

Editorial

Musings at the year end

It is indeed a pleasure and a privilege to continue as your Editor of IJPS. With the successful conclusion of our annual meeting in Hyderabad, rich in content as well as hospitality of the President and his team, the year is drawing to a close. It is time to introspect and plan the future. Most of us will make New Year resolutions which few of us will keep! We at the Journal too have made commitments and we are trying hard to keep them. Your journal is slowly but surely changing in content and thrust. We now aspire to be an international journal. Towards this end we have now shifted to a full color format this year. Significant international submissions have also changed the mix of articles over the last three years. There is 'space' in the world for another International Journal of Plastic and Reconstructive surgery—particularly the latter. As some of us rush headlong to embrace esthetic surgery, there are countless others—often silent readers who continue to practice the art and science of reconstruction.

This is not meant to be a value judgment on Esthetic Surgery, far from it. Esthetic surgery is a choice being made by patients in a changing world. If that is so, then it is only right that Plastic Surgeons be in the vanguard of fulfilling that demand as they are perhaps best trained to deliver results safely and with finesse. The point is about the space required by a lot of aspiring workers whose efforts need to be published but do not get a platform. An international journal from an emerging economy like India has perhaps greater empathy with these authors and fills a niche which is currently empty. Add to this the advantage of ours being an English language publication due to our colonial past and the

synergy is evident, especially in a globalizing world.

The current issue is carrying an invited CME article by a doyen in the field from France, Prof. Jean Claude Talmant. He has the unique distinction—in his own words, of 'being trained by Tessier in surgery and Delaire in philosophy.' He has written with great insight on the problem of clefts. It is telling that he feels, "The last fifty years of papers, presentations, congresses, conferences and statistics have not contributed to an overall consensus. Our knowledge is progressing very slowly for many reasons. Some of them are easy to understand and quite acceptable. However, it is surprising to note that 201 European cleft centers were performing 194 different protocols of treatment in 2000."

Prof. Talmant has given an entirely new perspective and paradigm on clefting, especially regarding the role of nasal breathing in utero which was really quite unknown to the majority of readers in the English speaking world.

We in India have the unique advantage of large numbers. Now this is coupled with easy availability of data processing even in our semi-urban centers. I hope this article persuades at least a dozen readers to document their data of large series and at five, 10 and 15 years from now they can present findings regarding a whole lot of contentious issues on which consensus is still not feasible.

Wish you all a very happy and prosperous new year.

Mukund Thatte

Editor