



## From the editors desk

Season's greetings to all!!!

At inception of my editorial, I would like to extend very warm Diwali wishes and lots of great hopes and success for the coming year to the whole scholarly fraternity on behalf of JOOO.

It is a matter of immense pleasure to me that the second issue of JOOO under my editorship has come to fruition. This December issue of the journal is special in many ways one of which is the new segment of inceptive innovation is being featured along with many other interesting articles. The present issue is indeed a powerhouse of information and new breakthroughs across the three specialities under one umbrella. I assure the researchers, clinicians, academicians, policy makers and all the professionals would find this issue interesting and the issue certainly has informative content for everyone....



The year 2020, was a roller coaster ride for every one of us and we all have faced negative blows of the pandemic at some or multiple levels. But as they say, “every dark cloud has silver lining” which means every negative situation has some hidden opportunities to explore. Hence, I thought of writing my editorial column focusing on the positive impact that this “lock down era” has given my field of oral pathology....

### **“Private Oral Pathology Practice: The Table Turner in the Pandemic”**

Sir William Osler has rightly said, “**As is our pathology, so is our practice.**” Having said so, however, in dental practice “Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology” (OMP), despite of being a major theory subject, does not seem to find its scope in practice like other dental specialities such as orthodontics, endodontics, etc.

OMP is referred to as a non-clinical branch, which I think is not the case. No branch at least in dentistry can be non-clinical. Simplest Red or white patch or even the smallest nodule inside an oral cavity can render the clinicians, surgeons and even the patients into trouble. To add in, the complex structures found inside the oral cavity, make the pathologies even more interesting and challenging...

Thus, there is a good amount of scope for an “expert” oral pathologist to have speciality practice, rather than just joining academics...

In this era of pandemic, where whole dentistry is seen as a bit of a risky profession, as dentists are at a higher risk of being exposed to the COVID-19 virus due to aerosols that too in a small and closed set ups of dental clinics; oral pathology labs provide a relatively safe environment to work, as major surgeries are done in well fumigated big hospital set ups & only the passive but a very important job of reporting can be done from the comfort of our own lab chamber. As also, oncological procedures are considered emergency and hence the job of an oral pathologist can never suffer from recession even in extreme cases such as of “lockdown”.

In this COVID era where there is a boom in online or digital businesses; online consultation for oral diseases and overall oral health related issues via “telemedicine” has opened its scope for “oral pathologists.” Hence a virtual oral pathology & medicine centre can become a big hit!!!

**The scope for tele-consultation for OMP ranges from even the commonest occurrence of aphthous ulcer to even the preliminary diagnosis of malignancies which may give proper guidance to the patients from the comfort of their homes.**

“Oral pathologists” can make the best possible use of the virtual platform than any other dental specialist to extend their services to the infinite crowd & similarly can blossom the reach of their expertise via regular measures of webinars, slide/case discussions or even by teaming up with other related specialities such as general pathologists, oncopathologists, ENT surgeons etc., where a multidisciplinary approach to the cases can be of great help.

Hence, in conclusion I would like to say, that **“It is not always about having vast markets already, but it is all about identifying your opportunities & then creating your own scope...”** And thereby in testing times like these “Telemedicine” and “Teleconsultation” can be successfully practiced by oral pathologists and open the new doors for speciality practice...

**Editor-in-Chief**

**Dr. Ketki Kalele**

**Editor-in-Chief (JOOO)**

Dept. of Oral Pathology & Microbiology

V.Y.W.S Dental College and Hospital, Maharashtra, India

Email: drketkikalele@gmail.com

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3627-142x>