

Launching UJMS: Where do we go From Here?

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Starting a scholarly journal is no mean feat for an academic institution. With the launch of this inaugural issue of “UCMS Journal of Medical Sciences (UJMS)”, University College of Medical Sciences (UCMS) reinforces its position as an elite medical institution with an in-house journal. The journal is another cog in the wheel of continued learning which is the spirit of UCMS. In addition to providing a nurturing environment for research, we plan to increase scholarly publishing by providing a platform to enable our researchers to showcase their academic potential. This would allow them to take their research work to its logical end-point in addition to giving them better career opportunities and secure funding for further research. UJMS aims to further our commitment to pragmatic and integrative learning across the curriculum. The open access format adopted by the digital version of UJMS is in alignment with the principle of providing a free platform for dissemination of research.

The scope of UJMS has been kept broad to cover all medical specialties while allowing dissemination of academic content for increasingly targeted or specialized readerships. *Health Humanities* section has been added in the journal to give a new dimension which draws on creative and fine arts to add altruistic touch to healthcare and well-being. UCMS has always been a robust MBBS campus, hence, a *Student's Voice* section is our endeavour to empower the students to co-lead the institution by

collaborating with faculty and peers. Additionally, it helps students to hone their leadership capabilities and shape their educational experiences.

We must remember that “Rome wasn’t built in a day” and likewise sustaining a journal is a major commitment and requires passion, dedication, motivation and hard work on part of all stake holders. Regular submission from faculty and students is the most crucial element for running a journal. The seniors need to hold hands of their juniors and guide them in not only initiating research but also to take it to its logical end-point of publication. A vibrant editorial board provides both energy and oversight for the content. A robust peer review process adds credibility to the journal. Additionally, institutional support in the form of funding, logistic support in the form of manuscript submission and plagiarism check software, supportive staff, and office space are needed. Indeed, an army marches on its belly!

Many logical questions and apprehensions follow any major project. All authors justifiably wish their work to be suitably cited and indexed. This process has its own path, and I have personally felt that biomedical researchers should have material suitable for all levels of presentation, starting from the basic rounds, the local newsletter, and culminating in high-value internationally indexed work. Hope we get there soon as a close team!