



香港眼科醫學院

# The Hong Kong Journal of Ophthalmology — the way forward

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It is my greatest pleasure and honor to prepare this issue as the new Editor-in-Chief of the *Hong Kong Journal of Ophthalmology* (HKJO). The HKJO is the official publication of the College of Ophthalmologists of Hong Kong (COHK), and has always been a special journal for our local ophthalmic community. The main goal of our journal is to promote academic research and exchange of knowledge, particularly for that with local relevance. While the journal has served as a unique platform for local ophthalmologists, it has also been a stage for overseas researchers. Since the inaugural issue in April 1997, the readership has seen a wide range of articles published from local epidemiological studies,<sup>1-3</sup> interventional clinical studies,<sup>4,5</sup> public health perspectives,<sup>6,7</sup> to photo quizzes,<sup>8,9</sup> just to quote a few. In addition to contributions from within our community, there have also been submissions from overseas.<sup>10,11</sup>

In this issue of HKJO, Wong et al<sup>12</sup> investigated the prevalence of reticular drusen in 105 Chinese subjects, and examined its correlation with the prevalence of various macular diseases among this sample of subjects. They concluded that there was a lower prevalence of wet age-related macular degeneration among subjects with reticular drusen compared with published reports on Caucasian subjects. The authors suggested that this finding might be related to the higher prevalence of polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy in our population than in a Caucasian population. This article provides more insight into the pathogenesis of age-related macular degeneration, and the ethnic differences between our population and those in the

western world. These results are of high local relevance and importance as advances in imaging techniques will enable more of these features to be noted on optical coherence tomography, and a deeper understanding of the implications of these features will assist the attending ophthalmologist in managing a consultation.

In the review article by Liu et al,<sup>13</sup> the various therapeutic strategies for retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) were discussed. The current treatment options such as cryotherapy, laser ablation and anti-vascular endothelial growth factors were reviewed, together with a section on potential new modalities of treatment for ROP. The most recent evidence for the use of insulin-like growth factor 1, omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids, and lutein in ROP were also discussed. As neonatal medicine advances, so do the survival chances of premature infants.<sup>14</sup> As a result, the chance of having ROP is also higher.<sup>15</sup> This review aids us in getting to know more about the latest advances to combat ROP.

To further promote the academic atmosphere among our residents and fellows, the Council of COHK has endorsed the setting up of an annual Best Original Article Award starting this year. Thanks to the generous support of the Dr Timothy Kai-Ching Liu Memorial Fund, 2 awardees (first authors) with the best original articles published during the year will be given cash prizes of HK\$1000 each. The selection criteria are listed in this and future issues. This will encourage more submissions to the HKJO, and make this an even more energetic journal for Hong Kong.

During the past 18 years, through the efforts of my predecessors and enthusiastic researchers alike, HKJO has created a vibrant niche for researchers in the region and beyond. The new Editorial Board would like to take this opportunity to thank our predecessors for their tremendous efforts in building a solid foundation for the journal. I would also like to thank the new Editorial Board Members and Advisors for their commitment to serving HKJO, and all the scientific reviewers who have helped to review

articles in the past. In the coming year, a new website for HKJO will be setup, together with a new electronic submission system. This will make submissions to the Journal more standardized and accessible, especially for overseas contributors. This will lay the foundation for HKJO to be indexed in major medical and academic search engines in the future. HKJO will have a much higher profile, both for our local readership and the broader global medical community.

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