Editorial

TURNING A VISION INTO PAGES: THE CHALLENGES AND JOYS OF STARTING FRESH

Muhammad Junaid Khan✉

MedPulse Spectrum

✉**Corresponding author:** Dr Muhammad Junaid Khan, Managing Editor, MedPulse Spectrum, **Cell:** +92-3444566444, **Email:** editor@jouex.com

Welcome to the inaugural issue of MedPulse Spectrum. MedPulse Spectrum is an umbrella term that captures the pulse of innovation, advancements, and research developments across the entire health sciences. It is the first project of the JouEx Series, a journal of excellence in research and publishing that envisions becoming a premier symbol of excellence in scientific and academic publishing, setting unparalleled health and allied sciences standards. The launch of this issue marks a significant achievement and a milestone with a collective effort from a dedicated team stepping towards scientific excellence. As a challenging project, it is vital to share our values and the efforts that have gone into establishing this platform.

MedPulse Spectrum, the flagship journal of the Jouex Series, is a biannual, peer-reviewed, open-source journal that aims to promote and disseminate high-quality, peer-reviewed scientific evidence across a comprehensive scope that spans traditional areas like health sciences and allies, as well as emerging fields, rarely spotlighted in conventional journals, including digital health innovations, precision medicine, health informatics and integrative approaches that blend tradition with modern technology. By embracing these themes, the journal contributes to advancing medical sciences and addressing today's health challenges with actionable insights. Its commitment to an access model and ethical, inclusive research makes MedPulse Spectrum unique, offering a vibrant and transformative platform that captures the pulse of modern medical sciences.

While being a medical professional, corporate development's legal and strategic aspects, like securing a robust launch platform, were new territory. Launching a scientific journal requires a formal platform like an academic society, forum, or registered entity to ensure compliance and affiliation with accreditation and audit requirements set by accreditation agencies.[1] Initially, I explored partnerships with established platforms through memoranda of understanding to formally recognise the journal's launch. However, some conflicting and financial demands made the approach less feasible. Upon knowing that a registered research and development (R&D) or academic entity is the basic requirement. Henceforth, an R&D-based publishing corporation named SciTech Nexus® (registration no 0237863) was registered with the SECP, Pakistan.[2] It was an easy process with a commitment to compliance with regulatory rules and annual filing properly. Moreover, with an advisory board consisting of renowned subject specialists, we will offer to launch more journals in the future, keeping in mind that no conflicting or financial challenges will be provided to other researchers. Another challenge was establishing the journal's technical infrastructure and creating a platform for other researchers to launch their own journals. After thorough research, the Open Journal System (OJS) by the Public Knowledge Project (PKP) was the best option.

It was then meticulously developed to provide a seamless experience for editors, reviewers, and other researchers. [3] Learning how to install and troubleshoot OJS was not easy. It started with software installation on a local server like XAMPP MySQL. Being technically naive, local server installation offered less complication than coding in cPanel, which is itself a new blaze. Once the local server development was successfully done, it was migrated to the website domain following several steps and made visible to the audience.

Some technical hurdles were faced during the process. The Cascading Style Sheet (CSS) and Hypertext Preprocessor (PHP) coding were the most difficult and still need improvement.[4] The most time-consuming task was correcting the URL address by adding HTTP:// before the domain, www.jouex.com to http://www.jouex.com.[5.] The next hurdle was configuring the email settings in the PHP file, which is unsuccessful for domain-based email; however, it works now with a Gmail address.[6] This does not end here. The tiresome part of the OJS PKP website setting was formulating policies and guidelines and then uploading them to the website. Similarly, templates like the title page, undertaking form, initial screening checklist, and reviewer form were quite challenging (https://jouex.com/index.php/medpulspect/Policies).

Establishing a journal successfully involves utilizing technology and promoting an ethical, high-standard editorial process.[7] The JouEx operation is based on a vision that aligns the global standards for high-quality, ethical,

and top-notch research through a rigorous double-anonymised peer review process, ensuring transparency and fairness. This is, infact, the backbone of every such platform. Therefore, the top-tier healthcare professionals have been carefully selected for the advisory board of the Jouex series through informed consent and formal agreement. Their primary role is to uphold compliance with accreditation standards, maintain the overall quality of journal(s), and ensure adherence to ethical publishing guidelines.

An important aspect of launching a journal is establishing a strong workflow team. A significant challenge was forming a dedicated and competent editorial team and ensuring the manuscripts were reviewed by subject experts. Developing a robust copy-editing and production workflow and seamless integration of various indexing agencies through APIs and plugins were key milestones. Through personal connections and the support of my professional and social circle, for which I am profoundly humbled and grateful, these challenges were successfully overcome, making this vision a reality.

Despite financial constraints and challenges, an important milestone was achieved that positioned MedPulse Spectrum for long-term success. After successfully acquiring a platform, OJS PKP, advisory board, and more, an international standard serial number (ISSN) will be obtained, and a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) will be allocated to each article.[8] A QR code will also be designed to enhance the readability of text for the first page of each published article.

To enhance the journal's visibility and credibility, we look forward to indexing with the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), cross-ref, and other reputed repositories after publishing the second issue, i.e., Jul-Dec 2025. In order to receive quality research articles, the social media platform will be utilised through monetisation. A more challenging step is establishing a virtual institute of R&D, which ensures the broadening of the journal's audience by facilitating international outreach. The indexation journey, registration of reviewers, prep-up of the launch of a new JouEx series project, and maintenance of a high standard of ethical research in health sciences will continue endlessly.

It would not have been possible without a driving force behind the enthusiasm, determination, support, and vision, energised by the unwavering support and encouragement from peers and mentors. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the esteemed editorial team, contributors, and reviewers who have dedicated their time and expertise to uphold the journal's mission. Special recognition is due to TRIM Pakistan[9], a pillar of support, and to the late Prof. Dr Zahid Irfan Marwat, whose consistent guidance and encouragement inspired me to pursue academic excellence in research and development.

Slogan
JouEx: Excellence on every page.
MedPulse Spectrum: The vitality of medicine across global healthcare.

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