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Editorial

Pharmacovigilance: Highlighting Negative Effects of Drugs

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INTRODUCTION

I, Dr. Farhan Ahmad Khan, Editor on behalf of Journal of Pharmacovigilance and Drug Safety welcome all our readers, authors, subscribers and well-wishers.

I am very thankful to the Society of Pharmacovigilance, India, who gave me an opportunity to serve the journal as Editor. I am also fortunate to be the student of our Society President, Dr. KC Singhal. I am also overwhelmed to Prof. Anurag Tomar, Editor-in-Chief of Journal of Pharmacovigilance and Drug Safety, who trusted my abilities in appointing me as Editor of this journal.

Special thanks to my role model, Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman, Managing Editor, Journal of Pharmacovigilance and Drug Safety, whose continous guidance has helped a lot to reach the place where I am.

Our journal aims to encourage, support and provide platform for researchers, postgraduate students; medical and paramedical professionals to publish their valuable and prestigious work in the field of Pharmacovigilance and Drug Safety.

I am obliged and indebted to all our eminent and highly qualified editorial board members, subject panel experts and referees for their active participation and energetic work which makes our job smooth. I am thankful to all the authors for contributing their valuable material and sharing their views.

Negative Effects of a Drugs are equally important as therapeutic effects. This will greatly aid our pharmacovigilance efforts - the science and activities relating to the detection, assessment, understanding, and prevention of adverse effects of drugs, as defined by the World Health Organization.[1]

Need for spontaneous reporting systems were put in place after the thalidomide tragedy. Initially, the adverse events were reported through the British Yellow Card system and the Food and Drug Administration's form. Since then, PV practices have progressed from a reactive mode to a more proactive approach, where the safety of medicines is studied and tracked from the earlier stages of development through the entire product lifecycle including post marketing.

The overarching goal of pharmacovigilance is the safer use of medicines by influencing the behaviours of patients and healthcare professionals. Yet, despite billions of dollars spent on pharmacovigilance every year, adverse drug reactions (ADRs) remain a major cause of death.

We are still facing difficulties in getting authentic ADR data, as some reports submitted by institutions are nothing but the result of getting first in reporting ADRs. So a thorough check is required by the officials involved in Pharmacovigilance to report authentic ADRs.

No doubt that the Pharmacovigilance program has done a lot in creating awareness among the prescribers to understand that it is not only the desired effects you look for, but negative effects associated with drugs are also equally important.

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