

## Editorial comments

The physician always needs to depend on the vivid and complex array of investigations and choice of investigation depends on many factors beyond the level of the physician. In the situation of catastrophic spending through out of pocket expenditure price of the test becomes most crucial. In many instances availability, alone matters and treatment becomes empirical, and diagnosis by clinical means alone is the reality. The choice of investigation depends on the cost, other host characteristics and also on the individual test properties of investigation. In order to optimise the cost and to the investigation, cutting edge knowledge on diagnostic microbiology is absolutely essential. The global spread of extended-spectrum beta-lactamase resistance and multidrug-resistance are the most dreaded problems for all, and this has been a subject matter in the recent issues. The victory of man over microbes is always the story of ups and downs unless the clinical issues hand with the community colleague no story is complete because no one is safe until and unless everyone is safe, so they expect more articles in the forthcoming issues as test properties rational choice of investigations cost-effectiveness of test and also appropriate use of diagnostic technology in the community setting.

The previous issue contained an informative article on 'comparison of various methods for the detection of Amp C beta-lactamases enzyme' and is recommended for the routine practice of laboratories of tertiary care centres.

'Characterisation of *Malassezia* species' and 'bacterial profile of burn wound infections' are clinically relevant studies, and the guidelines proposed by the authors for the management of such situations are very helpful.

The study on 'non-fermenting Gram-negative bacteria other than *Pseudomonas*' made an interesting reading and threw light on everyday problems.

The issue contained four pertinent case reports and other quality articles. I take this opportunity to wish all success to the editorial team for the sincere efforts in bringing out all the previous issues in spite of many constraints.

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**Website:**  
[www.jacmjournal.org](http://www.jacmjournal.org)

**DOI:**  
10.4103/0972-1282.134453

**How to cite this article:** Mohan KR. Editorial comments. J Acad Clin Microbiol 2014;16:2.

**Source of Support:** Nil. **Conflict of Interest:** None declared.