We are pleased to present Volume 2 Number 2 of the Hong Kong Dental Journal (HKDJ). We hope readers will find this issue both enjoyable and informative, especially the three featured articles on the theme ‘Dental Public Health’. The most prevalent human oral diseases are dental caries and periodontal disease. Their sequelae together with malocclusion and third molars impaction are major societal health problems. Although they are rarely life-threatening, sometimes morbidity would be caused, leading to psychological stress, negative impacts on quality of life, and relatively high treatment costs. Many oral diseases, however, can be easily prevented and controlled by appropriate public health education. Oral health care professionals can assist the Hong Kong or the southern Chinese communities through their own dental practice or involvement in community dental education. The featured article by Schwarz 1 described how modern dentistry associates with community dentistry. With one of Asia’s most successful economies, we believe that Hong Kong Government and all of our health care workers can do better. While the Department of Health’s ongoing oral health promotions have grasped the attention of Hong Kong citizens, perhaps it is time the profession mobilizes our citizens to act properly after ample understanding of our strengths and weaknesses, as mentioned in the featured article by McGrath and Corbet 2. Hopefully, with time, hand in hand with the Hong Kong citizens, we can make oral disease a public health dinosaur of the past. Collaboration among the profession, government, and oral health care product industry can ensure a legacy of better oral health for all. As dental clinicians in Hong Kong, we are well placed to advise on and highlight ways of promoting dental public health by supporting and publicizing oral health initiatives to our patients, working constructively with industry to evaluate dental products, raising the general awareness of oral health by developing links and encouraging good practice with neighboring cities in and beyond the Pearl River Delta 3, and working towards the development and recognition of the dental public health specialty within Hong Kong. We certainly hope that the HKDJ can play a constructive role in forwarding these goals. To that end, we have, since our last issue, strengthened the Journal’s Editorial Board in which members are experienced dental clinicians with various backgrounds. While it is very encouraging to note that readership continues to grow reflected by continuous feedback and manuscript submissions, we would keep working hard to promote our Journal over the globe as well as make it indexed in Medline. Please bookmark our website (www.hkda.org) for free electronic version of the HKDJ. We are looking forward to your continuous support and comments.

In a sad note, we deeply mourn the passing of Prof. Cecil Edward Renson on 1st July 2005 and Prof. Odd Preben Lind round about the same time. Both were formerly professors in the Faculty of Dentistry of the University of Hong Kong who contributed significantly to local dental education. Prof. Renson wrote the HKDJ’s inaugural article, The future in clinical dentistry 4, which summarized the latest advances in dentistry. This article reflected his lifelong passions for excellence in dental education and oral health care promotion. Prof. Renson casted lasting positive influence on his patients, students, colleagues, and friends. Likewise, Prof. Lind gave significant contribution towards community dentistry in Europe and South-East Asia. One example being the Community Dental Project in the Faculty of Dentistry of the University of Hong Kong, which is embraced by both the previous didactic- and the current problem-based learning-curricula. The legacy of both dental educators will assist their younger colleagues in shaping the future of dentistry. They will be missed and remembered.

The Editorial Board is very pleased to witness publication of this issue of the HKDJ and we wish you a happy and successful new year.

References