

## Editorial

# Brief review of our Journal

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The *Hong Kong Journal of Gynaecology, Obstetrics and Midwifery* (HKJGOM) is the official publication of the Obstetrical & Gynaecological Society of Hong Kong (OGSHK) and the Hong Kong Midwives Association (HKMA). HKJGOM publishes peer-reviewed articles on all aspects of gynaecology, obstetrics, and midwifery fields, including basic sciences and clinical studies, in the form of original articles, case reports, review articles, and perspectives. The pink-coloured cover of the first edition was used from 2000 to 2002, whereas the current blue-coloured cover has been used since 2005. The Journal was published every half year between 2000 and 2002 under the auspices of our founding Editor-in-Chief, Dr Tang Chang Hung, Lawrence. After a hiatus of 2 years (2003 and 2004), it was published annually under the leadership of our second Editor-in-Chief, Dr Leung Kwok Yin, between 2005 and 2014. I have the great honour to be appointed the third Editor-in-Chief from 2015, and half-yearly issues have been resumed since then. Up to this current issue, the HKJGOM has published a total of 33 issues in the past 23 years and included around 216 original articles, 69 reviews, 24 case reports, and 28 editorials (editorial was introduced in 2005). Our readership includes not only members of the OGSHK and the HKMA, but also fellows, members, and trainees of the Hong Kong College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (HKCOG), as well as fellows and members of the Hong Kong College of Midwives. Although some memberships are overlapping, our readership covers all doctors and midwives in our specialties in public and private sectors.

Early issues of the HKJGOM included the historical accounts and reviews describing the milestones of our specialties. In the inaugural 2000 issue, Prof HK Ma wrote a detailed account of the development of the obstetrics and gynaecology specialty in Hong Kong titled “Obstetrics and Gynaecology in Hong Kong”. In the second issue in 2000, Ms Anne WM Chow, then Principal of the School of Midwifery in Prince of Wales Hospital, published an equally important article titled “Metamorphosis of Hong Kong Midwifery” to highlight the development of midwifery training in Hong Kong and the changing roles of midwives. In the same issue, Prof Dennis YM Lo and Prof Rossa WK Chiu published a paper titled “Fetal DNA in maternal plasma: biological and diagnostic implications” as a prelude to the ground-breaking era of non-invasive

prenatal testing in routine obstetric practice. Other milestone papers published were “The Family Planning Association of Hong Kong: history and development” in 2002 Issue 1 by Dr Susan YS Fan, then Director of the association, and “The birth of the Hong Kong College of Midwives” in 2013 Issue 1 by Dr Alice Sham, the founding President of the college.

With the consolidation of research training requirements for each HKCOG specialist trainee to publish an original paper as principal author in a peer-reviewed journal in 1997, the HKJGOM has served as a popular platform for trainees to publish their papers to fulfil their exit requirement. At one time, the increasing number of submissions resulted in a long delay from acceptance to publication. The reintroduction of half-yearly issues since 2015 has enabled timely publication and, as a corollary, has encouraged more trainees to submit their manuscripts to the HKJGOM. To facilitate trainees for their exit assessment, fast track peer review and processing, as well as support for English language, statistics, and data presentation are provided at the discretion of the Editorial Board.

To enrich the contents of the Journal, invited review articles have been reintroduced since 2015 to provide readers with up-to-date information on important new development and practice in our specialties. Landmark review articles include “Role of intrapartum ultrasound in modern obstetrics” by Dr Viola YT Chan et al in 2017 Issue 2, “Screening and prevention of pre-eclampsia: a review” by Dr Piya Chaemsaitong et al in 2019 Issue 1, “Enhanced recovery for gynaecological surgery: a review” by Dr Christopher F Yim et al in 2019 Issue 2, and “Expanded carrier screening for recessive genetic disorders: a review” by Dr Olivia YM Chan et al in 2020 Issue 1. The clinical protocols discussed in these reviews have increasingly become routine daily practice.

With the introduction of editorial in 2005, invited editorials on significant and controversial issues have been published to initiate discussion. Recent important editorials include “Would new medical graduates choose obstetrics and gynaecology as their future career anymore?” in 2017 Issue 1 by Dr WC Leung, then President of HKCOG, “Medical Indemnity: are we safe yet?” in 2017 Issue 2 by Dr

Ares Leung, past president of HKCOG, “Genetic training for obstetricians and gynaecologists” in 2019 Issue 1 by Prof TY Leung, then president of HKCOG, and “How has COVID-19 impacted obstetrics?” in 2021 Issue 1 by Prof Liona Poon and her team. In this issue, the second editorial “Acute life support in obstetrics: the way forward” by Dr CW Kong describes the evolution of the courses of advanced life support in obstetrics in Hong Kong from its introduction two decades ago.

With the establishment of the HKJGOM website offering free downloads for all articles published from 2005 onwards (only abstracts are available for papers published between 2000 and 2002), papers of the HKJGOM are increasingly cited in other international journals. Although the HKJGOM is not indexed in PubMed, it is listed in Google scholar and Embase so that all articles in the Journal are searchable in Google. Future efforts to index the HKJGOM include increasing the number of issues per year, enhancing the quality of papers published, attracting more trainees and researchers to submit papers to HKJGOM, and applying indexing to other academic databases and platforms. All these targets are not easily achievable; nor can they be achieved by efforts of the Editorial Board or OGS HK or HKMA alone. Collaborated efforts of all parties are called for.

It has indeed been a great privilege for me to be one of the Editors-in-Chief of the HKJGOM in the past decade. Admittedly, due to the limited resources, a lot of the work

in screening submissions, inviting reviewers, soliciting review articles and editorials, and editing and proofreading manuscripts have been manned by myself. However, the direct communications with authors, reviewers, and editors through these years have been most rewarding and gratifying. The process of reading and editing manuscripts in great depth has enhanced my professional learning. The connections with researchers and reviewers at all levels have greatly extended my professional circle and enriched my friendship and solidarity with many colleagues. I am most grateful to authors who revise their papers meticulously (and sometimes repeatedly) to meet the demands of reviewers, and to reviewers who agree to fast track the review process with a short notice. It is hoped that the upcoming Editor-in Chief will be in a better position in terms of support and resources available, and that the HKJGOM will continue to flourish and reach new heights in academic impact.

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