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Letters to the Editor



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Volume 2, Number 1, (January-June 2001)

From: Dr. Roel Cayari, Fiji Islands (Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2000)

Dear Doctor Anil,

I am a expatriate pathologist working in Fiji for 6 years now. I am a Doctor of Medicine,1985, graduating in University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Phils. I had my training in Anatomic Pathology, 1992 and certified by the Phil. Board of Pathologists. I am also a member of the International Academy of Pathologists, Australasian Division. I just found you while browsing through the internet and I find your website very interesting. I hope to be able to contribute some articles of note someday. I would like to inquire from you whether you have any institution which provides formal training in Forensic Pathology. My work as a pathologist here in Fiji involves about 60% medicolegal cases and I have learned through experience. Now, I would like to undergo a formal training as I have found Forensic Pathology a very useful and interesting field. I will be going to Singapore for a 6 months training in Forensic Pathology at ISFM. After which, I would like to pursue the field of forensics further, hence my inquiry. I would appreciate it very much if we can communicate regularly. Thank you very much.
Kind regards,

Dr. Roel B. Cayari
Consultant Pathologist
Colonial War Memorial Hospita
Suva, Fiji Islands

From: Dr. Narinder Aggarwal, New Delhi, India (Date: Sat, 05 Aug 2000)

Hello, Dr. Aggrawal,
I have gone through your paper and found it very useful.

Dr. Narinder Aggrawal,
Reader, Department of Forensic Medicine,
University College of Medical Sciences,
New Delhi, India

From: Dianne McCutcheon, US (Date: Tue, 08 Aug 2000)

Dear Dr. Aggrawal,
Mr. Kotzin asked me to reply to your question regarding NLM's purchase order from Serial Records Section for your journal. Our order is for the CD-ROM version of the journal which according to your web site is now available, with many more additional features. We wish to have the CD-ROM for our library collection.
Can you supply us your journal in the CD-ROM version? Please let us know if there is a charge for the CD-ROM.
Thank you.

Dianne McCutcheon
Head, Serial Records
National Library of Medicine
US

From: Dr. Friedrich Lux, Austria (Date: Sun, 3 Sep 2000)

Dear Dr. Anil Aggrawal

Thank you very much for your excellent info on you website. I will add a link from my page to yours.
Best regards

Dr. Friedrich Lux
TIRE GUIDES INTERNATIONAL
Franz Grubergasse 22
A-2700 Wr. Neustadt, Austria
Phone &
Tire Guides International Website

From: John Lavender, US, (Date: Mon, 4 Sep 2000)

Dr. Aggrawal
Thank you for your reviews of our publications. Our representative in India is Mr R Seshadri whom you may contact at itpsesha@giasmd01.vsnl.net.in if you would like to review other publications.

John Lavender
CRC Press LLC

From: Paul Wehn, US, (Date: Fri, 8 Sep 2000)

Dear Dr. Aggrawal,
Thanks for your review of John Trestrail's book on Criminal Poisoning. I checked out the site

and the review. I was curious about how you got the book, but then discovered that John is on your editorial board! The site is very nice, although I have a few suggestions for improving it. Why the barbed wire? Seems strange. I had trouble finding your name and address on the site. It should be immediately apparent. You say nothing about who should be sent books for possible review. Also, there is no aims and scope statement, which is something that every journal worth its salt should have. About the name of the journal, I would think that Journal of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology of Internet Journal of. . . would have more credibility with Medline and others. Just some thoughts. We do have a book by Margaret Stark called *A Physician's Guide to Clinical Forensic Medicine*. Would you like to review it?
Yours sincerely,

Paul Wehn
The Humana Press Inc
999 Riverview Dr, Ste 208
Totowa, NJ 07512

(*Barbed wire is just a curiosity. My name, address, aims and scope of the journal can be found by clicking here, which happens to be the home page of the journal too. The name and address of the person to whom books for review should be sent appears at the bottom of our review page itself. To know why our journal is named like this, kindly visit our FAQ section. -Anil Aggrawal*)

From: Jay Dix, US, (Date: Sat, 9 Sep 2000)

Dr. Aggrawal
I went to your web site and found it interesting. Let me know how you would like me to contribute.

Jay Dix

(*Thanks Jay. We feel honored. You may want to send us papers along with colour pictures. Your books would have us believe there is never a dearth of good pictures with you. -Anil Aggrawal*)

From: Lori Bisbey (Date: Sun, 10 Sep 2000)

Dear Professor Aggrawal,

I would be happy to send a paper when I have finished preparing one. What are the guidelines to follow? Are you looking for research or descriptive papers?
Best,

Bisbey

(*Guidelines have been given in the journal. Any way you can the linked page (guidelines) for the guidelines. Both types of papers are accepted in this journal. -Anil Aggrawal*)

From: Nick Fallon (Date: Mon, 18 Sep 2000)

Dear Professor Aggrawal,
I have today asked our Marketing Manager to add you to the book review copy list for all

Academic Press forensic science books. I hope that you will enjoy reviewing these - and look forward to reading the reviews in the on-line journal.
Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries. In the meantime, you may wish to visit our homepage at the URL given below.
With best wishes

Nick Fallon
Senior Editor - AP Forensics
Academic Press
Harcourt Place
32 Jamestown Road
London NW1 7BY
UK

e-
Academic Press Website

From: Dr. George Paul, Malaysia (Date: Mon, 18 Sep 2000)

Dear Anil,

I checked out your thesis site and am pleased to see your protégé's thesis there. Do you mind if I give some critique on it?

On the face of it, the study though highlighting ISS, does little to elaborate on the current ISS score (i.e. the 1980 score and the chart), and how to use it! I used it and presented the paper in front of Elaine Petricelli, one of the founder's of the score, at the 5th World Congress of Injury Prevention & Control from 5th to 8th March at the India Habitat Center, Lodhi Road (the one for which I had come to Delhi for) and was told that even that was flawed and had been revised!

As far as the data of injuries are concerned, traumatologists all over the world would like to see some correlation in a work from a country on how a particular pattern of trauma correlates with a particular road user as well as lessons one learns in interventive strategies arising from the work! What has Akash to say about pattern of injuries in different cases of road users? He could at least comment on whether which organs he expects from his study, to be affected vis-à-vis primary impact, secondary impact and secondary and tertiary injuries!! Could he, applying the old ISS predict whether injuries were not clinically noted or ignored, because as per the low clinical score on the basis of clinical notes, the prognosis should have been good, not fatal. Has he noted any case where the clinical and P.M. scores were low and the patient died of complications acquired at the hospital? As far as a thesis/dissertation is concerned, the tables and graphs make the study, and one can see none of it there in the dissertation! (*Sorry, I could not upload them earlier as I was so rushed up, and later the thing slipped up from my mind. Anyway you are right, and they are there now. -Anil Aggrawal*)

In the *Medicine Science and Law* short paper, AK Sharma and I have tried to address these issues within the limited scope of our vast study. We had also tried to do the same with Ghosh's paper, but it was so vast a study that in the end we were doing his finishing of the

thesis and its publication, as Ghosh had cracked up and given up, saying that he could not submit it in time! Dr Reddy, Dabas, and I pooled in during the last 3 days, and so all these finer points had to be abandoned!

I went through Zeno Geradt's and Jurrien Bijhold's paper and Ifeoma Anochie's paper from Nigeria. The former paper is a fascinating paper and a laudable one, while the Nigerian paper gives a somewhat misleading connotation from the title from the nature of the term "Non Accidental" as I thought this sounded interesting as we have done some such cases of Non accidental injuries from child abuse! This actually turned out to be so called injuries as local treatment remedies for convulsions practiced in Nigeria. Nevertheless, it is a very good paper and an eye opener, with some very nice photographs! They have come out quite well! Both papers are excellent papers,

Well again congrats for an excellent presentation and compilation making it a journal worth quoting.
Regards,

George Paul, Lecturer, Forensic Pathology,
Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Malaya,
Lembah Pantai 50603, Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia

From: Kate Bowker, (Date: Fri, 22 Sep 2000)

Dear Professor Aggrawal
Thank you so much for reviewing our title: Faulks Basic Forensic Psychiatry. We do appreciate this, and I am copying this email to the relevant editor who will be delighted to read the review.
Many thanks again for taking the time to review Basic Forensic Psychiatry. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance in the future.
Best regards

Kate
Blackwell Science Publshers

From: Phrabhakaran a/l K N Nambiar, Malaysia, (Date: Fri, 13 Oct 2000)

Dear Anil,
I will try to send a paper for the journal as it is a brillant idea. It is nice to know that you have really expanded in the Intenet. Anil Aggrawal is going to be popular like Reddy's forensic section.
With best regards,

Phrabha
Malaysia

From: Prof. Giusto GIUSTI, Italy, (Date: Mon, 16 Oct 2000)

Dear Prof. Aggrawal
Best compliments for your electronic journal and the style. The necessity of a journal like this

looks obvious after your beginning. I will send papers when possible, and in a next mail propose a co-operation on skeletal age.

Prof. Giusto GIUSTI,
Chair of Legal Medicine,
Università di Roma "Tor Vergata"
Italy

From: James W. Burnes (Date: Fri, 20 Oct 2000)

Dr. Aggrawal,

I had the pleasure of visiting your website today and wanted to let you know about our own forensic science e-zine, which has been in production since November 1996, www.forensicpanel.com.
Just for a little more background on who we are: The Forensic Panel provides premium forensic consultation services to the courts and to attorneys on matters of technology and science as they relate to legal issues. The largest private forensic consulting firm in the country, The Forensic Panel provides evaluation of areas such as mental health, employment law, workplace security, and computer forensics, among other disciplines.
I encourage you to make www.forensicpanel.com a reference tool for you and your colleagues, covering the interface of forensic sciences and the law. You can access and subscribe to the site free, simply by logging on. We are delighted to provide high quality information and analysis, updated daily.
Sincerely,

James Burnes
Business Development

From: Dr. Ronald Wright, US (Date: Wed, 1 Nov 2000)

Your posted journals are quite impressive.

R.K. Wright MD JD
2101 SW 29th AVENUE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33312

From: Greg Laskowski, US (Date: Mon, 13 Nov 2000)

Dear Dr. Aggrawal,
Your site is a very worthy effort at informing both the forensic community and the public in issues regarding forensic medicine and toxicology. For my part, I am more interested in criminalsitics and the use of new technology in crime scene investigation. Perhaps as your interent journal grows, it will include these topics as well. Keep up the good work. I am always interested in seeing how other parts of the world are grappling with forensic issues.
All the best!

Gregory E. Laskowski
Supervising Criminalist
Kern County District Attorney

Forensic Science Division
office

From: Dr. Peter Kovac, Slovakia (Date: Thu, 23 Nov 2000)

Dear Dr. Anil Aggrawal
After visiting the pages of the Internet Journal of Forensic Medicine I think your idea is an appropriate solution for the general situation with publications in the field of forensic medicine. I am not familiar with the situation in your country, but in our region (Slovakia and the Czech republic) there is only single journal dealing with pathology and forensic medicine - Cesko-Sloveska patologie a soudni lekarstvi, indexed in MEDLINE/Index medicus, EMBASE, BILOGICAL ABSTRACTS and BIBLIOGRAPHIA MEDICA CECHOSLOVACA. Appearing 4 times a year, space for publication is limited. Problem with the rest of the world is financial - our institute has only limited means provided by university therefore we are not in the position to get on the hottest news. Forensic medicine is in the majority of countries some kind of unwanted Cinderella.
Now couple of my ideas to improve the Journal: based on my walk-through, I have noticed the journal is optimized for resolution 1600 x 1200 pixels. Nowadays, in my opinion, the most common resolution used on internet is 800x600, only minority of sites use resolution 1024x768. The other idea is to get some "good" URL for the journal. Free web hosting is good for the start, but it looks like the Journal is to become big success. Therefore one should think of own domain for the Journal.
I am of course interested in publishing in the journal - I can offer some 2 - 3 interesting contributions. I've autopsied a case where punctured injury to the right ventricle was not diagnosed and the patient survived 4 days - I think this would a good case report. One of my favorite topics is medical legislation - therefore your comparative focused on autopsy regulations and transplantations sound very interesting for me. I could be interesting to publish such a comparative even in the paper based journals - I thing I could get it to the Cesko-Sloveska patologie a soudni lekarstvi with almost no problem. Would you be interested in the co-operation on this field ? The next contribution could be dedicated to pre- and post-gradual education of the forensic medicine and the organization of the medico-legal service in the Slovak republic. With our colleagues we can provide long - term follow up of the Slovak drug scene after the fall of the iron curtain. I've informed some of my colleagues and especially Dr. Fiala, PhD. (chairman of the Slovak Society of Forensic Medicine). He would be interested in publishing some of his papers. He got his PhD for the work in the field of forensic fetology - and the problem of establishing the age of the embryo and fetus is of great forensic importance in most countries (abortion legislative etc.)

Dr. Peter Kovac
Institute of Forensic Medicine
Comenius University
Bratislava, Sasinkova 4
81103 Slovakia

From: Dr Rene Lopez Perez, Chile (Date: Tue, 26 Dec 2000)

Hello Professor Aggrawal,
From Chile I send you a letter.

I am a forensic physician and I work at medical legal service of santiago De chile (too far). Would you like to have some contact with South America?

Dr Rene Lopez Perez
Chile

(*Sure! You may even want to tell us of forensic research going on in your region in the form of papers, articles, reviews etc. -Anil Aggrawal*)

From: Dr. Hugo Rodriguez, Uruguay (Date: Fri, 29 Dec 2000)

Dear Professor,
I want to congratulate you for the excellent quality of your electronic publication. I am medical doctor, specialized in Forensic Medicine. Now, I am working for the Justice as Forensic Examiner. I was also Associate Professor of Forensic Medicine at the Medical School (Facultad de Medicina), Uruguay University, at Montevideo, Uruguay, and I was recently lecturer, as Invited Professor of the Universidad Mayor de San Marcos (Lima, Peru). Presently, I am General Secretary of the Ibero-American Society of Medical Law and I also integrate the board of the Asociación Latinoamericana de Medicina Legal y Deontología Médica (Latin American Society of Forensic Medicine and Medical Deontology). I integrate, as editor, the staff of the Revista Española de Medicina Legal (Spanish Journal of Forensic Medicine) and The Red Telemática Latinoamericana de Medicina Legal, Bioética y Derecho Médico (Latin American Telematic Web of Legal Medicine, Bioethic and Medical Law. I have published several papers, in Spanish, mainly about the Children Forensic Medicine (battered child syndrome, sexual abuse and sudden infant death) and on Medical Law. Best Regards,

Hugo Rodriguez
Uruguay

N.B. Email links of all Email writers have been provided in case visitors want to get in touch with them for some reason. Some Email writers have provided us with their own website links, which have been incorporated too. Links to all papers and theses have also been provided when the writer has particularly referred to them.

Do you wish to say something about this journal? Something which has put you off. Something which you don't like. Something which you would want to see here, but you don't find. If you want to say anything about the journal - good or bad, congratulatory or critical, suggestive or dismissive - tell us, and we will publish your views here. Your letters tell us, where we are committing mistakes. Or where we are doing commendable work. Your letters will ultimately guide us to the right path - to make this a truly professional journal. It is after we pass through the litmus test of our readers that we can hope to achieve excellence. Click the link below to send letters to us.

My letter