

Editorial

From the Incoming Editor's Desk



Love Your Eyes, Everyone Counts: Underscored

In this transition issue I take the opportunity to thank all DOS Members (my mentors, colleagues and friends) for entrusting the charge of editorship of this prestigious journal. We are the inheritors of a legacy of our predecessors, who have worked hard to raise DJO to the current status.

This editorial team's vision for DJO would be Symbiosis of academic excellence with rational practice. The focus would be on theme issues of "I series." In addition, we would be ushering in sections on standard operating protocol and narratives of the legends in the field of ophthalmology.

This editorial reiterates World Sight Day 2021 theme of "Love your eyes, everyone counts". This theme draws attention to awareness of one's own ocular health and address the bigger picture through national and global interventions. The onus is on everyone to take cognizance and responsibility for their eye health by prioritizing vision, protecting and preserving sight and taking steps to prevent its loss. Through 'Everyone Counts: Global challenge', the International Agency for Prevention of Blindness aims to get one million people to pledge to have their eyesight tested.

The past turbulent period of the COVID has exposed the deficiencies in scientific, technical, and infrastructural aspects of health care delivery. The devastating effect of injudicious drugs, irrational treatment regimens with no clear guidelines on dosage and duration of drug therapy was witnessed by ophthalmologists in horrifying scenario of orbital and sinus related mucormycosis. Overuse, misuse, shortages, patient agony, physicians despair, overwhelmed administration; this year was a horrifying narrative of how disease management can spill out of control. Indian ophthalmologist's decades old fight to rationalize steroid use was again tested.

WHO estimates that more than half of all medicines are prescribed, dispensed or sold inappropriately. Fifty percent of all patients fail to take the prescribed medicines correctly. Interventions to promote more rational use, multidisciplinary national body to coordinate policies on medicine use, clear cut clinical guidelines, inclusion of problem-based pharmacotherapy training in undergraduate curricula, continual in-service medical education as a licensure requirement, public education, avoidance of perverse financial incentives are a few of WHO key interventions to promote rational use of drugs.

The need of the hour is to promote rational drug use based on scientific management protocols for eye care. There should be no need for heroic salvage measures and costly interventions for control of spin-offs and over-the cliff events. If Gotham city had an efficient and effective police force, there would have been no need for Batman! DOS and DJO would attempt to work on this by elaborating on our focus of Symbiosis of academic excellence with rational practice.

This DJO team thanks my predecessor Dr Vinod and his team for compiling this current issue in the transition phase. Looking forward to a more fruitful association with the DOS family.

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