

# Letter from the editor

It is a privilege to assume the editorial responsibility of the Journal of Pakistan Association of Dermatologists (JPAD); a journal shaped by the sustained efforts of dedicated colleagues and recognized today as a leading academic voice of dermatology in Pakistan. I extend my sincere appreciation to the previous editorial teams and the leadership of the Pakistan Association of Dermatologists for building and preserving this platform. Their work provides a strong foundation on which we now move forward with renewed purpose.



JPAD has long served as a collective academic platform for national and international authors, contributing to the dissemination of knowledge and supporting evidence-based dermatological practice. As we step into the next phase, our direction is clear: to elevate JPAD into a more rigorous, visible, and globally relevant scientific journal that reflects the true potential of dermatology in Pakistan

This transition is not aspirational: it is operational. Methodological rigor, transparency, and accountability are being embedded into every stage of the editorial process. Statistical validation has been formally integrated, and a structured, fully documented peer review system is being actively implemented. Editorial decisions will remain independent, guided solely by scientific merit, ethical standards, and clinical relevance.

JPAD will continue to adhere strictly to internationally accepted publication ethics, in alignment with PM&DC and HEC guidelines. Plagiarism screening, ethical approval verification, and conflict-of-interest disclosures are being enforced as standard practice. These are not procedural requirements alone, they define the credibility of the journal and the trust it carries.

Alongside strengthening core processes, we are introducing focused initiatives to enhance both academic value and engagement. A dedicated Composite Clinical Image Gallery will highlight diagnostically relevant cases with clinical, dermoscopic, and dermatopathological correlations, encouraging practical learning and wider participation. Efforts are underway to expand and diversify the reviewer pool, both nationally and internationally, to further strengthen the quality of peer review.

A central pillar of this tenure is the Author Support Programme; an initiative designed to build capacity in research methodology and scientific writing among trainees and practicing dermatologists. Strengthening authorship is essential to strengthening the journal. Parallel to this, we are working to streamline editorial workflows to significantly reduce the time from submission to publication.

JPAD will actively pursue greater national inclusivity and international visibility. We encourage contributions from all regions of Pakistan, particularly from underrepresented areas, to better reflect the diversity of dermatological practice and disease patterns. Collaborative research and academic engagement with regional and global communities will be promoted to position JPAD within the broader scientific landscape.

The future of JPAD will be defined not only by its editorial direction but by the collective engagement of the dermatology community. We invite clinicians, researchers, and trainees to contribute actively; through multi-centric research, peer review, and academic dialogue. Constructive feedback will remain an essential part of this evolution. We undertake this responsibility with clarity of purpose and a commitment to excellence. With collective effort, discipline, and integrity, JPAD will continue to grow not only as a national journal, but as a credible and respected platform in the global dermatology community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aisha Ghias'.

**Dr. Aisha Ghias, Editor JPAD**