

## Building upon a firm foundation

With this issue, the *Hong Kong Medical Journal (HKMJ)* enters its seventh year. In fact, the Journal can trace its roots to 1948 when the *Bulletin of The Hong Kong Chinese Medical Association* was published. In 1970 it was retitled *Bulletin of The Hong Kong Medical Association*, and in 1985 the *Journal of The Hong Kong Medical Association (JHKMA)*. With the inauguration of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (HKAM) in 1995, the Editorial Board of the *JHKMA* proposed the joint publication of a journal to the HKAM. The *HKMJ* was thus conceived. During the first 6 years, members of the Editorial Board, both local and international, and particularly Joseph Lee (Editor, 1995 to 2000), and Denise Campbell and Trevor Lane (Managing Editors, 1995 to 1997 and 1997 to 2001, respectively) worked tirelessly beyond the call of duty. Members of the medical profession submitted quality papers, while the panel of referees provided insightful input in the peer-review process. The publishers (Pearson Professional 1995-1997 and Scientific Communications International 1997 to date) have also served us well. The sterling efforts of all concerned have been recognised internationally and the Journal was listed in the MEDLINE/*Index Medicus* in 2000.

The new cover design starting this issue marks another stage of the Journal's evolution. The new Editorial Board is committed to extending the Journal's horizons. Apart from catering for local needs, the aim is for the Journal to become a vehicle for the latest clinical and research information for the medical profession throughout Asia. Moreover, the plan is not only to increase readership, but also to attract quality contributions from the region. To facilitate communication with the huge Chinese-speaking population in the region, we have introduced a Chinese translation of the abstract of all papers published in the Journal.

The *HKMJ* will continue to be a medical journal that provides for both general and specialist interests. While its central role is the publication of original medical research, articles relevant to clinical practice will also be given priority. Review papers on current or 'hot' topics and practice standards for selected conditions will be invited. Sections of general interest,

which have not previously been featured in the Journal, will be introduced gradually—these topics include health economics, medical education, ethics, and medico-legal issues.

Continuing medical education (CME) and continuous professional development (CPD) are world trends. The HKAM has been particularly active in promoting such development, and the participation of the medical profession during the past 4 years has been encouraging. Whilst the Journal is already a means of CME, measures to further enhance this component are under consideration.

The Journal should attract the best possible research and clinical papers. To this end, the editorial and peer-review process will continue to be rigorous, fair, and open-minded. Measures are also in place to expedite publication. Authors are now required to submit their manuscripts on disk as well as in hard copy format. We encourage e-mail communication and will soon issue guidelines for this. The Editorial Board, as well as the referees, will continue to review manuscripts as expeditiously as possible.

With the ascendancy of the 'world wide web', the Journal has also moved into the Internet age. All articles (in current and back issues) and other information (including that for authors and subscribers) can be accessed via the website—[www.hkmj.org.hk](http://www.hkmj.org.hk)—and most may be downloaded. We welcome your comments and suggestions, via e-mail or other means of communication.

Clinical medicine is expanding rapidly in its scope and impact. Environmental and demographic factors have brought about new perspectives of health and disease. The success of the Human Genome Project is set to influence medical practice for decades to come. It is my hope that the *HKMJ* will reflect these trends.

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