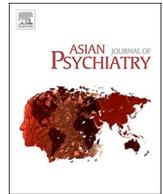




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## Asian Journal of Psychiatry

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/ajp](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/ajp)

## Editorial

## Asian Psychiatry and the Asian Journal of Psychiatry



Ten years ago, the Asian Journal of Psychiatry was launched as a general and comprehensive journal of psychiatry with the principal objective of addressing the significant knowledge gap in the awareness and dissemination of research findings and clinical practice through Asia both across Asia and to and from the rest of the world. The Journal has grown in size and impact over this decade growing from a total of 48 published articles in 4 issues (total of 155 printed pages) in 2009 to 293 published articles in 8 issues (total of 1100 printed pages) in 2018. The number of submissions per year has increased from 64 in 2009 to almost 1000 in 2018 (at the current rate of submission, we anticipate 1100 submissions in 2019). The impact of the Journal has progressively increased (as reflected in the Cite Score, SCImago Journal ranking, and Source Normalized Impact per paper [SNIP] over the years) and it received its first Impact Factor from Clarivate Analytics (1.93) last month. While the Journal has been a labor of love for its two Editors-in-Chief, the contributions of our various editors, members of our Editorial Board and Editorial Advisory Board, our over 600 reviewers, our several thousand authors/co-authors, our tens of thousands of readers, and our publisher deserve the credit for this achievement. Thank you and congratulations! The Journal ranks third among the 125 mental health Journals published in Asia in terms of “impact” trailing Psychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences (Japan; 3.49) and Clinical Psychopharmacology and Neuroscience (Korea; 2.47). While the Impact Factor of the Asian Journal of Psychiatry is a small fraction that of the highest impact journal in medicine (New England Journal of Medicine, 71) and the highest impact journal in psychiatry (World Psychiatry, 34), the Editorial Board is committed to continually improving the quality and utility of the Asian Journal of Psychiatry with the aspiration that it could serve as a vehicle to unite and a common forum for exchange of psychiatry-relevant knowledge across the countries of Asia and Asian diaspora and dissemination of advances in the field to and from the rest of the world.

We believe that the *raison d'être* for the Asian Journal of Psychiatry is even greater today than it was in 2008 when it was conceived. Even though the 51 countries in Asia comprise 60 percent of the world's population and contribute a commensurate amount to world mental health morbidity and mortality (Suryadevara and Tandon, 2018), there is a relative paucity of information about research and clinical practice from the Asian continent both within Asia and across the world. Factoring in the significant variation in development status and socio-economic environment across Asian countries, it should be noted that only 12 percent of the world's psychiatrists serve the 4.4 billion inhabitants of Asia. In fact, there are almost as many Asian-trained psychiatrists practicing in countries outside Asia as there are within Asia. There are unique challenges in providing access to quality mental health care shared by various countries within Asia which significantly differ from the developed countries in the west with regard to mental

health priorities/needs as well as in resources including budgetary allocations per capita for mental health services. Asian countries do not typically look within to learn from experiences in mental health delivery but generally look westward to adopt practice standards and models of mental healthcare delivery. The expansion of Journals such as the Asian Journal of Psychiatry will hopefully change this, and will lead to greater knowledge generation in Asia and a bilateral exchange with the west.

In the first issue of this Journal we set ourselves the following themes as our goals: (a) Are research findings from developed countries valid in developing countries? (b) Are the treatments established in the developed countries effective in the context of low income countries? (c) Can treatments be cost-effectively delivered to the populations in need? (d) Are cost-effective treatments being delivered to the populations in need? (Keshavan and Editorial Team, 2008). We are pleased that the Asian Journal of Psychiatry has addressed each of these goals, though more needs to be done. To this end, readers can look forward to several ‘upgrades’ in the Journal in an effort to enhance utility and value. There will be a new section in every issue of the Journal that will provide an overview of a particular aspect of mental health/illness and psychiatric practice across countries in Asia (e.g., Tandon and Nathani, 2018; Tareen and Tandon, 2018). Additionally, the Journal will initiate Asia-wide surveys on a whole range of topics relevant to Psychiatry; for example, a current survey of undergraduate and post-graduate training in psychiatry across the 51 countries in Asia is underway. Another new section will provide expert views on Asia-relevant best Psychiatry practice guidelines. The Medical Education section will be an ongoing feature with regular articles that facilitate understanding the nature and clinical relevance of the rapid advances occurring in genetics and neuroscience.

Several improvements for authors are also underway. The average processing time for an article from submission to first decision has decreased from an average of 15 weeks to the current 3.5 weeks (because of unforeseen factors, there was a temporary increase but this is being corrected). An expansion in the Editorial board is planned in the near future with representation anticipated from a majority of the 51 countries in Asia. The reviewer list is being expanded and updated. More informative and ‘educational’ reviewer feedback with summaries from the Editor for each submitted article should be anticipated. As we enter an exciting era in Psychiatry and the Journal enters its second decade, let us celebrate the just-received first Impact factor and jointly recommit ourselves to improving the lives of all those affected by mental illness and the mental health of all humanity in Asia and around the world.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajp.2019.07.032>

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Rajiv Tandon\*

*Department of Psychiatry, Homer Stryker Western Michigan School of  
Medicine, Kalamazoo, MI, USA*  
E-mail address: [rajiv.tandon@med.wmich.edu](mailto:rajiv.tandon@med.wmich.edu).

Matcheri S. Keshavan

*Department of Psychiatry, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and  
Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA*

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\* Corresponding author at: Department of Psychiatry, Homer Stryker Western Michigan University School of Medicine, MI 49010, USA.