

## Editorial

### **New Millennium, New Face, and hopefully, New Achievement**

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The prototype of a journal for the specialty of Emergency Medicine in Hong Kong dated back in March 1990 with the first issue of Emergi-News - the official newsletter of the Hong Kong Society for Emergency Medicine & Surgery. At that time, Emergency Medicine was taking shape as a specialty of its own but essentially was a unique group of hospital service providers interested in emergency care. There was neither input nor involvement from the Universities. As the practice of Emergency Medicine was weak in scientific basis, good research was considered essential for the development of quality emergency care. Despite the restraints of limited resources and lack of qualified manpower, it was considered necessary to stimulate interest in research and publication for the advancement of the specialty. As a first step, it was hoped that a 'newsletter' might create the right atmosphere and set the pace for knowledge exchange and article submission of academic interest. The Emergi-News provided a forum for communications and discussions in knowledge and experience related to Emergency Medicine. The ultimate aim was to develop into a journal of the specialty when the time was ripe.

The dream came true in July 1994 with the publication of the inaugural issue of the Hong Kong Journal of Emergency Medicine - official journal of the Hong Kong Society for Emergency Medicine & Surgery. Even though Emergi-News had fulfilled its intended role, its continued publication was considered necessary as a communication channel for Society matters. Academic issues would now be taken over by the Journal. Initially, research activities in the field of Emergency Medicine in Hong Kong were far from active. Even though the Journal was only a biannual publication, there was difficulty in recruiting good articles.

The Hong Kong College of Emergency Medicine was incorporated in February 1996 and was formally admitted as the 15th Specialty College of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine in January 1997. As such, it has now become the College's role to lead in the academic activities of Emergency Medicine in Hong Kong.

As the College has the statutory power and duty for the supervision, organisation, assessment and accreditation of postgraduate training and the provision of continuing medical education, it was decided that it would be more appropriate for the College to take up the ownership of the Journal, tentatively in 1999. In preparation for improved quality of the Journal, a 'research forum' or group was formed under the Scientific Affairs Committee of the College in 1998 to promote training and interest in research among Fellows and trainees.

This first issue under the aegis of the College is a milestone in the development of Emergency Medicine in Hong Kong. It has a new design with a new publisher - Blackwell Medcom and the formation of a new editorial board. Expectations are high. The Journal is to be published quarterly, and on time. Inclusion in Index Medicus is the mid-term target. The final goal is to establish in Hong Kong a firm foundation and fertile ground for quality research activities and publications of high international standard. The ultimate beneficiaries will certainly be patients attending the Accident & Emergency departments.