

Dr Richard Kay in his 'Valedictory remarks' in the last issue said that survival (of *Hong Kong Medical Journal*) was not all about money, it was about being loved—loved by the readers, authors, reviewers and staff...<sup>1</sup> and we sincerely hope your love will continue to support the HKMJ move ahead to the next stage of its development.

I hope you all agree with me that both the quantity and quality of manuscripts submitted to the journal have been improving steadily over the past one and a half decade. This has been thanks to the solid foundations laid by the previous three Editors/Editors-in-Chief, endless contributions from authors and reviewers, as well as the hard work of Editorial Board members and the editorial office. Papers published in HKMJ have also been receiving more and more citations over the years. The average citations per HKMJ published document during the 2 previous years (described as equivalent to a journal impact factor [Thomson Reuters]) reached over 1 in 2008.<sup>2</sup> Impact factor should not be all that one looks for when deciding to publish one's work, but the fact that a paper gets cited by other researchers is to a certain extent a reflection of the importance and quality of the research/contribution.

In their Inaugural HKMJ Editorial in March 1995, Drs Joseph Lee and YL Yu (Editor and Deputy Editor) reported that the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine and the Hong Kong Medical Association had combined "to publish a general medical journal of high quality reflecting the current practice in the science and art of medicine and public health". They declared that "this joint publication should provide a useful source of medical information on advances in medical research and clinical practice".<sup>3</sup> We publish

not for the sake of publication, but to have an impact on medical practice. Furthermore, we need to ensure that the medical information that we are providing (what we publish) is basically correct and valid.

To further improve the quality of original articles published in HKMJ and to increase the application/citation of such contributions, in the coming years more emphasis will be placed on methodology related to producing valid results. Apart from traditional statistical advisors/editors that have been helping HKMJ for over a decade, advisor(s) on clinical epidemiology (methodologists in clinical research) will be invited to help the Editorial Board in this process. By ensuring the validity of research results, we can anticipate more applications and citations of our published work. Opportunities for capacity building in assessing the validity of research results will be developed to facilitate authors and reviewers in adopting more important roles in the process of publishing work of high quality.

To ensure that the HKMJ continues to serve as a useful source of medical information on advances in medical research and clinical practice, authors will be encouraged to highlight new knowledge added by their studies, as well as their practice/policy implications.

Changes will not, and are not supposed to, occur overnight. We need your continued love and support to enable the HKMJ move ahead to the next stage.

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## References

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3. Lee JC, Yu YL. Inaugural editorial. *Hong Kong Med J* 1995;1:4.