

Annals of PIMS: A Profile of Progress and Vision

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After the inception of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Islamabad the faculty launched its first journal, the Journal of PIMS, in 1990. A year later, the Department of Surgery also initiated its own journal, titled The Journal of Surgery. Both journals were published regularly on a biannual basis until 2005. In 2005, they were officially merged into a single journal, Annals of PIMS (APIMS), which has been published under this name since then.

The Academic Council of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University declared Annals of PIMS (Print ISSN: 1815-2287; Online ISSN: 2075-7247) as its official journal, a decision that was endorsed by the Syndicate Committee on May 14, 2014. APIMS was subsequently recognized by the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) and placed in the Z category by the Higher Education Commission (HEC). Over the subsequent years, the quality of the journal improved, and it was upgraded to the Y category by the HEC, where it currently remains.

Annals of PIMS has completed 20 years of continuous publication.

Annals of PIMS is a quarterly, double-blind, peer-reviewed (Open Access) journal that serves as a platform for advancing scientific knowledge across all fields of medicine, surgery, dentistry, and allied health sciences.

The journal puts special emphasis on publications in the field of basic sciences, clinical sciences and medical education. Various workshops are conducted annually in collaboration with the Department of Medical Education on scientific paper-writing, review and research methodology.

The objectives of APIMS is to promote research in medical, surgical, and allied disciplines, and to encourage quality research in basic and clinical sciences, encompassing both qualitative and quantitative paradigms.

The scope is all branches of clinical, pre- and para-clinical sciences, critical care and emergency medicine, geriatric medicine, family practice, medical ethics, medical education, alternative and complementary medicine, physical medicine and rehabilitation.

The editorial board aims to publish and share quality research to enhance the visibility and citation of the journal through the open journal system (OJS), and to provide a platform for progressive research (Graduate and Postgraduate level).

Annals of PIMS follows the ICMJE guidelines, "Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals," available at: <http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/>

Annals of PIMS publishes research papers, including original articles, case reports, review articles, articles on medical education, systematic reviews, meta-analysis and short communications related to health, medicine and dentistry in accordance with the "Uniform Requirements for Manuscript submitted to Medical Journals".

The journal's readership includes Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University (SZABMU) and Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) faculty, students and other healthcare professionals and researchers.

It is distributed to medical colleges and medical libraries throughout Pakistan.

We have a substantial inflow of articles with an online submission portal and a very stringent peer review system. Each article is reviewed by two external reviewers after initial scrutiny by the editorial board.

We strongly recommend PERN-based Turnitin for similarity index and comprehensive system for ChatGPT/AI-based content screening. Formal approval

from ERB/IRB and declaration of conflict of interest is mandatory.

Journal Recognition, Accreditation, and Indexing Status 2024-2025

- Currently Annals of PIMS is recognized by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (Y Category)¹ and Pakistan Medical and Dental Council.²
- Annals of PIMS is also approved Journal by the College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan (CPSP) (candidates opting to write and publish articles in lieu of dissertation for appearing in first Fellowship examination of CPSP).³
- DOI has been obtained from Cross Ref for research articles.
- Journal is recognized by BASE-Germany, Asian Digital Library & PASTIC, Asian Digital Library, Open Academic Journals Index (OAJI), Islamic World Science Citation Center & Asian Science Citation Index.
- Availability of previous archives (2010 onward) on the journal website.
- Previous archives are digitally preserved in Portico-USA.
- Annals of PIMS operates using the Open Journal Systems (OJS) publishing software to manage

manuscript submission and peer review, conducted through the OJS platform as well as via the official journal email.⁴

Future Plans and Indexation Roadmap

- As a first step we are going to apply for DAOJ in 2026 and then for indexation in Web of Sciences/SCOPUS, both are challenging steps but with targeted effort achievable.
- Making it a bi-monthly publication is also in the pipeline. As the number of submissions are increasing and we hope to attain this goal in the near future.

We are also actively seeking high-quality manuscripts, including randomized controlled trials (RCTs), meta-analyses, and systematic reviews. International authorship and high-profile editorials are welcomed.

References

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2. www.pmdc.pk. Retrieved December 14, 2025, from <https://pmdc.pk/Documents/Letters/List%20of%20journals%20final.pdf#page=5>
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