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Future directions and developments for *Hong Kong Journal of Ophthalmology*

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As the new Editor-in-Chief of *Hong Kong Journal of Ophthalmology*, it is my great pleasure to prepare the latest issue. The main objective of the *Hong Kong Journal of Ophthalmology* is to promote and facilitate the dissemination and exchange of scientific knowledge among ophthalmologists in Hong Kong and beyond. Due to the possible differences in the epidemiology and clinical spectra of eye diseases in Hong Kong compared with other populations, studies performed in other populations, especially non-Asian populations, might not be directly applicable to our local setting. Therefore, it is important for our Journal to continue publishing original articles with a local and regional emphasis. Since the inaugural issue of the Journal in 1997, *Hong Kong Journal of Ophthalmology* has published a large number of original articles of high local relevance. Representative publications include a survey of 1799 patients with ocular trauma in Hong Kong,¹ ocular findings of children with Down's syndrome in Hong Kong,² and assessment of non-attendance behavior among 3265 patients in an ophthalmic outpatient clinic in Hong Kong.³ These original research articles have helped to provide local ophthalmic epidemiological data for Hong Kong.

In this issue of the *Hong Kong Journal of Ophthalmology*, 2 original articles are of particularly high relevance locally. Cheng et al evaluated the risk factors, clinical features, and visual outcomes of Hong Kong patients with *Acanthamoeba* keratitis associated with contact lens wear.⁴ Important risk

factors identified include extended use of disposable contact lenses beyond the suggested replacement period, inappropriate disinfection procedures, nocturnal contact lens wear, and swimming while wearing contact lenses. These findings can provide useful information for identifying patients at risk for *Acanthamoeba* keratitis and for patient education. In another original article, Lee et al evaluated the treatment outcomes for retinal angiomatous proliferations, and categorized the angiographic diagnosis of patients who presented with neovascular age-related macular degeneration (AMD).⁵ Among the 104 patients, choroidal neovascularization due to neovascular AMD was found in 74.1%, with polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy and retinal angiomatous proliferation diagnosed in 19.2% and 6.7%, respectively. These results are of high clinical significance as it is important to differentiate these disease entities due to differences in prognosis and treatment response for each condition.

In addition to promoting and facilitating scientific exchange, the other main objective of our Journal is to provide a means of continuous medical education for ophthalmologists in Hong Kong. It has been estimated that the amount of medical information doubles every 5 years.⁶ As the size and scope of the medical literature continues to expand, pre-appraised articles will become indispensable for practicing clinicians to keep up to date with current scientific knowledge.⁷ In this respect, our Journal will continue the tradition of publishing high quality review articles. In this issue, the review article by Leung et al provides a comprehensive overview

of the risk factors of normal tension glaucoma (NTG) and highlights the importance of identifying and treating various underlying systemic risk factors in patients with NTG.⁸

Finally, the editorial board would like to acknowledge all the previous editors for their tremendous efforts in developing the Journal to its existing format over the past 12 years. The *Hong Kong Journal of Ophthalmology* has now grown to become a 'teenager' and the editorial board will continue to strengthen the development of the Journal based on the solid

foundation laid down by our predecessors. During the next year, improvements will be made to the Journal's website and individual articles will become more accessible. Articles published in *Hong Kong Journal of Ophthalmology* will be better recognized internationally through indexing in various publication databases. In addition, the Journal has commenced publishing abstracts of the Hong Kong Ophthalmological Symposium as its supplement. These abstracts will also be made available on the Journal's website, and will increase the visibility of the exciting research from Hong Kong.

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