best. In the wake of the healthy competition that this race has created, patient care and delivery of specialized service to every doorstep be it urban or rural, has ensued. I am happy that we are finally headed in the right direction. Many of our younger surgeons are taking subspecialty of their liking very early in career and want to focus at improved care for a select patient group.

Pakistan Orthopaedic Association has been instrumental in the indigenous development of Orthopaedic subspecialties. Initially subspecialty forums were established, among which most of them

have matured into subspecialty societies. The objectives of these societies are to promote respective subspecialty by conducting seminars, hands on workshops as well as arranging fellowships both nationally as well as internationally. We also aim to advance the culture of education and research in all possible ways and to encourage highest standards of practice. POA has established liaisons with international societies and currently partnering Asia Pacific Orthopaedic Association (APOA), British Orthopaedic Association (BOA), Malaysian Orthopaedic Association (MOA), Turkish Orthopaedic Association (TOTBID). We envision Pakistan Orthopaedic Association as truly global organization that is mutually beneficial to its local as well as international partners. We will soon be at par with international evidenced based practices.

The Journal of Pakistan Orthopaedic Association established in 1967 is the flagship periodical of the POA. It provides us the opportunity to share our knowledge with our orthopaedic colleagues as well as promote the culture of research and evidenced based practice in our country. It is indexed in SCOPE ME and recognized by Higher Education Commission (HEC) as well as Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC). It is our moral and social responsibility as member of POA to boost publication and the impact factor of our journal both by submitting manuscripts for publication and more importantly by citing published articles from JPOA in our scientific work. A strong journal would reflect the quality of work done in the country and would aid the community in finding a platform to showcase their research.

The legacy of our elders and founders of Pakistan Orthopaedic Association must be kept alive and it is the responsibility of our future generation of surgeons to keep the torch of education and academics they once lighted burning and shining brighter every coming day. I hope the very best to POA and JPOA and wish to see JPOA as an internationally indexed journal within my career.

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