

■ *Editorial*

## Milestones in the Health Renaissance of BPKIHS

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A renaissance is defined as a “new start, revival, or reawakening.” The publication of *Health Renaissance*, a scientific publication produced by the BP Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, marked a revived interest in publicizing the research achievement of its faculty members. It was first published in 1999, and has navigated many successes and challenges faced by the institute over the past 13 years. We are aware that the journey of a hundred miles begins with the first step. The journey that was started by *Health Renaissance* marked the beginning of an endless voyage that must continue to keep pace alongside the progress of BPKIHS.

Despite the temporary challenges and publication irregularities faced by the journal in past years, the *HR* has experienced a true “reawakening” as a legitimate, peer-reviewed biomedical journal. The foundations laid by the first editorial board and the progress achieved thereafter remain a constant source of inspiration for the present editorial board to continue a trend of constantly improving the journal’s quality and scope.

Because we believe that an unbiased and independent peer review system is essential for the quality assurance of the journal, an anonymous review of all articles submitted to the *HR* is now compulsory, and done in accordance with the guidelines developed by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. We have experienced the advantages of such

a system. The standard of published articles has improved and the journal has been able to draw the attention of the authors from outside.

In order to improve international access to published scientific papers in the *Health Renaissance*, the contents of the journal have been made available and archived online since its second issue (2010) with the help of the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP) – a development organization committed to improving global access to published research information and knowledge (<http://nepjol.info/index.php/HREN>). The *HR* is also accessible on the website [www.healthrenaissance.org.np](http://www.healthrenaissance.org.np).

In order to allow for post-publication review of journal articles, we have been publishing letters to editor containing unbiased, critical assessments and constructive criticism. We believe that this approach provides the authors with an opportunity to improve upon their research findings and methods. Authors can also publish their own responses to these letters, contributing to a vibrant discussion within the journal community.

Because the *HR* is an open access journal, the content of the journal is freely and instantly available to all the readers through out the world. At present, the journal is under consideration for inclusion in Pubmed, Index Copernicus, Directory of Open Access Journals and HINARI.

The scientific merit of a journal improves concurrently with the improvement in writing skills of the authors, who are likely to submit their scientific papers for consideration of publication if they are confident in the quality of the text. The Editorial Board of the

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HR, therefore, conducted a series of workshops for emerging scientists at BPKIHS. We strongly believe that these events should be continued in the years to come.

The quality of a journal is evaluated by its Impact Factor (IF). The Impact Factor of journals is published each year by Thomson Reuters and is a measure of the number of times a paper in a particular journal is referred to.<sup>1</sup>

It is, perhaps, too early for us to expect a high IF at this stage of publication. However, we are confident that the infrastructure required to attain this goal has been established. This will allow further acceleration

of the scientific merit of *Health Renaissance*, allowing for international acceptance and international exposure to the work of physician-scientists at BPKIHS. We should aim at achieving a high Impact Factor in years to come.

I wish to express my deepest gratitude to all the stakeholders who have placed their confidence in *Health Renaissance* – the authors, members of the editorial board and executives of BPKIHS who have directly or indirectly contributed to regular publication of the journal.

### Reference

1. <http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/editorshome.editors/biblio#IF> (Accessed 24.09.2012)