

Editorial

The Seoul Journal of Medicine

– Brief historical review on the occasion of its discontinuation as a periodical –

The Seoul Journal of Medicine was launched in 1960 as an official Journal of the Seoul National University College of Medicine. The start was an epoch in the viewpoint of establishing a long cherished dream of faculty of our medical school. It was actually the third medical Journal that was published by this Institute in its history of hundred years. The first publication came out in 1917 during the Japanese occupation of Korea and was published in German with the name of 「Mitteilung aus der Medizinischen Fachschule zu Keizo(京城醫學專門學校紀要)」. It was the official publication of Keizo (Seoul) Medical College. It lasted until 1943. The second publication was in 1928, with the name of 「Acta Medicinalia in Keizo (The Keizo Journal of Medicine)」. It was the official publication of Keizo(Seoul) Imperial University Faculty of Medicine, then the only University in Korean peninsula. It was an English publication, and lasted until 1943. In 1947, after Korea was liberated from Japan, these two medical schools were merged and succeeded by 「Seoul National University College of Medicine」. Before this newly set medical school got assembled, in 1950, the Korean war broke out. When the war ended our faculty returned to work and restarted to write papers too. However, there was practically no professional medical journals to submit their papers. Therefore, in 1955, the first attempt to create its own journal was made. The first issue was published in 1955 under the name of 「Euidai

hakbo」(English name The Seoul Journal of Medicine). Unfortunately the second issue was not available for 4 ensuing years mainly because of financial difficulty. Therefore the year 1960 was really a restart for the Seoul Journal of Medicine.

This Journal started out in 1960 as 서울의대잡지(Seoul Euidai Chabji), changing its name to 서울의대학술지(Seoul Euidai Haksulji) in 1977. The name and format were changed in 1985 to 「The Seoul Journal of Medicine」, and took on the format that you are now familiar with, an all-English publication. Even since the launch of the Journal we have sought to assist the promotion of the medical science to a level comparable to that of other developed countries. We have put out a total of 144 issues and 1271 papers during last 36 years.

Our Journal in working so efficiently during the last 36 years had been the stepping stone for the introduction of new specialized journals and many other medical school journals. Our Journal had also enabled our faculty to meet a wider global audience by easing submission to foreign journals. The actual output of papers from our faculty had increased considerably, and we predict it will get even better. However, due to the myriad of platforms that are available to our faculty now, the Seoul Journal of Medicine was being left out. During the late '80s there was a noticeable decrease in the number of submissions to the Journal and in the '90s

the trend even worsened.

In March of 1994, the decreased number of submissions brought forth discussion at the University council concerning the continuance of The Seoul Journal of Medicine. Because of the important role that The Seoul Journal of Medicine had played, our budget was increased, we recruited a new printing company, and the editorial staff doubled their efforts, but we were soon to realize that we were fighting a losing battle for the submissions continued to decrease.

I feel sad to be the editor at this point in time when this issue becomes our last. Largely due to the lack of submissions, we have decided to cease publication of the Seoul Journal of Medicine. Although we are saddened, we still take pride in the fact that the Seoul Journal of Medicine has done what it had aimed to achieve. Through the efforts of our predecessors, fellow professors, and our faithful readers, we were able to bring forth a new age of research promotion in our country's medical society.

The staff of the Seoul Journal of Medicine and I would like to express our gratitude to all our supporters for the last 36 years. Even though we are disappointed to have to close the door of the Seoul Journal of Medicine forever, we hope that this closure will open new doors of opportunity for ventures that will benefit our medical society. In a community where the number of journals are getting to a point of over-crowded, we feel that it is time we pull out gracefully, knowing that we have done our part in the betterment of Medical Science in Korea.

In commemoration of this last issue of the Journal, editorial committee decided to invite papers under two general themes; The Present and Future of Medical Journals in Korea, and Historical Review of The Seoul Journal of Medicine, together with The Seoul Journal of Medicine Chronicle, all in Korean.

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Editor