The year that was!

As we are in the middle of January 2023, we take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy new year. Setting new goals and preparing new agendas for the current year, let’s take a step back and summarize last year’s pursuits that Jaypee Journals accomplished, the processes that were set, policies that were defined and businesses that were acquired which will also shape our successes in 2023.

The year 2022 started and ended in a flash, as it was a full business year after covid setbacks. It had its challenges and many wins. Let’s gather all the accomplishments that will help boost our spirit to do better each day. The Federation of Publishers and Booksellers Association of India (FPBA) has presented the Golden Award to Mr. Jitender Pal Vij (Chairman of Jaypee Brothers Medical Publisher) for his contribution to the Book Industry.

The previous year, we collaborated with journals like The Journal of Association of Physicians of India (JAPI), The Indian Journal of Chest Diseases and Allied Sciences (IJCDAS), the Indian Journal of Respiratory Care (IJRC), Annals of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Hepatology ISPGHAN (APGH) to name a few. All these journals are one of a kind, and we are proud to be associated with them.

One of our journals, International Journal of Prosthodontics and Restorative Dentistry (IJOPRD), got indexed in SCOPUS. Many new start-up journals were listed in ISSN and RNI, giving them a headway to greater success.

Relishing success and learning from failures, we are even more inclined to create greater goals and objectives for ourselves with the mission of taking Journals published in India to higher levels under PM Modi’s initiative of “JAI ANUSANDHAN”.

The Importance of Informed Patient Consent in Medical Research

Experimental research especially in medicine needs to work with clinical participants/subjects and hence it is imperative that anyone who participated in such studies should consent to being a subject. Informed consent is a crucial element in every research study considering the ethical aspects. The informed consent procedures make sure that everyone who takes part in the study knows the risks and benefits of taking part, as well as any other important information. The requirements for obtaining informed consent from research participants are stipulated by several regulations and policies.

What are the types of informed consent?
Informed consent can be implied, verbal, or written. But it must be given voluntarily by a mentally sound patient after being informed of all the details. For medical procedures and research, written informed consent is preferred. Consent can be given for a variety of reasons.

Consent to treatment: This is the permission given by the patient before they receive any type of medical treatment, test, or examination, after knowing all the risks and benefits.

Consent for participation in research: The potential research participants are explained the key elements of a research study and what their participation will involve, following which they give permission to participate in the research.

Consent for publication of case details, images, and photographs: This is the permission given by patients to publish their case details, images, and photographs in books and journals for research or educational purposes.

Why is informed consent important?
As favourable outcomes cannot be guaranteed in healthcare settings, informed consent guarantees patients are aware of the risks associated with treatment. If a patient chooses to sign consent forms, it implies a provider has given appropriate information about their condition and treatment options or about the research and using the patient data for research and educational purposes.

When to obtain informed consent?
Informed consent should be obtained before the start of the research or the start of the treatment. Informed consent is required in most medical settings. With regards to clinical studies, the study can’t start until the document is signed. World Medical Association (WMA) has developed the Declaration of Helsinki which provides information about informed consent for medical research in human subjects.

Who can provide informed consent?
A mentally sound patient of legal age (>18 years) can provide consent. Consent is obtained from the legal guardian or parent in the case of mentally incapacitated people or children.

Can informed consent be withdrawn by the patient?
Yes. The patient can change their mind at any time and withdraw from the research or decline the treatment.

**How long is the informed consent valid?**

Informed consent remains valid for an indefinite period, until the patient revokes it. However, different hospitals and institutions have guidelines regarding this.

**Reporting informed consent in journal articles**

Many journals follow the ICMJE's (International Committee of Medical Journal Editors) recommendations about reporting informed consent in medical articles.

ICMJE guideline states,

"Patients have a right to privacy that should not be violated without informed consent. Identifying information, including names, initials, or hospital numbers, should not be published in written descriptions, photographs, or pedigrees unless the information is essential for scientific purposes and the patient (or parent or guardian) gives written informed consent for publication. Informed consent for this purpose requires that an identifiable patient be shown the manuscript to be published.

Authors should disclose to these patients whether any potential identifiable material might be available via the Internet as well as in print after publication.

Patient consent should be written and archived with the journal, the authors, or both, as dictated by local regulations or laws.

Nonessential identifying details should be omitted.

Informed consent should be obtained if there is any doubt that anonymity can be maintained. For example, masking the eye region in photographs of patients is inadequate protection of anonymity. If identifying characteristics are deidentified, authors should provide assurance, and editors should so note, that such changes do not distort scientific meaning.

The articles should include a statement that informed consent was obtained.”

**Jaypee Journals policy about informed consent**

Jaypee Journals follow the ICMJE recommendations for reporting informed consent. Even if a paper is scientifically or educationally valuable, Jaypee Journals will not publish it if anonymity cannot be completely assured, or informed written consent has not been acquired.

**Consent to participate:**

It is mandatory for the authors to obtain consent from patients before performing research unless the consent is waived by the ethics committee. In these cases, the authors must provide a copy of the ethics committee consent waiver document.

- The research article must include a statement stating that the patient agreed to participate in the study. If the consent was waived by the ethics committee, nevertheless, a statement indicating this should be included.
**Consent to publish:**

It is mandatory for the authors to obtain consent from patients before performing research unless the consent is waived by the ethics committee. In these cases, the authors must provide a copy of the ethics committee consent waiver document.

- Case reports and articles containing patient images and photographs should have a statement mentioning that informed consent was provided by the patient to publish the case details and images. A sample consent form is provided on the "Author Instructions" page of every Jaypee Journal and can be used to obtain patient consent.

In conclusion, obtaining and reporting informed consent is essential for research and manuscript writing, respectively. Doing so establishes your credibility as a scientist and writer, as well as protecting you against the legal ramifications that can arise from publishing or presenting research without consent.

**Most viewed articles in December 2022**

1. Effect of School-based Oral Health Awareness Lecture on Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice toward Oral Health among Primary School Teachers of Barara, Ambala, Haryana.

2. Oral Microbial Flora in Health.


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