

## EDITORIAL

### THE AUDACITY OF HOPE

<http://www.lebanesemedicaljournal.org/articles/56-1/editorial.pdf>

*The title of this editorial may surprise readers.*

*Since assuming the editorship of the Lebanese Medical Journal (LMJ) over a decade, my editorial for the first issue of a new volume focused on past achievements and future prospect. However in the midst of madness, hatred, destruction, sorrow, and suffering prevailing in our beloved once peaceful Lebanon, I have wondered whether it makes any sense to write about any subject, whether in fact it is rational to plan. Physicians are particularly concerned since they come in close contact with the crude reality of tragedy and all sorts of suffering. It is becoming utterly difficult, if not impossible, to carry daily activities with dignity and courage.*

*Then, what should be done ? Should we accept defeat ? Certainly not.*

*Despite this new gloomy situation, I remind myself that, through its history, Lebanon has stood strongly through difficult times. I am a firm believer that Lebanon is perennial and will not perish because of the vitality of the Lebanese, their attachment to their roots, and their commitments to their country.*

*Am I dreaming ? May be ! However I will persevere in my hope ! Hence the audacity of any hope in these difficult times !*

*It would be unfair to conclude this editorial without describing our achievements over the past year. Despite all sorts of difficulties, we have been able to publish four regular issues including a special issue on "an Update of Lebanese Guidelines on Osteoporosis" under the able guest editorship of Dr Ghada Hajj-Fuleihan. Additional special issues are planned for the year 2008. Further, the LMJ has a well established operational webpage. Details are described in this issue. As to the impact factor, we are studying several possibilities which hopefully will improve the diffusion of the published material.*

*I am pleased to welcome colleagues who have recently joined the Editorial Board, a rejuvenating process.*

*Last but not least, I would like to thank my colleagues on the Editorial Board, past and present, Michele Valligny, and Jacqueline Chahine for their unfailing dedication and perseverance in helping to maintain the standard of LMJ.*

*I would like to express my gratitude and special thanks to Professor Georges Aftimos, President of the Lebanese Order of Physicians, and to Dr Pierre Bou Khalil, Chairman of the Scientific Committee, for their support in our difficult endeavor.*

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Editor in Chief