



*From the Editor's desk....*

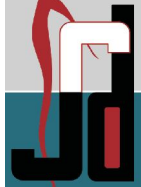


### **Dental Journalism - All is Well?**

The current status of 'profession' for dentistry is not a simple achievement. Dentistry since its inception had always been subjected to severe allegations, by the public as well as the professions, for being just an art in the unqualified hands, based on unscientific principles. Bearing in mind the barbarous acts of the barber surgeons of the yesteryears, these allegations may not be entirely unwarranted. Thus to extricate dentistry from such a downtrodden status, to escalate it to a dignified professional status, a totally altruistic behaviour of the early dental scientists was called for. A combination of *organization, education* and *journalism*, called as *triumvirate* emerged, that propelled dentistry to the forefront. Of the three, dental journalism played a major role in obtaining dentistry's due recognition.

The world's first dental journal was started in the year 1839 and was called as The American journal of Dental sciences, which has endured, the economic, political and professional high and low tides, to exist even today as Journal of American Dental Association. The first ever address of the editorial board to the dental brethren in it mentions "...Such a work will have a tendency to expel from dental practice, the quackery which disgraces it, just in proportion as it dissipates ignorance on the subject..." The first ever review on Dental Science by Solyman Brown in the same journal mentions "...the writer is one of those high-minded men who impart respectability to the calling which they pursue, rather than increase their own importance by its exercise." The same is well mentioned in yet another oldest journal of dentistry, The Dental Cosmos, Volume 1, first issue in 1859. The editorial address says "...for every man (Contributor) who endeavours to teach (Publish), is at least sure of learning something in the endeavour. . . . . if every member of the fraternity thus works for every other, they will all, in like manner work for him."

Thus the main purpose of a dental journal is clearly evident; *sharing knowledge for*



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Dental Journalism - All is Well? (contd..)

*purpose of progressive upliftment of the profession.* That is indeed a very noble thinking of the early visionaries of dentistry.

In this era of advanced dentistry, are we still upholding this purpose? A sad No! Journals are now proliferating in numbers, for reasons, that are acceptable or unacceptable. They also go through sad demise, for reasons, comprehensible or incomprehensible. With this fade-in and fade-out, the objectives are also becoming ill defined. Woken up from a long slumber, by a jolt of evidence based sciences, this clinical science has fortunately realized the importance of research. However, unfortunately, this is resulting in forced researches spewing distorted facts. The current trend of 'publish or perish', where professional recognition is being measured largely by the number of publications, rather than the quality, is further contributing to inferior publications with spurious information. Thus an inescapable catch-22 situation is lurking over dental journalism, of defeating the real purpose of its existence, of throwing the gears in reverse, and pushing the dental profession to the same starting point of time when it was shrouded with much disgrace and humiliation.

Then all is not well in dental journalism? Should that be discouraging to a new journal such as ours? A happy No! I am convinced that the moment we start realizing the problems, we have already started working towards solutions! Knowing the past and the present, a strong future can indeed be moulded by determined and focused minds, which is what we at IGIDS are. Journal of Scientific Dentistry shall constantly remember the mighty noble task at hand and shall never once make a wrong step in the right track towards the right destiny. As a team, the contributors as well as the editors, shall help JSD emerge and stay as the most coveted and inimitable one in our profession.

With spirit soaring and optimism surging, I sign off by assuring that still  
*'All is Well!'*

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