

Editorial:**Why another journal?**

It is indeed a great pleasure to launch a new online journal 'Biology and Medicine' from the Department of Zoology, Aligarh Muslim University. The demanding field of life sciences, including its tools and techniques has its equally important applications in solving medical and biological problems which have eluded us despite the growing advancements in molecular biology and bioinformatics. Molecular medicine and molecular ecology both attract the geneticists, genome biologists and computational biologists. This only speaks of the rich complexity of living forms, the environment and Nature. Advancements in neuroscience, cancer biology, developmental biology and environmental science will raise new questions and problems that will envisage a further paradigm shift in life science research (systems biology & integrative biology).

Biology has seen a creative explosion of knowledge (like Cambrian explosion of living forms), concepts and tools, and multi-, inter- and cross-disciplinary methods have made narrow and superfluous specializations irrelevant. We need now more of reviews rather than trivial reports, evolution and developmental synthesis of diverse trends (adaptationists versus evo-devo programs), genetics and epigenetics (gene and nutrition in cancer) and life at its integration of function, adaptation and diversity program. And there is yet a third level of crisis in this pursuit, the lurching dangers of social exploitation due to biotechnology and medicine, the exit from which is not possible without recourse to some ethical provisions.

We know that India has made significant strides in science and technology. Its mark in physical and mathematical sciences has been well-taken, biological disciplines are comparatively younger, yet it has expanded quantitatively with the passage of time. Our success in agriculture and now endeavors in controlling malnutrition, infection, reproductive and public health, has necessitated a well concerted effort in medicine and biotechnology. 'Biology and Medicine' provides a platform for sharing this experience from field, laboratory and hospital studies. We know that there is a great pressure to compete in terms of citations and impact factor for a new journal, especially from the Third World. However, we will try our best to set the standards and strive for originality to make its mark indelible in the pages of history.

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