

EDITORIAL

A HERCULEAN TASK FOR MJMS

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EDITOR IN CHIEF MJMS FROM 1994 TO 1995



First of all, I wish to thank the current Editor-of MJMS, Professor Dr. Jafri Malin, for giving me this opportunity to pen a few words about my experience as the inaugural Editor-in-Chief of the Malaysian Journal of Medical Sciences. The then Dean, Dato' Professor Dr Roslani Abdul Majid, thought that the Journal Diagnosa under the leadership of the late Professor Dr Chandrasekaran appeared to address issues related to laboratory medicine only. He realized that the number of staff in the faculty was increasing especially in the clinical fields, and the total number of research applicants successfully acquiring grants was rather encouraging at the time. The faculty felt the need for, and agreed to, the establishment of an official organ that could disseminate scientific information rapidly to members of the medical fraternity especially to members of the faculty. When I took this arduous but challenging task, I knew that there were so many things I needed to do. First, I set up an editorial board. Then, I had to look for a telling design of the cover. The journal cover will tell a thousand stories itself. Initially, I thought this would be a piece of cake, only to realize later that this was a Herculean task. The Internet, which was unfortunately not available at that time, would have made my life way much easier. Every visit to KL ended up in the Medical libraries of UM, UKM, IMR and the National Library. The many visits I made on my own seemed so futile.

But one day, when I was browsing the journals at the Medical Library of UM, one particular journal captured my attention. I decided that the Journal of Medical Sciences of USM will take on some similarities to the British Journal of Hand Surgery. I did not copy the design of the journal, but did gather ideas for the Journal of Medical Sciences, USM. Therefore, one would be able to see the resemblance of both journals.

How we were able to achieve our goal and bring out the first issue were mainly due to the enthusiasm that prevailed among the academic staff and the support they gave me, which led to the success of the journal. There are some special individuals that I need to thank for giving me their continuous support so that the journal became a reality. They are Professor Dato' Dr Roslani Abdul Majid, Professor Dato' Dr Mustaffa Embong, Professor Syed Mohsen, Professor Syed Abdullah and the late Professor Chandrasekharan and Dr Afifi Sheik Abubakr.

“Both the total number of publications and the number of publication in high ranking journal determine a University's reputation in Scientific Research”

Best wishes:

Professor Dato' Dr. Khairul Anuar Abdullah