

## Editorial

### Building Bridges, Or, Burning Them?

*A Society member recently pointed out to me his assessment of the Pakistan Heart Journal policy in particular pointing to the Editorials. He thought that certain people took offense to criticism, a few to the point of seeing the editorials as personal attacks. Even though he said he personally thought that only ultimate good can come out of well placed criticism, he added it did not augur well for the editor personally. "You will end up making more enemies than friends", he said. "The local community is not mature enough to accept such open criticism", he concluded, "You must build more bridges than you burn".*

*A Society's Journal is, or, should be more than a scientific document. It should attempt to evaluate and improve on the 'status quo' especially if things are far from ideal in that field. To openly take stock without consideration for friend or foe is not an easy task. You will say things that will annoy both friends and foes, but, if you in your heart are honest, than the impetus provided, even though initially unpleasant, can only end up improving things. As far as people who take issues too personally are concerned, all one can say is that they are giving themselves and what they do too much importance. Believe me, one is least bothered and rarely thinks about such persons however hyperinflated their egos may be. When civilized people disagree, they do not call each other liars. They publish and project their viewpoint supported by arguments and data and let the rest make up their own minds. What is evident is that the person pointing the finger incurs wrath and gets no dividends. Why then should anyone take on such a thankless job? Everyone wants friends. It is so easy to win friends by saying nice things about them. It is so much easier and profitable to build bridges of friendship and use one's position to personal advantage.*

*When individuals become strong, institutions, traditions and standards become weak and vice versa. Let each one look inside him and ask if he is willing to build institutions and stick to standards even at a cost to his person. A Society's Journal must reflect the finest aspirations of its membership. My assessment of the membership has so far given me the courage to be bold.*

Editor.