

# The Journey of JCORTH: From Vision to Validation

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The year 2025 marks a significant meaningful milestone—not only for the Bombay Orthopaedic Society (BOS), which celebrates the 60<sup>th</sup> WIROC, but also for the Journal of Clinical Orthopaedics (JCORTH). This year, the journal has been officially accepted into the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), a recognition that affirms its adherence to global publishing standards and makes it eligible for MCI/NMC promotion criteria. That this achievement coincides with the diamond jubilee WIROC makes it all the more significant: it symbolizes both continuity and renewal, tradition and progress, roots and aspirations.

## The Beginning: A Vision Supported by BOS Leadership

When JCORTH was conceived in 2016, it began as a shared belief that BOS needed a dedicated platform for clinically relevant, open-access, ethically robust orthopaedic scholarship—a journal that represented the intellectual voice of one of India's oldest and most respected orthopaedic societies. This vision could not have materialised without the wholehearted support and encouragement of the BOS leadership of that year. We gratefully acknowledge:

- Dr. Sanjay Dhar, then Secretary of BOS, whose clarity, enthusiasm, and administrative insight helped translate the idea into reality.
- Dr. Aseem Parikh, then President of BOS, who supported the proposal, provided both strategic guidance and confidence, and ensured that the journal began with a strong institutional foundation.

Their trust in the concept of JCORTH laid the cornerstone on which everything else stands today.

We also extend our sincere appreciation to the entire BOS Executive Committee (EC) over nearly a decade. Each

team—year after year—strengthened the journal through their encouragement, oversight, and belief in its purpose. Every EC has in some way contributed to this milestone, and DOAJ indexing is as much their achievement as it is the journal's.

## The Early Years: Building a Clinical, Open and Meaningful Platform

From its inception, the journal followed three core principles:

1. Free and Open Access – ensuring that orthopaedic knowledge remained available to every surgeon, irrespective of institutional or financial constraints.
  2. Clinical Relevance – welcoming real-world orthopaedic research, experience-based insights, surgical techniques, case series, and practice-oriented papers that address the realities of care in India and similar regions.
  3. Quality and Ethics – adopting double-blind peer review, structured editorial processes, and transparent publication guidelines.
  4. Innovation – new and inspiring sections like Interviews with BOS Legends, Perspectives and pot pourrie added to the personality of the journal making it more engaging
- These principles allowed JCORTH to evolve into a journal that truly reflects the breadth and depth of Indian clinical orthopaedics.

Over the years, the journal gained steady traction—its submissions grew, its reach expanded, and its readership diversified. Authors, reviewers, and contributors trusted JCORTH even when it was still finding its place among established platforms. We specially thank all the foreign authors for their contributions and now that the journal is indexed we hope they will continue their support by more contribution.

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### A Milestone Moment: DOAJ Indexing

The acceptance of JCORTH into DOAJ marks a defining point in its journey. DOAJ recognition validates:

- adherence to international standards of open-access publishing,
- strong editorial and peer-review processes,
- commitment to transparency, quality, and academic ethics.

It also means that JCORTH articles become more discoverable, citable, and academically recognised, bringing meaningful credit to authors, institutions, and the BOS community.

For young surgeons, residents, and academicians across India, DOAJ indexing ensures that publishing in JCORTH now carries full weight in professional evaluations and promotions.

### Leadership that Carried the Torch Forward

The progress of JCORTH in recent years has been profoundly shaped by the dedication of Dr. Sachin Kale, Dr. Gautam Zaveri, and Dr. Ashish Phadnis—a trio whose combined efforts transformed the journal from a strong foundation into an internationally recognised platform. Under the calm yet resolute stewardship of Dr. Sachin Kale, the journal grew in maturity, academic discipline, and editorial rigour. He strengthened reviewer systems, broadened formats, nurtured inclusivity, and ensured that every issue reflected the BOS philosophy of openness and clinical relevance. Dr. Gautam Zaveri, as the current BOS President, brought vision, academic direction, and strategic encouragement, playing a pivotal role in accelerating the DOAJ indexing process and raising the journal's visibility across scientific forums. Complementing this, Dr. Ashish Phadnis, as BOS Secretary, provided the administrative clarity, continuity, and relentless follow-through needed to bring the indexing goal to fruition. Their collective leadership along with current EC represents the very best of BOS—collaborative, committed, and forward-looking. The DOAJ recognition is, without doubt, a testament to their shared effort and the collective ownership that defines our society.

### A Moment of Pride at the 60<sup>th</sup> WIROC

As the print edition of JCORTH is unveiled at the 60<sup>th</sup> WIROC, it stands not merely as a journal but as a symbol of continuity, evolution, and aspiration.

It echoes six decades of BOS heritage, and at the same time, announces a new chapter—where our society's journal steps confidently onto the international stage, indexed, recognised, and ready for broader impact.

There is a quiet poetry in this alignment: the society that nurtured generations of orthopaedic surgeons celebrates its diamond jubilee, while its journal, born much later, comes of age in the very same moment.

### The Road Ahead: Growing With Gratitude and Ambition

With indexing secured, JCORTH now carries a renewed responsibility—to rise higher, reach farther, and remain deeply connected to its roots. The future will see the journal:

- welcoming robust original research and multicentric collaborations,
- engaging with global orthopaedic communities while preserving its Indian soul,
- embracing multimedia and digital learning innovations,
- continuing to celebrate reflective, narrative, artistic, and humanistic writing that shapes thoughtful surgeons.

And through it all, one promise remains unchanged:

JCORTH will stay free, open, inclusive, and clinically meaningful—true to the BOS spirit.

### Conclusion: A Call to the Next Generation

The story of JCORTH—from a hopeful idea in 2016 to an indexed journal in 2025—is a story of belief, perseverance, and the power of community.

But this milestone is not an endpoint; it is an invitation.

To the young surgeons of BOS—the residents, the early-career clinicians, the emerging academics—this journal now belongs to you.

Your ideas, your research, your experiences, your reflections will shape its next decade.

We encourage you to write boldly, question deeply, document passionately, and contribute generously. Let JCORTH be the platform where your voice finds its place and your work finds its audience.

As BOS celebrates 60 glorious years, and JCORTH steps into its new identity, we stand on the threshold of a future filled with possibility.

The foundations are strong. The vision is clear. The torch is now yours to carry.

**Dr. Nicholas Antao & Dr. Ashok Shyam**

**Founding Editors,**

**Journal of Clinical Orthopaedics**

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