

The Singapore Medical Journal: celebrating its Golden Jubilee

Peh W C G

The inaugural issue of the Singapore Medical Journal (SMJ) was published nearly half a century ago in March 1960. The first article was an Editorial written by SMJ's founding editor, the late Dr Gwee Ah Leng, entitled "The changing state of medical ethics"⁽¹⁾ – a topic that remains more relevant than ever in today's medical practice. The editorial team is pleased to announce that the full text of this article, and of every single article published in the SMJ since 1960, is now available, free-to-all and free-of-charge, on the SMJ website (www.sma.org.sg/smj/smjpast.html).

The SMJ will be celebrating its 50th year of publication by running a "Distinguished Editor's series" comprising essays and commentaries on key topics relating to biomedical writing and publishing. When the SMJ was first published, Singapore was still part of Malaysia. It is appropriate that in our Golden Jubilee year, we continue to foster closer links with the Malaysian Medical Association by co-organising a series of medical writing workshops. Workshops have already been confirmed in Kota Kinabalu (February), Alor Star (April) and Kuching (July), with other workshops being planned in Kota Bharu, Kuantan and Kuala Lumpur.

The SMJ is proud to be closely involved with the Asia-Pacific Association of Medical Journal Editors (APAME), a new regional editors' group that was established in Seoul

in May 2008. APAME has 11 member countries and has strong links with the World Health Organisation Regional Office, particularly in developing the Western Pacific Regional Index Medicus (WPRIM) – a most important initiative for biomedical journals in this region. The SMJ has taken the lead in forming a pro tem committee for the Singapore Association of Medical Journal Editors and a national selection committee for WPRIM, with the aim of improving the quality and visibility of our local journals.

As part of its Golden Jubilee celebrations, the SMJ will be hosting the 3rd Joint Meeting of APAME and WPRIM on November 4–5, 2009, followed by an International Forum for Editors and Reviewers on November 6, and Basic and Advanced Medical Writing Workshops on November 7–8. The Medical Writing Workshops reflect the SMJ's educational mission and will also act as a "training-the-trainers" workshop for editors of selected regional journals. The International Forum aims to discuss issues relating to the quality of biomedical peer review and publication, editing, and dissemination of biomedical information.

Do join the SMJ in celebrating its Golden Jubilee.

REFERENCE

1. The changing state of medical ethics (editorial). Singapore Med J 1960; 1:1.

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