

With all your tender love and support, the *Hong Kong Medical Journal* (HKMJ) has gone from strength to strength over the past 2 years.

With this Editorial coming to print, the new term of the current Editorial Board is entering its fourth month. New board members joining our league are two cardiologists (Prof Bryan PY Yan and Dr Kelvin KH Yiu) and a nephrologist (Dr Bonnie CH Kwan). Including our advisors on biostatistics and clinical epidemiology, we now have a strong team of 50 experts in the different fields of medicine in Hong Kong. Dr TW Wong, who has been an Editorial Board member since 2001, has taken on the new role as Senior Editor for the section on Medical Practice and will also handle the commentaries. He is heading a working group to prepare new guidelines for submissions of Medical Practice papers and Commentaries, which will be announced once they are ready. Prof PT Cheung (Senior Editor) will be concentrating his efforts on managing CME papers. Responsibilities of other Senior Editors continue as before, with Drs Albert Chui and CB Chow taking care of the Case Reports and Prof Michael Irwin concentrating on Review Articles.

The HKMJ continues to publish research results that readers can trust and use. Each original article published in the pages has gone through rigorous peer review by specialists in the corresponding specific discipline, as well as additional methodological review by a clinical epidemiologist. The series of Clinical Epidemiology Workshops is coming to a conclusion in the next issue of the journal after 2 full years. The last two workshops in the series focus on reading and appraising systematic reviews and meta-analyses, since such publications have become more and more popular in the medical literature.

If you have missed this good news earlier, we would like to let you know that the HKMJ has been listed in the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCI-EXPANDED) in Web of Science (Thomson Reuters) since the beginning of 2012. We are in the process of accumulating citations to our published papers so that we can have an official designated impact factor

in around 2 years' time.

Despite a slight decrease in submissions in 2012, the average waiting time for an accepted paper to appear in print in HKMJ continues to be around 6 months. This has put HKMJ at a disadvantage in this era when fast electronic communication is the norm. We are working diligently to get our accepted papers (mainly original articles and review articles) available online once editing is completed. The online versions will be very similar to the final printed versions, but without the volume, issue, and page numbers. To enable proper citations of such online work ahead of the available printed papers, they will be assigned a DOI, and indexed by PubMed (the DOI is an acronym for Digital Object Identifier, a character string used to uniquely identify a paper). The DOI stays with the paper even after it is assigned its volume, issue, and page numbers. This is important because it allows an ePub paper to be cited immediately by its DOI, which is subsequently associated with its traditional citation even after it is published in print. The HKMJ is phasing in its approach to ePub-ahead-of-print versions with DOIs. We hope the shortened time lag between manuscript acceptance and the appearance of a paper in an accessible and citable form online will be welcomed by authors and readers.

A number of changes have taken place in HKMJ over the past 2 years and we are eager to know how the changes have been perceived and received by our readers, authors, and reviewers. We shall be rolling out a survey later this year, but you do not have to wait till then if you have burning questions and comments on what we have done or are planning to do. Just write to us direct (email: hkmj@hkam.org.hk).

To our readers, authors, reviewers, international advisors, and colleagues on the editorial board and in the editorial office, thank you all again, the journal would not have grown without your resolute support and love.

Ignatius TS Yu, FHKAM (Community Medicine)
Editor-in Chief
Hong Kong Medical Journal