

Guest Editorial

A few years back, we met Prof Asim Kurjak and were introduced to the new world of ultrasound. Actually our meeting with Prof Kurjak dates back to 1986 when Dr Jaideep presented her paper on “congenital anomalies and ultrasound” in the AICOG Congress at Ahmedabad and Prof Kurjak had awarded this paper as the best presentation.

Joining the Ian Donald School, being appointed as a Director and Dr Jaideep as a coordinator for South Asian countries (India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Afghanistan), has been the biggest learning experience for both of us. Organizing the Ian Donald courses yearly in India since 2002 as well as in Nepal and Dhakka has been the most wonderful experience.

Being on the editorial board of the journal and contributing regularly to the books published under the umbrella of Donald School have been a great honor to me. I was particularly honored when Prof Kurjak asked me to be a guest editor of a special issue of our journal dedicated to Indian experiences on the subject of Birth Defects.

Many of the review articles which you will find in this issue have already appeared, in part or full, in various publications, books and manuscripts by Jaypee Publishers, and they have been kind enough to permit publishing them in this special issue of our journal.

The aim of this special issue on “Birth Defects” is to bring forth the Indian experiences and review a major problem of birth defects. Today, the practicing obstetricians who care for mother and the unborn child need to be aware of this problem and its solutions and screening methods.

Birth defects are defined as abnormalities affecting the body structure and function of the newborn, which are present from birth. Some of these may be clinically seen at birth while some are diagnosed later in life, and a few are seen only in adulthood. Some birth defects are serious and life-threatening and can cause lifelong permanent disability.

This issue of the “Yellow journal” discusses the genetics of birth defects, biochemical marker screening for prenatal diagnosis and all aspects of ultrasound detection system-wise. Antenatal MRI and a review article on growth restriction and genetic counseling have also been included.

One original study on transcerebellar diameter to abdominal circumference ratio for growth assessment promises to give us new growth assessment parameters. Interesting articles on the role of ultrasound in natural disasters, colorectal cancer, prune-belly syndrome, and endometrial receptivity have been also included.

I wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year 2011, and happy reading.



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