

# EDITORIAL

## SEASON'S GREETINGS

The beginning of a New Year is always a good time for reflections. Looking back over 1980 what new trends can be perceived in the Singapore Medical Journal. In general very few. We have continued to follow the course chartered by our predecessors of being a means of scientific dissemination for doctors in this region. Original scientific contributions are still our primary stock in trade. However, our traditional commitment to medical education remains undimmed — hence we have published a large number of papers written by university dons and senior doctors that review, survey or summarize their areas of research and interest. We hope to have more review and update articles in the near future.

About the only real change in the Journal in the past year is the increase in publishing schedule. Instead of 4 issues a year we are publishing 6 issues a year. This has reduced the waiting period of articles to about 6 months from 9 months. The other change that readers may have noticed is that the Journal is more punctual. This is due in no small measure to the cooperation of our printers and members of the Editorial Board of which I am most grateful.

Well, what of the future. As the saying goes, January is a month for aspirations and traditionally one should wish to turn over a new leaf. Therefore, in line with major medical journals in the world, the Singapore Medical Journal has adopted the Vancouver style. This has already been publicized in the Journal and the SMA Newsletter. Discerning readers may also notice that we have a new team of Associate Editors.

This reflects the desire of the Association of bringing in a new echelon of second generation doctors interested in maintaining the high standards of academic medicine in Singapore. We have also adopted a free referee system for review of manuscripts and books rather than limit this task to members of the Editorial Advisory Board. This would give the Editor and his Associates a greater choice of reviewers especially in the more technical and specialized fields. In making this change we are cognisant of the contributions by the past Associate Editors and members of the Advisory Board and wish to record our appreciation and gratitude.

One deficiency you may have noticed in the Journal is the lack of a correspondence column. This may be due to the natural Asian reluctance to question and criticize the findings of a colleague. However, we maintain that to question and criticize need not be counter-productive or rude and the Editorial Board would certainly entertain such a correspondence column if there is sufficient demand. Such a column could also act as a "Sounding Board" for our members who may have some ideas regarding the Journal or its contents to put forth.

In conclusion, to all our readers the Editorial Board send our warmest Season's Greetings. To our peers and predecessors we thank you for your service and guidance. We hope to continue to merit your confidence and hope the changes we have carried out will be an enriching aspect of the life of this Journal. We know this is what you the readers want.

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