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Editorial

Dear Colleagues,

As the world continues to grapple with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, I wish for the safe health and well-being of our esteemed Pierre Fauchard Academy-India Section office bearers, Editorial Board of Journal of Pierre Fauchard Academy, contributing authors, reader's base, and humanity, in general.

Our dental profession has been impacted heavily by the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. The detection of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2) in saliva and aerosol transmission of this virus has further exposed the susceptibility of dentists to this viral infection during aerosol-generating procedures. The Government of India had imposed national lockdown from March 2020, which was subsequently lifted in June 2020 in a phased manner. This has led to the resumption of health services and pressure on dentists to restore dental services with caution. The use of personal protective equipment, physical distancing, and other infection control measures have been enforced and recommended by the Dental Council of India and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

COIVD-19 crisis has forced us to think of innovations for minimizing the aerosols and hence, indirectly conserving the tooth structure. Although I am an Orthodontist, I have been frequently concerned when the kids referred for dental reviews are returned with massive restorations. I think conservation of the tooth structure is the key objective, to be achieved through minimally invasive dentistry. Minimally invasive dentistry is the way to go forward in this COVID-19 pandemic.

Our editorial board wishes to invite manuscripts (original research, case reports, and review articles) related explicitly to COVID-19 experiences and views of our dental colleagues. It would be beneficial for our readers to refer to those published experiences and co-relate to their daily dental practice during the ongoing pandemic. Whether you are in the current pandemic, our job remains to ensure that you have all tools and support you need to provide the best possible dental care for our patients.

We need to form a consensus to take specific actions now to maintain dentist and patient safety in aerosol generating dental care as we progress through this pandemic. The current crisis has already had a profound impact on dental education and research. We are now presented with a once-in-a-generation oppurtunity to transform dental education and research by adopting digital technologies such as virtual/on-line lectures, meetings, and discussions.

'Never let a good crisis go to waste'

- Sir Winston Churchill,
Former UK Prime Minister

While the challenges of the past few months should not be underestimated, it has been refreshing for many of us in leadership roles to be allowed to make effective changes quickly within the dental care services rather than continuing with the often-inflexible response to suggested service and environmental improvements that previously existed. It is imperative that dental clinical and non-clinical staff must not retreat into isolated working but continue to work effectively together to provide dental education and clinical care.

Thank you once again for the courage, support, and professionalism you continue in the face of adversity.

Be Safe and Healthy,

Thanking you,
Sincerely,

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