

# EDITORIAL



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## My First Year As The Editor

It was slightly over one year ago that I took over the editorship of this Journal. The decision to be the Editor of one of the most widely circulated medical journals in Hong Kong was not taken lightly. I recognized the high degree of expectations from the readers which made this editorship particularly challenging.

With hindsight, I have to admit that I was relatively inexperienced in editorial work. However, I have always enjoyed medical writing and I was prepared to accept the challenge.

One of the major objectives of this Journal is to provide continuing medical education for general practitioners in Hong Kong with the aim of improving the standard of general practice/family medicine. I have tried to keep this point in mind when articles are reviewed for publication. There is no doubt that our specialist colleagues can contribute a great deal towards this aspect of the Journal especially in the form of update articles. However, I have been disappointed by the number of articles submitted by general practitioners. It is true that general practitioners in Hong Kong have to work very hard, with long working hours. And yet, I am also sure that they have lots of practical experience which can be shared with others, for instance, in the form of discussion papers.

As far as medical writing is concerned, I think the most difficult thing for any novice general practitioner author is to get started with his/her first paper. I recognise that it is not easy. It is certainly more difficult than the everyday clinical practice which we are all used to. However, medical writing allows a break from the routine of consultation. It gives opportunities to reflect on one's own work. It is challenging and it can be fun. So if any readers who think they have an idea which they want to put into words and would like some help, the Editorial Board and I are only too willing to help and we can be contacted through the College.

Another major objective of this Journal is to promote medical research in Hong Kong, especially in the areas of primary health care. This is probably one of the least

## Editorial

developed aspect of general practice. However, the problem is not unique to Hong Kong. Better quality research output in general practice in Hong Kong can hopefully be achieved by further promotion by the Research Committee of the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners and the university departments of general practice.

I am also grateful of the help I have received from the Editorial Consultants. Nearly all the articles appearing in this Journal are now refereed, with the exception of a very small number of invited papers from authority authors. I hope this editorial policy has helped to enhance the quality of the papers published.

Although the Editorial Board and I have tried to serve our readers as much as possible, we lack the information on how to serve you better. We are therefore carrying out a questionnaire survey (inserted in this issue of the Journal) with only one objective in mind which is to improve this Journal. I therefore call on our readers to spare a few minutes of your time and provide us with the necessary information. ■

Lam Tai Pong  
Editor