

# PREFACE

## WITH JUSTIFIABLE PRIDE

It is with justifiable pride that the Singapore Medical Journal celebrates the 75th year of the founding of the Medical School. Since its inception in 1960 the relationship between the Journal and members of the Medical Faculty, University of Singapore has been extremely cordial and close. Many of the senior members of the Faculty made their maiden scientific contributions in the Journal before "going international". However, they have not forgotten their Alma Mater as it were. This is attested by their ready response when the Editor invited them to send articles for this special commemorative issue. The list of authors read like a Who's Who in Medicine and would do any journal proud. Predominant in the advancement of medical knowledge in Singapore has been the work of Prof Wong Hock Boon on kernicterus and Prof S Karim on prostaglandins. As has always been the case, fundamental progress in science and medicine arises predominantly from original ideas of inspired individuals rather than from the myriads of machines and hardware. Prof Wong Wai Chow and Associate Prof Chia Boon Lock look on with pride the work done in their respective units in the past decade. Prof Phoon Wai-On's report on changing patterns of community health is especially topical at this moment. Associate Prof R Sinniah gives us an insight into renal disease in Singapore with special reference to

glomerulonephritis. Prof B Chacha and his team discuss most eloquently the effect of intra-articular papain, acetylsalicylic acid, indomethacin, prostaglandin and alcohol on the articular cartilage of rabbit knees. The contribution by Prof Lee Yong Kiat on founding of the Medical School is appropriately opportune and indeed a "tour de force". This comprehensive article has to be divided into a number of parts for publication.

From the basic concept of ministering to the sick which was the aim of the founder of the Medical School, doctors and doctoring have now grown increasingly complex. The challenge to-day is how to incorporate new knowledge, new technology and new social awareness into a profession whose basic effectiveness depends on highly personal and individual interactions. In the era of computers and laser there is a need to reaffirm the heart and soul of medicine and its practitioner.

Finally the Editorial Board is indebted to our contributors for their enthusiasm and for the extensive work required for their presentation. We are especially grateful to Prof P K Wong, Dean, Medical Faculty for writing the Editorial in this issue and to Prof Wong Wai Chow, Chairman, Celebrations Committee for his co-operation in producing this volume.

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