Respected Seniors and Dear Colleagues,

Warm Greetings!

The latest issue of Haryana Journal of Ophthalmology is now online.
The effects of 'Nightmare of 2020-Covid-19' are slowly waning and we have to accept to live with this virus with the confidence that scientific endeavours will bear fruits and we will be able to control this pandemic completely. Along with the control of the pandemic, a great concern for the ophthalmologists now is to face the consequences of neglected eyecare of patients. A large number of patients could not get adequate and timely treatment during the lockdown period. A huge number of patients getting intravitreal injections, retina laser treatment for tears and retinal vascular diseases could not turn up due to the risk of corona infection. Owing to the same risk involved, ophthalmologists also shirked seeing patients in the initial phase of lockdown. Due to absence of timely intervention, such patients are showing progression of the diseases, hence the blindness. Urgent changes need to be incorporated in ophthalmic care. This issue needs to be addressed in ophthalmology meetings. We cannot take it lightly as the risk of ensuing blindness is very high. Vision needs to be restored. Digital health innovations should be developed for management of a large number of patients. We have to risk stratify our patients so that patients with stable conditions are put on home-based self monitoring, whereas high risk patients get preferential appointments.

Ophthalmology practice is also coming back to normal and we have to embrace the change and move on. Protection of self and of our patients from corona infection requires that we adopt all set protocols and masks, social distancing and sanitization becomes a habit. Vaccines have been developed against this deadly disease and we all are witness to the world's largest vaccination drive in India. The vaccines have been found to be safe and emergency use authorisation has been given by competent authorities.

The ongoing pandemic has taught us so many things and the horizon is now wider and clearer with 'New Normal' vistas in all the fields. Training of postgraduates is prime function of institutes of ophthalmology. When the lockdown struck and OPDs were closed for elective work our residency training suffered a lot but as the time passed we could improvise and started teaching using online platforms where everyone could attend to the classes safely. Various conferences were initially postponed but digital media took the initiative and conferences could be organised online effectively. Live surgeries were transmitted with very good quality and fruitful discussions could be done. Even postgraduate examination were held with virtual patients and Objective Structured Clinical Examination. Initial inertia and scepticism to adapt to the newer digital solutions has now given way to a new era.
full of exciting possibilities. Wet labs and Simulators are a way forward for hands on experience till the time we again come back to actual patient scenarios. There is a need to develop better simulators which are economical too so that this modality can be better utilised.

Medical education in India is all set for a giant leap with major change - National Medical Commission coming into force. Graduate and postgraduate medical education regulations have been changed with emphasis on an outcome driven education and acquisition of competencies.

These dynamic curricula would keep pace with the developments and advances around the world. It stresses on the importance of evidence-based medicine. The curriculum lays down the minimum requirements of infrastructure for ophthalmic services and education. Emphasis is given on research methodology, ethics, and professionalism as well as community ophthalmology. The structured curricula have been developed and their implementation to achieve desired outcomes is definitely going to be a big challenge. We hope it would be a boon to the postgraduates.

I am proud to have received the guest editorial from Dr. Santosh Honavar, a teacher par excellence, the best ever Editor of our esteemed Indian Journal of Ophthalmology and above all a great human being. I am overwhelmed. I thank him for being kind enough for contributing a very pertinent article on the current times 'Orbital manifestations of COVID-19'.

I am thankful to the President HOS, Prof. Narinder Kumar Taneja and Hon. Secretary, Prof. Inder Mohan Rustagi, for their ever available help.

I thank all the members of the editorial committee for the constant support. I also appreciate the authors who have generously contributed their scientific work.

With the blessings from The Almighty, our respected senior ophthalmologists, teachers and family members,

Let's all flourish together!

Long live HOS!!

Enjoy reading!

Best Regards,

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