Keeping abreast with the latest clinical knowledge to better service our clients

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Greetings to readers of the Hong Kong Dental Journal (HKDJ). The HKDJ Editorial Board would like to wish everyone a wonderful winter break and a prosperous 2008.

In this issue, we have published contributions covering a few areas of great clinical interest. In our Featured Article, Prashanth et al. 1 have comprehensively reviewed dentin adhesives and their use in pediatric dentistry. The authors have put together a concise update of current developments in dentin adhesives, focusing in particular on their use in children who are not necessarily cooperative with treatments provided by dentists. Four broad categories of dentin adhesives produced by 13 manufacturers in six countries were reviewed, along with the clinical applications for dentin adhesives in caries, developmental defects, dental trauma, and pulp treatment. You will certainly find this expert contribution useful.

The next clinical item of relevance is the prevalence of three-rooted first permanent mandibular molars in the Hong Kong Chinese population, detected by spiral computed tomographic imaging 2. The prevalence of three-rooted first permanent mandibular molars is by no means low among Chinese. In another paper, Chan and Law 3 suggest that dentists in Hong Kong should align our sterilization monitoring practice with those of our fellow dentists in North America and Europe. Perhaps we should ensure that our staff members have up-to-date knowledge of the basic science as well as manufacturers’ instructions for autoclave use. It is a worthy target for our service improvement, if it is not already being done, for 2008.

The HKDJ Editorial Board wants to congratulate Dr. Jackie Wai-Ping Lau, author of “Occupational shoulder pain in the dental profession—orthodontists, oral and maxillofacial surgeons, and general dental practitioners” 4, who won the Best Original Article Award 2006 for HKDJ Volume 3. Thanks go to our panel of three expert judges Dr. Godfrey C.F. Chan, Dr. Edward M.F. Leung, and Prof. Nabil Samman (in alphabetical order) who selected this winning article from among all original articles published in the HKDJ Volume 3, 2006. They will assist us again to select the best HKDJ review and original articles for 2007.

At this juncture, I would like to thank the outgoing members of the HKDJ Editorial Board, including the Honorary Editorial Advisors (HEA), along with those who are remaining, for their contributions to the success of the HKDJ over the past 2 years. At the same time, I would like to welcome new Editorial members and HEA, who, I believe, are all enthusiastic and willing to contribute their time and expertise for the betterment of our Journal.

On a sad note, we deeply mourn the passing of Professor Ronald William Fearnhead, on October 1, 2007. Professor Fearnhead was formerly a professor in the Faculty of Dentistry of the University of Hong Kong and contributed significantly to local dental education in its infancy. Professor Fearnhead had a lasting positive influence on his students, colleagues, and friends in Europe and the Asia Pacific Rim, particularly in dental anatomy, dental research, and forensic dentistry. He will be missed and remembered.

References