

## Editorial

### Launching the Journal of Child Health Sciences (JCHS)

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With great pride and a deep sense of purpose, we present the inaugural issue of the Journal of Child Health Sciences (JCHS), the official scientific publication of the University of Child Health Sciences (UCHS), Lahore. This launch marks the beginning of a bold and essential dialogue on the future of paediatric and child health research, particularly from the perspective of low- and middle-income countries.

#### A Platform with Purpose

JCHS is established with a clear vision: to bridge the gap between clinical practice and academic research in child health sciences. At its heart, the journal seeks to elevate voices from regions and countries, where the paediatric disease burden is high, resources are constrained, but innovation and commitment to care are immense.

The objective is to create an inclusive, peer-reviewed platform that fosters rigorous research, evidence-based practice, and constructive policy discourse. It will serve as a trusted academic forum for clinicians, researchers, public health professionals, policy makers, and students alike, encouraging a rich diversity of perspectives in the realm of child health.

#### Mission for Excellence in Research

Our mission is rooted in academic excellence, scientific integrity, and a genuine commitment to improving child health outcomes locally, regionally, and globally. We aim to publish research that is methodologically sound, ethically grounded, and relevant to both local

and international audiences. The journal adheres strictly to international editorial and ethical standards, including COPE, ICMJE, and WAME guidelines.

JCHS welcomes a wide range of article types: original research, reviews, case series, clinical audits, policy briefs, case reports, guidelines, and thought leadership pieces. We also encourage contributions from early-career researchers and trainees who seek a credible platform to launch their academic journey.

#### Scope and Standards

JCHS will cover the full spectrum of paediatric and child health disciplines, including but not limited to general paediatric, neonatology, paediatric surgery, paediatric subspecialties, child mental health, adolescent health, developmental paediatric, health systems, and paediatric public health. The journal will have sections on Nursing, Allied Health Sciences, and Pharmacological disciplines.

We aspire to be indexed in leading academic databases, including Scopus, PubMed Central, DOAJ, and eventually the Web of Science, with a strategic aim of acquiring an Impact Factor. Every step of our growth will be guided by quality, peer review integrity, and international visibility.

The launch of JCHS comes at a time when child health globally is undergoing both extraordinary advancement and persistent disparities. Despite major strides in medical science, millions of children in LMICs continue to face preventable

illnesses, nutritional deficits, genetic diseases, and inequitable access to care. The global paediatric research landscape remains disproportionately skewed toward high-income countries, leaving critical knowledge gaps in the areas where it is most needed. JCHS intends to address this imbalance. It will champion research that reflects the realities of underserved populations, encourages indigenous solutions, and stimulates regional and global dialogue. In doing so, we hope to inspire new standards of care and evidence-informed policy-making that truly serve children — everywhere.

### **The Role of the University of Child Health Sciences**

The University of Child Health Sciences (UCHS), Lahore, the first institution of its kind in Pakistan, stands as a beacon of commitment to child-focused academic medicine. UCHS integrates undergraduate and postgraduate training, research, and healthcare delivery under one mission: to transform paediatric care and health systems through advocacy, awareness, innovation and service.

With its constituent Children's hospital, one of the largest Children's hospitals on the globe,

training institutions, and growing research culture, UCHS is uniquely positioned to lead this new era of technological advancements including artificial intelligence. The establishment of JCHS reflects the university's larger mission: to not only treat disease, but to generate the knowledge that prevents it, manages it better, and addresses its roots.

### **A Call to Collaborate**

We recognize that the strength of any journal lies not only in its editorial board or institutional backing, but in the community, it creates and nurtures. We invite clinicians, researchers, academicians, and policymakers to submit their scholarly work, join our peer review panels, and help shape the editorial agenda.

As we turn this new page in the academic history of child health in Pakistan, we remain grounded in humility, fuelled by ambition, and guided by the unwavering belief that every child deserves evidence-based care informed by contextually relevant science.

May the Journal of Child Health Sciences become a platform for progress, a voice for equity, and a source of enduring impact.