

Journal of Histopathology and Cytopathology, a Light on the Horizon

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Scientific documentation of medical ailment is in existence for thousands of years. The Edwin Smith papyrus is the first known formal and systematic written discourse on medical science. It presents a rational and scientific approach to medicine in ancient Egypt. This document describes 48 cases of injuries, fractures, wounds, dislocations and tumors dates to Dynasties 16–17 of the ancient Egypt (17th century BC).¹ Although description of different ailments were recorded there is little evidence that the Egyptians developed any systematic knowledge of these phenomena. It was not until the last three centuries BC that the Alexandrian Greeks, heavily influenced by Hippocrates, made lasting contributions to anatomy and pathology. Hippocrates of Cos (460–370 BC) and his school had an enormous influence on Greek and Roman medicine which continued beyond the Renaissance. Hippocratic writers left remarkably clear descriptions of many pathological features, such as wound inflammation, tumours, haemorrhoids, malaria and tuberculosis.²

The history of modern journals in pathology should mention Virchows Archiv as the oldest widely acclaimed journal of Europe. It was established in 1847 by Rudolf Virchow and his friend Benno Ernst Heinrich Reinhardt as the 'Archiv für pathologische Anatomie und Physiologie und für klinische Medizin'. After Virchow's death, it was renamed after him. In 1999 the European Society of Pathology adopted it as its official journal.³

The 1920s were an exciting time for pathology: implementation of frozen sections during surgery, regularized practice of postmortem examinations, and advances in laboratory medicine. The growing interest in the field led the American Medical Association (AMA) Section on Pathology and

Physiology to urge the AMA to publish a new publication. In 1925, the AMA Board of Trustees agreed to establish the Archives of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine. In the first ARCHIVES issue came out in January 1926. In the 1920s there were 4 major American journals devoted to various aspects of pathology and laboratory medicine. The American Journal of Pathology is the oldest American journal in the field of pathology (1896).⁴

The oldest journal in the field of pathology in Indian subcontinent is the Indian Journal of Pathology and Microbiology. It is the official publication of the Indian Association of Pathologists and Microbiologists. The journal started in the year 1958.⁵

In Bangladesh, initially the main publishing platforms for the pathologists were the Bangladesh Medical Journal (the official publication of the Bangladesh Medical Association), Bangladesh Medical Research Council Bulletin, IPGMR Journal and the Journal of the College of Physicians and Surgeons. Later came the Bangladesh Journal of Pathology, the first issue of which was published in 1986. It is a multidisciplinary journal which accepts articles from different branches of pathology and laboratory science. With the establishment of the Bangladesh Academy of Pathology, histopathologists and cytopathologists longed for a journal dedicated to their specialty. This would make a reputable high impact publication. To fulfill their aspiration, the Journal of Histopathology and Cytopathology is being launched. This publication will also work as an official organ of the academy. It is now responsibility of the members of the Bangladesh Academy of Pathology to take forward this journal to its excellence.

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