

# Bengal Journal of Otolaryngology and Head Neck Surgery

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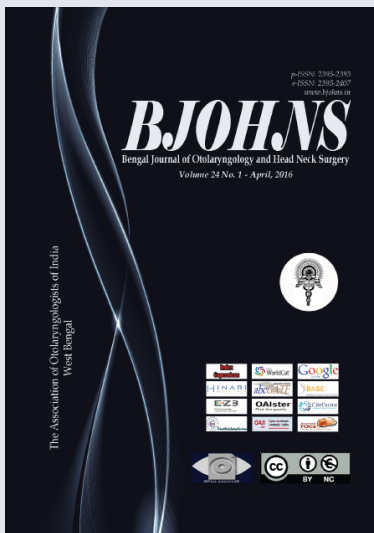
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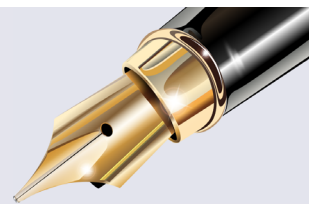
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# *From the Desk of the Editor*



When Covid19 spread from Wuhan like a wildfire to engulf most of the countries, it caught the world unawares. It was not that we were not aware of the devastating potentials of a pandemic. It was not that the opinion leaders did not stress upon developing a master plan for comprehensive deployment of the resources to fight an epidemic and minimize the casualty. The erstwhile President of the USA, George Bush, requested for funds from the Congress in 2005 for implementing a strategy to fight any future pandemic. The world failed to act on the cue received from the Ebola outbreak which affected people belonging predominantly to the lower socio-economic strata of a few West African nations. Bill Gates was almost prophetic when he said in 2015 that anything that kills over 10 million people in the next few decades won't be a nuclear war but a highly infectious virus. Exercise Cygnus in October 2016 and Event 201 Pandemic Exercise exposed the important gaps in the pandemic preparedness and response in the UK and the USA. Still, we preferred to spend money and stockpile arms to kill our fellow human beings until this Novel Corona Virus brought the whole humanity to its knees, only this time, without any prejudice to the socio-economic status, geo-political barrier or rural-urban divide.

SARS-CoV-2 has hitherto been unknown to the scientific community. Since its first identification in December 2019, it has already claimed more than two hundred thousand lives of more than three million affected persons by the end of April, 2020. The speed with which the virus spread and its adaptability surprised the medical community, which scampered to get together at least a semblance of a plan to fight Covid 19. Absence of a vaccine to prevent the spread and the absence of a drug to cure overwhelmed even the best healthcare systems in the world in the wake of the deluge of patients that hit the hospitals.

Absence of any universally acceptable treatment protocol and dearth of infrastructure to deal with an epidemic of such magnitude forced the nations to devise their own plans of action to break the chain of transmission of the virus with inadequately trained medical manpower with due consideration to the strained economic resources. All the measures, irrespective of the form in which they have been enforced, have been tough on the general population and we will continue to feel the disastrous economic and humanitarian consequences of the pandemic for some considerable time to come.

Let us keep our fingers crossed with the hope that the Covid 19 pandemic would become a distant nightmare in the near future. It would be prudent for the post-Covid world to learn from its mistakes and complacencies of the past to work together towards a strong health system with efficient training of manpower and ability of rapid deployment of the medical and humanitarian relief teams to contain any epidemic or disaster; supplemented, of course, by a robust biomedical research establishment for development of medicines and vaccines.

Dr Saumendra Nath Bandyopadhyay  
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