



## Editorial

# BJOMS 2019 & Beyond

This was a busy year for the team at BJOMS, ensuring a smooth transition to the new editorial board. Positive changes to the team have included the appointment of the first US-based associate editor, Professor Stephen MacLeod, and the first female associate editor, Miss Nabeela Ahmed, both eminent OMF surgeons. In 2020 we welcome Dr Robert Kennedy and Mr Rabindra Singh to the editorial board.

BJOMS is an international journal with associate editors in positions in UK, USA, Australia, Bahrain and Singapore. During 2019 manuscripts were received from a record number of countries and we continue to encourage quality scientific contributions from colleagues across the globe.

It has been a long-standing tradition for the president of BAOMS to introduce a novel idea, concept, or experience to the membership. In 2019, the journal was supported by the current president, Mr Sat Parmar, who introduced MaxFax Bites, a new and modern method of learning and distributing educational material. MaxFax Bites has now produced five educational videos that are linked to selected evidence-based, peer-reviewed BJOMS articles. The project will require continued contributions of review articles and video lectures from senior colleagues across the world, and we look forward to receiving more.

Rapid processing of the submitted manuscript remains a high priority. Changes introduced in 2019 have resulted in significant improvement of the processing of accepted articles. The journal will continue to explore ways of improving the turnaround times.

In 2019 the journal expedited the publication of a series of articles on Human Factors In surgery by Professor Peter Brennan. BJOMS is proud to have championed the cause of promoting safety in surgery by being the first surgical journal to publish on this important topic.

When attending local, national, or international meetings and conferences, discussions invariably include concerns about the future of our specialty. There are greater challenges in countries, such as the UK, with mandatory dual undergraduate qualification. In 2020 we are planning to publish a special edition that will focus on contemporary issues, challenges, and concerns about training and manpower planning in OMFS. BJOMS would welcome contributions from colleagues everywhere. The aim is to encourage healthy and responsible debate. Please add your views to the debate by submitting your views as soon as possible.

The peer review process remains the gold standard for the selection of manuscripts suitable for publication. A well-known downside of this process however, is that potentially progressive articles can be rejected if the views of the authors differ from those of the mainstream. In 2020 the journal will be publishing a number of carefully selected “controversial” articles by senior and experienced colleagues that advocate procedures not universally practised. Publication of the articles is again aimed at encouraging comments and contributions from the readership.

The journal cannot function without the diligent and hard work of its peer reviewers. In agreement with the council of BAOMS, arrangements are in place for formal recognition of top performing reviewers by awarding of BJOMS awards at the annual meetings.

On behalf of the BJOMS team, I wish all readers, contributors and peer reviewers the best in 2020.

Kaveh Shakib  
(*Editor in Chief*)  
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