DOI: 10.18311/ijsdps.1.1.2026.iv-vii Vol 1(1), 2026 | pp. vi-vii

The International Journal of Sports Dentistry and Performance Science

Editorial Message

Message from Senior Editorial Advisor

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The International Journal of Sports Dentistry and Performance Science

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A Vision for the Future of Sports Dentistry

It is both an honour and a privilege to write the preface for the inaugural issue of this Journal on Sports Dentistry. The birth of a journal signifies more than the launch of a publication—it marks the beginning of a focused academic dialogue and a shared commitment to advancing knowledge in a specialized and evolving field.

It gives me immense happiness to see Dr. Reena Ranjit Kumar, who was my student nearly five decades ago, excel in her profession and carve a distinct niche in the emerging field of Sports Dentistry within Health Sciences. Her dedicated efforts, along with her team, in developing a structured training program in this domain are both timely and highly commendable.

Dentistry has undergone a sea of change in recent years with technological advancements and interdisciplinary integration. Yet, Sports Dentistry has remained relatively underexplored despite its vital role in athlete health, injury prevention, performance optimisation, and overall well-being. As our nation aspires to host the Olympic Games in 2036, comprehensive athlete care must include structured oral health programs. This Journal will serve as a catalyst to generate awareness, disseminate innovative research, and promote evidence-based practices in this important specialty.

Oral Medicine, in particular, has significant scope within Sports Medicine. Athletes are often affected by stress-related oral lesions, trauma, temporomandibular disorders, erosive tooth wear due to dietary practices, and

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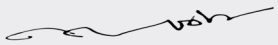
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the oral manifestations of systemic conditions or medications. Early diagnosis, risk assessment, radiological evaluation, and preventive protocols led by oral medicine specialists can greatly enhance athlete safety and performance. Collaborative engagement between sports physicians and oral medicine experts will ensure a more holistic approach to athlete healthcare.

Our ancient scriptures remind us: "Let noble thoughts come to us from every side." This timeless wisdom is especially relevant to academic pursuits. A journal must remain open to diverse ideas, scientific debate, and interdisciplinary collaboration. It is a forum for researchers, academicians, and practitioners to share their insights and experiences, fostering growth through thoughtful exchange.

I firmly believe in the philosophy: "Be liberal in constructive criticism and conservative in praise." It is through honest reflection and meaningful feedback that we recognise our deficiencies and strive for continuous improvement.

As we move towards the vision of Viksit Bharat – 2047, may this Journal contribute meaningfully through innovation, collaboration, and scholarly excellence. I extend my best wishes to the editorial team and invite readers to share their valuable suggestions so that this endeavour may grow in strength, relevance, and impact in the years to come.



Prof. Dr. K. S. Nagesh