Editorial

A new era of research on clinical gerontology and geriatrics in Asia

Population aging is a global phenomenon, and it is occurring at a faster rate in Asian than in other continents. Population aging in Asia is associated with an increasingly large number of elderly people in the region since Asia is the most populated region in the world. The impacts of population aging vary extensively across Asian countries because of differences in socioeconomic status and cultural backgrounds. The experience from developed countries in meeting the challenges of population aging may not apply to Asian countries, and the rate of population aging in Asia is a unique problem. European countries have developed various policies in social welfare, the healthcare system and socio-healthcare integration in the past decades, but it is not realistic to expect that Asian countries can develop similar policies within a short period of time.

Among all Asian countries, Taiwan is the fastest aging country in the region, and the percentage of elderly in the population is escalating. To promote international collaboration in gerontological and geriatric research, Taipei Veterans General Hospital founded the Asia Pacific League of Clinical Gerontology and Geriatrics. As the founding chairman and delegates from Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Indonesia participated in the founding meeting in Taipei in 2009, a decision was made to publish a scientific journal focused on clinical gerontology and geriatrics. So the Journal of Clinical Gerontology & Geriatrics was born.

There are a number of reasons to publish this journal, including: (1) to introduce Asian perspectives on aging research to international societies; (2) to promote regional collaboration in clinical trials based on similar ethnic backgrounds; (3) to facilitate Asian countries to develop age-appropriate healthcare systems; and (4) to encourage international collaboration in related research in this region. To achieve these purposes, the Journal of Clinical Gerontology & Geriatrics welcomes work from every corner of the world. However, we have special interests in the following fields: (1) geriatric health service research; (2) clinical trials involving Asian populations; (3) research with a focus on international comparisons; and (4) interdisciplinary clinical gerontological research.

As the chairman of the Asia Pacific League of Clinical Gerontology and Geriatrics, I am proud to see the launch of this timely journal and hope that it will promote more clinical gerontological research in Asia and become a forum where the unique experiences of Asian countries dealing with rapid population aging can be shared with international societies. Special thanks should go to Professor Fang-Yue Lin, the superintendent of Taipei Veterans General Hospital, which is providing financial support to the league and journal, Professor Ching-Yu Chen, the President of the Taiwan Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics, who has played a significant role in facilitating the publication of this journal, Professors John Young and David Oliver from the United Kingdom who provided their expertise in academic research and scientific publications, Professor Hidenori Arai from Japan who is an associate editor of the journal, and Professor Imre Zs.-Nagy, the chief editor of Archives of Gerontology and Geriatrics, who shared his invaluable experience of managing an international journal.

Finally, I would like to extend our warmest invitation to researchers from anywhere in the world to submit your work to the Journal of Clinical Gerontology & Geriatrics. We aim to process all submissions efficiently and according to international publishing standards so that the journal can develop into an important worldwide academic platform for research on clinical gerontology and geriatrics.

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