

Editorial

Mission statement

The journal believes in upholding the health needs of the mankind as the most important factor while publishing a research communication. TPDI is dedicated to publish articles to improve the knowledge, competencies and attitudes based on professionalism of prosthodontists in general and of the members of the sponsoring organisations in particular.



drsividya5@gmail.com
chandrasekharannair.drk@gmail.com
shettyjayakar@gmail.com

Why we do not do research?

Fiona Godlee, Editor-In-Chief of the British Medical Journal visited India recently. In an interview she stated “though India provides some of the best in the world medical care, research in India needs development. It has a long way to go probably because it(India) has not been introduced to a strong culture of research and also may be funding is not there. Support and training of young researchers is also lacking”.

This has to be read along with another statement made by Venkatraman Ramakrishnan (Nobel Laureate) who also visited India recently. Answering to a question ‘just like US, to attract smart people, what India should do?’ he stated: ‘People will come when India does world class science that is not done elsewhere. To do this routinely, it has to provide a decent environment – this includes basic amenities like housing, safe, clean and unpolluted neighborhood for the scientists and their families. It also needs to provide competitive salaries. As a first step, India needs to support its homegrown scientists well, giving them a decent income, good facilities to carry out their research and independence from political pressures’.

These two statements took me back to two conversations that took place years back. In one of the biomaterials conferences held at IIT Powai, Mumbai, I was presenting a paper on the design and development of a semiadjustable articulator. I was showing the articulator to the audience and discussing its use. In the audience, the chief guest of the conference Prof. Bajpai from US was also present. Later during the lunch break, on the sidewalks of the conference hall, he met me and asked ‘how did you manage to make this instrument in India’. I told him that the scientists of the space centre helped me in that work. While shaking hands he made a remark ‘for Indian standards, this is great’. Then I did not fully understand what he meant.

Nearly 25 years ago, I was presenting a paper on maxillofacial prosthetics in an Indo-Japanese joint workshop on oral cancer at Chennai. During the dinner, a Japanese scientist happened to sit beside me. During the conversation, he asked me about my salary. I was a little shy and hesitant to reveal the salary I receive from the government. I converted the amount in dollars and told him. For a few minutes, he was silent. In a low tone he told me ‘my driver gets a better salary’.

Now I understand why we do not do much research.

Dr. K. Chandrasekharan Nair