

Developing the IJS Publishing Group

Riaz Agha, SpR Plastic Surgery, Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

I have always been interested in publishing and really enjoyed reading and writing papers whilst at medical school. My interest peaked to the point of developing and launching my own journal – the *International Journal of Surgery* on the 1st October 2003. The journal developed quickly and with 200 subscribers, I had a problem – lack of time to invest in the continued development of the journal. I was doing the commissioning, editing, typesetting, proofing, organising the printing, binding and delivery as well as running the website, marketing and subscriptions. Following my FY1, I took time out of training to develop the journal further.

Elsevier became the publisher and I delegated most of my duties to Elsevier staff and other editors who were recruited to the journal. Further journal launches followed in 2010 – *IJS Case Reports*; 2012 – *Annals of Medicine and Surgery*, and in 2015 – *IJS Open*. I re-entered training as an FY2 having taken two years out. Today IJS Publishing Group receives 2,500 manuscripts and over 1 million downloads per year with double digit growth rates for over a decade. I still get a huge buzz out of launching new products and services – IJS Careers and the Research Registry® this year, with new product launches planned for 2016.

Being an entrepreneur and a trainee doctor is not easy. It requires advanced time management and communication skills, the ability to develop ideas and see them through their execution. Negotiation and sales skills will need to be developed to deal optimally with suppliers and partners. You have to enjoy working with a wide variety of people and be able to develop strong partnerships and delegate effectively. Maintaining focus is key, looking at data, keeping an eye on your key metrics and a willingness to keep learning.

If you are interested in entrepreneurship, do look into the NHS Clinical Entrepreneur Programme, it might be right for you. Attend conferences relevant to entrepreneurs, get your creative juices flowing and don't force it.

Good luck in your journey.