

It has been more than a year since the present Editorial Board came into office and it may be the right time for us to take stock on developments.

We announced greater emphasis to be placed on methodology related to producing valid results and introduced a process for methodological review of all original articles by clinical epidemiologists.¹ This has now been in place for a year and should have contributed to perfecting the quality of original articles published in the Journal.

We promised to provide opportunities for capacity building in assessing the validity of research results. A series of Clinical Epidemiology Workshops was initiated in August 2011, which introduced critical appraisal techniques regarding the reading of medical journal papers covering different aspects of clinical practice with different study designs. We hope these have supported authors and reviewers to enhance their important roles in the further development of the journal.

To facilitate identifying articles of interest and importance by busy doctors and other professionals, authors of original articles have been asked to highlight one to three points about each manuscript with two boxed texts: 'New knowledge added by this study' and 'Implications for clinical practice or policy'.² This change was first implemented in the August issue in 2011.

To further enhance the educational role of the HKMJ, two Senior Editors have taken leading roles to plan and solicit high-quality reviews and contributions to the Medical Practice section.² For quality assurance, these invited papers still go through the usual peer review process. We hope that readers will continue to benefit from the high-quality reviews in the coming issues.

References

1. Yu IT. Calling on your continued love and support [editorial]. *Hong Kong Med J* 2011;17:4.
2. Yu IT. New blood, new initiatives [editorial]. *Hong Kong Med J* 2011;17:88.

Reviewers for HKMJ would have noted some minor changes introduced in the review form. You can now indicate whether you would wish to see the revised manuscript if you recommend it be revised. You can also opt to request a review of the manuscript by a statistician.

Submissions received by the HKMJ continued to increase over the past year, and the overall acceptance rate has also increased slightly, indicating that we have been receiving more and more submissions of high quality. These good indicators unfortunately mean that you may have to wait slightly longer for your submission to appear in print. We are closely monitoring the situation and seeking ways to improve matters.

Looking ahead, a new section 'Doctors for Society' will be introduced in the second half of 2012, thanks to the team of editors (Martin Wong, LW Chu, TW Wong, and KS Chan) working hard over the past months to bring it into reality. In all, 15 'Student Reporters' have been recruited from the two Hong Kong medical schools. They will help the HKMJ to prepare reports highlighting activities and community services of medical doctors outside the hospital/clinic settings. Readers are welcome to nominate doctors making outstanding contributions to community services that should be reported on in this section.

I would like to take this opportunity to give a big 'thank you' to all readers, authors, reviewers, and colleagues on the Editorial Board and the Journal's office for their unceasing support and love for the HKMJ.

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