

ISSN 0037 - 5675
 Permit No MITA (P) 028/09/99
 PP (S) No 580/12/95
 ISSN 0037 - 5675

JOURNAL OF THE SINGAPORE
 MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Editor

Dr C Rajasoorya

Deputy Editor

Dr Sonny Wang Yee Tang

Corresponding Editors

Prof Azrul Azwar (Indonesia)
 Prof Myo Myint (Myanmar)
 Prof Neil Pride (UK)
 Prof Tan Chong Tin (Malaysia)
 Prof Victor Yu (Australia)
 A/Prof Teh Bin Tean (USA)

Scientific Section

A/Prof Ho Nai Kiong
 Dr Kenneth Lyen
 Prof Kua Ee Heok
 Dr Denis Nyam
 Dr Wilfred Peh
 A/Prof Luke Tan Kim Seng

Ex-Officio

A/Prof Goh Lee Gan
 Dr Wong Chiang Yin

Editorial Assistants

Tan Hwee Ping
 Chua Gek Eng

Editorial Address

Dr C Rajasoorya, Editor
 Singapore Medical Journal
 Singapore Medical Association
 2 College Road
 Singapore 169850
 Email: sma_org@pacific.net.sg

Design and Advertising

Lancer Communications
 5 Kampong Bahru
 Singapore 169341
 Tel: 324 4337
 Fax: 324 4661
 Email: maxlancer@pacific.net.sg

For advertising placement, call

- Hwee Ping at 223-1264 for classified / professional advertisement announcements
- Charlie Teo at 324-4337 for other advertisements

Printed by Entraco Printing Pte Ltd



SMJ

Editorial

SMJ – Shifting Gears Again – A Gain for a New Era

C. Rajasoorya

Your new SMJ comes to you amidst months of debates, discussions, planning and changes to the publications by the Singapore Medical Association. We are moving into our 41st year of publication with this issue. After three years of a combined publication of the SMA News and the SMJ, the Council had discussions on the perceived benefits and disadvantages of the “merger” vs. the “split” of the two important publication arms. The council has decided to return to two separate publications: the SMJ and the SMA News.

The concept of merger was first put boldly to the test in January 1997 for 3 main reasons. Firstly, neither need to compete with each other for advertisements; secondly, economic considerations, and thirdly, to attract a wider readership with the variable content. Along with this move, the frequency of the SMJ changed from a bi-monthly to a monthly publication. No doubt, the bold move did pay off well – not only it survived, the SMJ also thrived despite the economic crisis: the readership increased and the backlog of articles continued even with its monthly publication.

Many other changes have occurred since then. The dust on the economic crisis has settled and we are on the threshold of a new era – newer technologies, the web and Internet, regionalisation and globalisation have surfaced as important influences in all ventures, academic or otherwise. The SMA membership has increased significantly, and the journal has steadily been escalating its regional impact in the last few years. The SMJ will slowly face stiff challenges from other local and regional publications.

One of the perceived advantages for a “split” would be that the SMA News could focus on what is local and even controversial – that we do not



The Singapore Medical Journal is published monthly by the Singapore Medical Association. All articles published, including editorials, letters & book reviews represent the opinion of the authors and do not reflect the official policy of the SMA or Institution with which the authors is affiliated unless this is clearly specified. The Publisher cannot accept responsibility for the correctness or accuracy of the advertisers' text and/or claim or any opinion expressed. The appearance of advertisements in the Journal does not necessarily constitute an approval or endorsement by the SMA of the product or service advertised. The contents of this publication are not to be quoted in the press without permission of the Editor.

want to air in the international arena. In addition, the two publications need not have to wait each to be ready before going to press, thus allowing for much more up-to-date news. News changes rapidly unlike most of the contents of journal, which are planned months ahead of its publication. As a spin-off, the vacated space in the journal will help reduce the waiting period for publication. The emphasis on academic content in a journal would also help us in our quest for a higher journal impact factor.

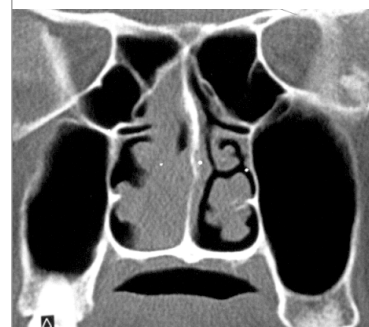
This “split” does not represent a divorce or an enticement to competition. Traditionally, the SMA News and SMJ have been separate publications. However, we cannot deceive ourselves that whatever the packaging, both are official publications of the Singapore Medical Association. The two publications will continue to work hand in hand - building on our strengths. We encourage you to think of these publications as a two-pronged approach that gives greater diversity and independence. The two prongs, besides having different editorial board members, will have different content, different styles and different educational values. Both publications will give us a chance to identify ourselves as members of the medical profession in Singapore. We want to reassure our readers that despite the “split”, we remain united in our goals of keeping our readers updated on the medical scene in Singapore – art vs. science, theory vs. practice, new vs. old, and fact vs. fiction. The lighter and colourful side of medicine will continue to be featured in our total education - hopefully the publications will cure our ignorance sometimes, relieve our deficiencies often, and comfort our anxieties always.

The SMJ will continue to have a high academic slant with local flavour and provide scientific reports subjected to rigorous peer review. The strive for publishing excellence will continue. Modifications have been made to the “Instructions to Authors”. The journal has been available on the net for some time now. Shortly, all published articles will also be available for download in Portable Document Format (pdf) – an increasingly common format adopted by journals around the world. This would be available to anyone with web-accessibility anywhere in the world, free of charge – unlike most other journals. We therefore anticipate that our competitive edge, international readership and impact factor will be further enhanced.

We welcome our new publishers (hence the new design and artwork for the cover and the contents) and like to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge our previous designer and printer (Hazel Goh and Tri-Art Printers) for taking us through frequent “short-notice” changes and difficult times. Shifting gears may make our ride smoother or jerkier. We hope to achieve the former, and trust you will find both publications complementing each other. Of course, gears may need to shift accordingly to environmental conditions. Changes need not necessarily be irrevocable. But whatever the perceived balance of arguments between the “split” and the “merger”, the ultimate truth will be best reflected by the reader’s response. **SMJ**

ERRATUM

The authors of “Cutaneous Rosai-Dorfman Disease – A Pathologic Review of 2 Cases” published in Volume 41 issue 3, March 2000 should be K L Chuah (and not K L Chuan), P H Tan, S G Hwang, B H Ong. We apologise for the oversight.



Cover Picture: Sphenoidal polyps pass between the nasal septum and the medial aspect of the middle turbinate, leaving the middle meatus clear. (Refer to pages 184-187)