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Kamran Abbasi appointed as editor in chief of *The BMJ*

Zosia Kmietowicz

Kamran Abbasi has been appointed as the new editor in chief of *The BMJ*. He will take up the post on 1 January 2022, succeeding Fiona Godlee, who has been in the role for more than 16 years.

Abbasi has been executive editor of *The BMJ* since 2016, leading the journal's content team and international growth strategy. He qualified in medicine at Leeds University and joined *The BMJ* after postgraduate training in general medicine.

Abbasi has worked in medical editing and publishing for more than 25 years, developing wide digital, international, senior management, and board level experience. He is also a visiting professor in the department of primary care and public health at Imperial College London and a patron of the South Asian Health Foundation.

Welcoming the appointment, BMJ's chief executive, Chris Jones, said, "Kamran's editorial experience, clear sense of purpose, and strong commitment to *The BMJ*'s values of credibility and integrity are what distinguished his candidacy.

"As BMJ heads into a new and exciting phase of investment and growth, I look forward to working with Kamran to build on this success and continue to develop *The BMJ* and the wider business for a digital future. BMJ is committed to diversity and inclusion, and we are proud to appoint a British Asian to this important role. This is a first in our history, but Kamran is also the first person of Asian origin to be editor in chief of any of the top four international medical journals."

Abbasi commented, "I'm honoured to be appointed editor in chief and grateful to BMJ and the BMA for putting their faith in me. We are at an exciting moment in the history of *The BMJ*, with opportunities for digital and international growth. Yet the world is in crisis, and it is our role to ensure that outcomes related to health and wellbeing are central to how we create a better future.

"There has never been a more important time to be evidence based, patient centred, open and transparent, and courageous. These are the values of *The BMJ*, and we will live by them as a journal to join our readers and authors in influencing health policy, clinical practice, and medical science to improve the health and wellbeing of people and the planet.

"As I take up my new role I want to thank Fiona, the first woman to be editor in chief of *The BMJ*, for her remarkable stewardship of the journal over the past 16 years. She leaves the journal even stronger than she found it, particularly through its campaigning journalism—and that is all any editor can hope to achieve."