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**I**f you act like you know what you are doing, you can do anything you want- except neurosurgery.

*Sharon Stone*

Spring of 2004. That's when some of us working in the field of Neuroscience gathered in one of the restaurants in Kathmandu and thought about the need of a neuroscience journal in Nepal. We knew very well then that the path would not be easy- very few individuals related to neuroscience let alone neurosurgery, funding always an issue of any new endeavor, and most importantly availability of good quality articles. A big skepticism was in the air even from our well-wishers and Sharon Stone was no help either! The country was in the throes of a most serious political debacle (regrettably still is) and we were not untouched by it. We also knew that "every big journey starts with the first step." Weeks of anxious planning and many sleepless nights resulted in the publication of the first issue (print as well as free online version) of Nepal Journal of Neuroscience in July 2004. Some articles we wrote, some we solicited from the leading experts from around the world. Journals come in various sizes, shapes and styles. But we were proud of the fact that 'first of its kind' resulted into fruition in Nepal, and it was our own. So the journey began! For the initial several years we managed to publish both print and online version but for last couple of years due to lack of fund we were forced to publish it only online.

A few but very important events happened in Nepal two years ago for the neurosurgical community. The first and perhaps the most important of these events was the establishment of Nepalese Society of Neurosurgeons (NESON). Right from the outset this society expressed its desire to be involved/ and be the official society publishing the journal. As the Neuroscience publishing Group was also struggling financially and as it was thought that it was better to be a sounding board of a larger organization for the neuroscience 'materials', eventually the journal became the official journal of NESON. The second happenstance; few more neurosurgeons trained recently started practicing

## Change that We Believe in

in Nepal. All these, we believe, significantly contributed to the consolidation of our effort in publishing this journal with minimal 'hiccoughs'. At this time, we, from the Editorial Board, are very happy to share with all our readers that from this issue onwards, this journal will be on print version as well and we believe that seven years on, this is a viable project.

There is nothing more gratifying to a curious mind of a clinician than solving the problems encountered in the care of sick patients. But we should participate in conducting research and writing papers with the same zeal and energy that is given to the clinical care so as to earn the 'academic currency'. This could be a most stimulating intellectual exercise regardless of circumstances. In recent years, we have faced difficult times especially from the consumer side though we have been providing respectable neurosurgery despite local inadequacies. Forces buffeting us are all around and we are required to document our beliefs with more objectivity, reliability and reproducibility than ever before. And publishing our clinical results with statistically tested data is the best way to achieve this. It seems so pertinent at this juncture to quote Dr. Elisha Gurdjian, the honored guest of Congress of Neurological Surgeons in 1971: "All of us, young and old, if in good health, should do a little more than is needed to carry on with the routine activities of our existence." He further cautions that to rationalize our preoccupation with various clinical duties and become less and less productive in terms of conducting research (let it be clinical to begin with) and publishing papers may mean that we are developing an acquired and rather premature intellectual menopause.<sup>1</sup> So let us not abdicate our responsibility.

Challenges to get support never end but we vow to continue our utmost effort to meet our goal. One nifty thing about the journal is its ability to thrive despite many setbacks within the system. This is what helped to define and reveal the resilient character of our journal. We think we have conquered all odds, and have come out ahead. Being the official journal of NESON, our path is well-lighted and our journey well-provisioned. There is safety in numbers and if all the neurosurgical and allied science members continue to support us as they have done in the past, this journal will be one of those things, every one of us will be proud of.

### References

1. Gurdjian ES. Certain autobiographical impressions in the life of a Neurosurgeon. *Clin Neurosurg* 19: 58-68, 1971