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EDITORIAL

Until then, enjoy this issue!



As one of the longest serving members of the *Journal* editorial board since its inception, it is with much pride and sentiment that I am writing the editorial for this concluding issue of the *Hong Kong Journal of Nephrology*, the official peer-reviewed journal of the Hong Kong Society of Nephrology.

This *Journal* was founded in 1999 under the leadership of the Founding Editor Professor Philip Li, together with the concerted efforts of the Steering Committee commissioned by the council of the Hong Kong Society of Nephrology (WK Lo, CY Lo, and the then Chairman KF Chau), the Editors (deputy Alex Yu, assistants FK Li, SK Mak, CC Szeto, and Francis Wong), the whole Editorial Board, local advisors, and the unflinching support from Professor Richard Yu, the past President of Hong Kong College of Physicians.

The missions of the *Journal* are to promote clinical and scientific research in the field of nephrology; to serve as a communication channel among nephrologists from Hong Kong, Mainland China, and the Asia-Pacific communities; to act as a source of teaching material in the field of nephrology for nephrologists and renal nurses; to record historical milestones in the field of nephrology in Hong Kong; to promote the activities of the Hong Kong Society of Nephrology; and to provide a platform for opinions on major issues for nephrologists in Hong Kong and Southeast Asia. Throughout the years, most would agree that we have largely achieved these targets.

The *Journal* was initially published by Lippincott Williams & Wilkins Asia Ltd, and became available online in 2001. We are much indebted to the excellent work of our incumbent Publishing Editor Vicky Lam and her team, who have played an instrumental role in the constant advancement of the *Journal* since Elsevier took over the publishing work in 2003.

Over the years, we were able to attract submission of manuscripts from Mainland China, Asian countries, and Hong Kong. The *Journal* is indexed in CAB Abstracts, EMBASE, and Scopus.

Globally, the total number of scholarly publications in the subject areas “Medicine” and “Nephrology” has decreased by 11% and 9%, respectively, in year 2015 when compared with the year before.^{1,2} This same trend appeared among publications in the field of nephrology from researchers in the Asia-Pacific region. From the same database, United States, followed by Japan, United Kingdom, Germany, and China were among the countries with the highest scholarly output in the subject area “Nephrology”. In the analysis of the data, “chronic renal insufficiency”, “patients” and “dialysis” ranked highest among the 50 key phrases by relevance. Despite the trend of a decreasing number of publications over the recent couple of years, there has been an increase in the number of academic journals, including those with open access. We have thus witnessed a decreasing trend of manuscript submissions over this period, perhaps as a result of the keen competition among different journals and that authors from our region have been submitting to the more internationally acclaimed journals rather than local ones. While this is a very welcomed observation from the academic perspective, it has posed an insurmountable issue to our *Journal* at the same time. After a careful deliberation on our future, the Hong Kong Society of Nephrology has come to the difficult decision to suspend the publication of this *Journal* from 2017.

We are most grateful to all our editors-in-chief (Philip Li, Alex Yu, and CC Szeto) and the deputy/associates (John Chan, YL Cheng, Simon Cheung, MF Lam, FK Li, SL Lui, SK Mak, Sydney Tang, Ernest Tsang, Francis Wong, and Desmond Yap), the editorial board, and all local and international reviewers who have spent precious time on the manuscripts and revisions. Last but not least, we have to thank all authors who have submitted and published the results of their hard work, dedicated to the betterment of the understanding of renal diseases, and care to our patients. We sincerely hope that in the future, we might be

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able to serve the same missions in another platform. Until then, we trust that the pursuit of professional expertise in the field of nephrology in Hong Kong will continue inexorably.



Conflicts of interest

The author has no conflicts of interest to declare.

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Siu-Ka Mak
Associate Editor,
Department of Medicine and Geriatrics,
Kwong Wah Hospital,
25 Waterloo Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong

E-mail address: maksk@ha.org.hk
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