

Dear esteemed readers, authors, and colleagues,

As I write this editorial, I am filled with a mix of emotions—sadness at leaving behind a role I have cherished, but also pride and gratitude for the incredible journey we've shared. Over the past six years, I have had the privilege of serving this prestigious journal, and I am honored to reflect on our achievements and the lessons learned.

First and foremost, I want to express my deepest gratitude to our 'unsung heroes,' the esteemed and respected reviewers who have generously contributed their time, wisdom, and selfless service to the science of pediatric dentistry. My deepest respect and thanks go out to each of you.

I also want to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of our dedicated associate editors, Drs Jatinder and Gauri, who have worked tirelessly, often at the expense of their personal and professional commitments. These two have been the pillars upon which this journal stands, each bringing unique strengths that have guided the growth and development of this publication from its nascent stage. I am indebted to you both for your constructive criticism and for tolerating me over the past six years.

The staff and technical team at the publishing house have been unwavering in their support, skilfully managing deadlines and tolerating my, sometimes, strong wording in the name of scientific rigor. Your tireless efforts, expertise, and passion have been the driving force behind our success. I am proud of the collaborative environment we've fostered, and I am confident that this legacy will continue to thrive.

Words cannot fully express my gratitude to the head office of SAAPD, starting from the Founder President Dr Virinder Goel, Founder Secretary Dr Gyanendra, current President Dr Salma, and all members of the SAAPD council for placing absolute faith in the editorial team and providing financial support for the journal without question. It is important to note that at no point have any of the office bearers or council members requested favors from the journal office for any manuscript over the past six years. This reflects the integrity of a professional association and proves that good science and politics can coexist when intentions are noble and focused on serving humanity.

To our authors, I thank you for entrusting us with your groundbreaking research. Your contributions have not only advanced our field but have also inspired and educated our global readership. I am proud of the high-quality content we've published, and I am grateful for the trust you've placed in us.

As I look back, I am proud of the initiatives we've launched, such as triple blinding to remove any bias for the first time for a medical journal; plagiarism check twice; language support to authors and open channel of communication with editorial team. These innovations have enhanced our journal's reputation, expanded our reach, and improved the overall publishing experience.

However, I am also aware of the challenges we've faced, including the evolving publishing landscape, increasing competition, and the need for continuous innovation. I am confident that our journal is well-equipped to address these challenges and continue to thrive.

As I pass the baton to my next team, I offer these parting thoughts:

- Remain committed to excellence and rigor in our publishing practices.
- Foster a culture of inclusivity, diversity, and collaboration.
- Embrace innovation and stay adaptable in an ever-changing environment.

I am excited to witness the future growth and success of the *Journal of South Asian Association of Pediatric Dentistry (JSAAPD)*. Before I sign off, a request for apologies from my side if I have used any harsh words while sending you editorial remarks. These were due to my poor English skills and were not intended to hurt sentiments of any colleague.

Thank you again for the privilege of serving as your Editor-in-Chief.

I wish you all the best!

Sincerely,

Vijay Prakash Mathur
Outgoing Editor-in-Chief