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JOURNEY AHEAD AS EDITORIAL TEAM TO STRENGTHEN OUR PUBLICATION

Representing our new journal team and speaking on my editorial teams' behalf, it is with deep honor and humility that I got the opportunity to be the editor-in-chief for our 'Nepalese Journal of ENT Head & Neck Surgery (NJEHNS)'. I assume this role with deep sense of responsibility and commitment for the betterment of our journal. I would like to express my gratitude to our former editor in chief and the editorial team for taking our journal to this present status. It takes a lot of vision, determination and continuous strive to take the journal to the present form and hand over to a new team. We give immense gratitude for the authors, reviewers, previous editorial members and readers as well to uplift our journal to this level.

Now, as I take this journey I am committed to preserve the previous achievements and simultaneously working towards taking the journal towards greater visibility and impact. Every task given and fulfilment of its objectives is not achieved alone and needs a "team". I am thankful for such brilliant team members whose commitment and knowledge added together gives a STRONG TEAM. I am committed to work along wonderful editors together.

There are many challenges as of date which needs mitigation in future. Being in third world country we have to work in a resource constraints setting in our part of the world. There are difficulties in getting good articles, inadequate peer reviewer pool, delayed peer reviews and absence of international reviewer pool etc. There are also financial constraints and thus, it's really appreciable to working in voluntary contributions with the drive for research culture only from the side of the editors and reviewers with high editorial workload. There is still dearth of standard articles meeting most of the editorial requirements. We still need to ensure ethical compliance and still face the challenge of maintaining publications schedule.

In spite of the challenges there is a need to establish a clear vision and plan. The ultimate goal of NJEHNS is 'indexing' which will take time but still keep as our distant goal to achieve. Since there was a gap in the publication in between

we need to wait and work on few aspects. We have recently worked on updating the author's and reviewer's guidelines and working on our website and digital aspect. There is a need to maintain a regular publication with consistent publication frequency. We need to maintain a rigorous peer review process. As editor-in-chief, there is a need to focus in the reviewers as one of the valuable assets of the journal. In a resource constraint developing countries like ours, finding qualified reviewers is challenging which is rather an under recognized added academic responsibility done voluntarily. In spite of our constraints, we need to develop constructive, fair peer review system to uplift our journal.

One of the top priorities of our team will be to strengthen the quality of the published articles. There is the need from all our fraternity to try from the individual level to develop the culture of research and publication. When we get good articles the journal quality goes up definitely. Thus, we have to start from the author level to strictly follow the authors guideline and submit well written good articles. While there is a need of increasing the number of articles there is a need to maintain the quality as well. Another aspect for the journal is to maintain ethical standard. We are approaching to make ethical clearance a must in the future upcoming issues. Along with the strong peer review process, we need to use plagiarism detection tools to detect plagiarism. Another aspect that needs to be worked upon is improving our online manuscript submission system, work towards strict maintenance of timelines for review and publication, make our website attractive and assigning DOIs and working towards ORCID id and its integration as well in our future issues.

NJEHNS success depends on the collective effort of all stakeholders. All of us SOL members contribute in their own best way as authors, peer reviewers, editorial members and readers as well. Writing good standard articles from the authors, critical timely evaluation from the reviewers and expertise from the journal members each add to the success of the journal. While achieving indexing will take time we need to keep it as our goal. I promise to give my

tenure as Editor-in-Chief my level best. Along with my best editorial team we are always open to suggestions and critical comments for the betterment our journal to take it to new heights.

