

Welcome Address by Conference President

*Dr. Maqbool H. Jafary, FRCP
Chief Editor,
Pakistan Journal of Medical Sciences
maqbool.jafary@gmail.com*

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to EMMJ5. Delegates from within the country and abroad are attending the conference inspite of disturbed law and order situation in Karachi. It is indeed very gratifying to see so many familiar faces and opportunity to make new friends and a tremendous occasion to learn from each other.

Organization of a conference is never a 'one-man job'. It involves a team work. I, as the Conference President have been fortunate to have dedicated and committed team members. It is not possible to name all the members but I will fail in my responsibilities if I do not name a few. Mr. Shaukat Ali Jawaid, the Organizing Secretary has put in lot of hard work and taken lot of pains on several fronts; so much so that he has almost lived in the premises of venue of this conference to make sure that tasks are accomplished efficiently and befitting for the auspicious occasion of the conference. Maj. Gen. Professor M. Aslam is another stalwart, who took care of liaison at Islamabad with MOH, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, WHO Office, HEC etc. Dr. Jamshed Akhtar did an admirable job as Chairman of Scientific Committee. The wise counseling by Dr. Fatema Jawad was always helpful and useful. The registration matters were handled by Prof. Nazir Khan and his team. Prof. Shams Nadeem Alam and his support has always been handy. Dr. Yasmin Wajahat was energetic to put in her energies for the responsibilities given to her. Our younger colleagues, Dr. Masood Jawaid, Dr. Kiran Ejaz and Dr. Sina Aziz played their role like a clockwork. I am grateful to all of them.

The funding for the organization has been a major issue. Although the conference was in collaboration with various academic institutions and Ministry of Health, but economic squeeze left us on to generate the required funds. Our friends in non-medical organizations came to our rescue and helped in generously to meet the expenses. Higher Education

Commission (HEC) may donate some funds in the post-conference period.

The theme of the conference included challenges and opportunities in EMR for medical journalism. There are challenges all around us but major focus is on identifying the opportunities and how to exploit them in favor of improving the standards of editing and writing in the journals of EMR. We hope that this conference (EMMJ5) will prove to be a milestone in this direction. All the presentations during the conference were presented to participating delegates. Compilation of these proceedings of this conference will further help to disseminate the information as a reminder to delegates present in this conference as well as those who could not participate. Mr. Shaukat Ali Jawaid, once again, proved to be a stalwart to put in this hard work in compiling and editing the document, very ably assisted by Dr. Masood Jawaid.

While I sincerely thank the delegates, national and international who travelled long distance to be with us in Karachi, we would have liked to have even bigger participation. We look forward to EMMJ6 to see further progress on this front. I would be failing in my responsibilities if I do not thank Jane Nicholson, her team and WHO EMRO for their help, advice and wise counsel in organizing EMMJ5.

After a lull of four years, EMAME needs to be activated and this is where a lot of work needs to be done and I hope that the Executive Council will put their heads together to make this Association thriving and pulsating.