New challenges for the *Hong Kong Dental Journal*

When Dr. Sigmund Leung, President of the Hong Kong Dental Association (HKDA) approached me to take up the role of Editor-in-Chief of the *Hong Kong Dental Journal* (HKDJ), I was hesitant to accept the post as I realized what a significant and heavy responsibility this was going to be. Several decades ago, when I was appointed the Founding Editor of *Pediatric Dentistry*, the journal of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, I learned how much work it really involved. However, I believe that a first-class dental journal is an essential component of the HKDA’s quest to be the true leader in Dentistry in the Asia-Pacific Region.

To assist me in this significant responsibility, two outstanding panels of new Executive and Associate Editors were recruited. They will help me to fulfil the mission of the Journal, which is to bring the latest scientific knowledge and updates in clinical skills to our membership through the Journal’s printed pages. The Executive and Associate Editors all have experience in publications and have helped to review publications for other journals. Furthermore, they will also be our ‘contributing editors’ as they will share their own expertise and clinical experience with the members of the HKDA.

For the HKDA’s journal to be successful, it must be one that is widely read by the membership, not only in Hong Kong but by others in Asia and the Pacific Region. I realize that most dentists are not avid readers of scientific literature and few can find time to visit the dental and/or medical library after their office hours. Even fewer would subscribe to dental specialty journals themselves. Therefore the HKDJ, which is one of the benefits of HKDA membership and is sent to each member, can in fact become the main form of print media in which Hong Kong dentists get updated information on dentistry.

To achieve this, we must aim to upgrade the scientific contents of the Journal and have original articles and clinical cases that are of relevance and of importance to Hong Kong dentists. Actually, we are in an excellent position to achieve this goal as we have the requisite ingredients for success. First, there is adequate financial support from the HKDA to improve the physical and paper quality of the Journal itself. Second, the University of Hong Kong is a rich resource of knowledge and expertise to help contribute articles. The Faculty has recruited a very large number of postgraduate students each with their research projects and clinical pool of patients; they should find the Journal a good channel for disseminating their findings in a timely manner. Third, the College of Dental Surgeons has fostered the training of specialists with their special expertise so that the standards of...
dentistry are constantly rising in Hong Kong. Fourth, many Hong Kong clinicians are internationally recognized leaders in their clinical fields who can contribute to the Journal and thus share their expertise with our members.

I regularly attend many Wednesday evening seminars at the Prince Philip Dental Hospital and listen to the lecturers speaking on a variety of topics. One of the common themes and most frequently used terms in these lectures is “Evidence-based” Clinical Practice. Each of the speakers cites literature references to document their conclusions. The HKDJ can therefore be an important contributor of this evidence-based literature where specific clinical cases unique to Hong Kong/involving patients of Chinese ethnic-origin can be quoted as evidence leading to documentation of new clinical practice and philosophy.

The Journal also has a Continuing Education Section where each dentist can fulfil their CPD/CME requirements by completing the answers to questions on selected articles and submitting this to the Journal.

Finally, I welcome comments and feedback from our readership. It is only through your input that continuing improvements can be made so that the Journal and its contents can be true points of discussion among HKDA members. Please feel free to write to the Letters to the Editor section and share your thoughts with all.