

## Editorial

## Twenty Years of Pakistan Heart Journal

*As 1987 draws to a close, Pakistan Heart Journal celebrates its twentieth birthday. Publication started in 1968 with Dr. Ali Mohammad Chaudhary as the first Editor under the guidance of the late Col. M. H. Shah, the Founder-President of the then newly formed Pakistan Cardiac Society. This Journal, meant to be a quarterly issue, found difficulty coming out on time and coming out four times a year. From what one makes out there were many reasons why this Journal never really took off but the main one was, as still remains, the dearth of contribution from cardiologists in Pakistan. Our colleagues are just not tuned to writing. Not even the teachers and Professors and the Heads of the so many departments of Cardiology across the country. This remains the greatest challenge to the Journal, the Cardiac Society and the Profession at large, to get people involved in thinking, undertaking research projects especially pointed at gathering data on our own local problems and then using the Journal to disseminate that information to the country and the world at large. Somehow, the profession is just not motivated enough or thinks the rewards are not good enough to do any such thing. What blissful ignorance continues to prevail!*

*While problems have continued, not all has been quiet with the Journal and things have happened slowly but surely. A chronicle of events would look like this:*

<u>Year</u>	<u>Editor</u>	<u>Events</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Editor</u>	<u>Events</u>
1968	Ali Muhammad	(Journal Starts)	1980	Azhar Faruqui	4 issues (New Cover)
		2 issues	1981	" "	4 issues (Cumulated Index Printed)
1969	" "	3 issues	1982	" "	4 issues (Large size offset format)
1970	" "	2 issues	1983	" "	4 issues (Listed by U.S. Library of Medicine)
1971	" "	4 issues	1984	" "	4 issues (Rs. 4,00,000/- grant received)
1972	" "	3 issues	1985	" "	4 issues (Records Computerized)
1973 (a)	Ali Muhammad	2 issues	1986	" "	4 issues (Registered by ISSN Paris)
1973 (b)	S. M. Raza	2 issues	1987	" "	3 issues (year not ended)
1974	S. M. Raza	3 issues			
1975	M. B. Azami	1 issue			
1976	" "	No issue			
1977	" "	1 issue			
1978	Abdus Samad	1 issue			
1979	" "	2 issues			

*While every Editor has left his impact on the Journal, the services of publication incharge Mr. Asad Mirza must be placed on record for providing continuity and for doing all the hardwork. Also, the help of Mr. Fasihuddin Alvi has been invaluable.*

*The Journal moves in the direction the Cardiac Society moves which moves in the direction the whole profession moves and so on. So if the total picture is not as bright as it could be, it only reflects the larger mood. To sum it up in a comparative fashion, the editor of an Indian Journal and myself were comparing notes. Both of us were complaining about the inability to bring issues out on time. He said that he had enough articles to print for the next five years but was always short on money to print the one in press. I told him I had enough funds to print the Journal from our own resources for the next five years but I always keep on waiting for one last article to complete the issue in the press! I think this sums up the mood and differences very well!*