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Editorial

Returning To Our Roots and Pursuing Our Future



As a past Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Orthopaedics, Trauma and Rehabilitation*, it is my honour to congratulate the Journal on its success and development these last 20 years. Time flies; being the initial academic asset of the Hong Kong Orthopaedic Association (HKOA), which is also enjoying its golden jubilee celebration in 2015, the Journal earmarks the blooming prosperity of the Association.

From formlessness, darkness and emptiness, our orthopaedic forefathers were hovering over the medical waters and building the blocks step by step 50 years ago. They lighted the expanse of the sky and marked the milestone for us. Now we can stroll on the path that was paved smooth by them.

There were only a few orthopaedic surgeons in the old era in Hong Kong. The academic meeting was not a formal congress. It was under the umbrella of General Surgery. All our "orthopaedic" techniques were very primitive. Most of them were conservative measures such as tractions, plaster of Paris, and wooden splints. Operative treatments were scanty. We were just like "Western" bone setters. There was no formal orthopaedic training or academic studies published. Clinical experience was delivered and shared verbally and hence easily lost with time. In fact, evidence based medical practice was not observed, resulting in a great lag behind the standard Western orthopaedic practice of the developed world. Third-world orthopaedic medicine was being executed.

Orthopaedic surgeons were the elites of Hong Kong and refused to stand by a tree waiting for a hare. On the contrary, they advanced their knowledge courageously by participating in overseas training, sharing of orthopaedic skills and knowledge by means of various platforms such as Saturday interhospital meetings (which are still held regularly), annual congresses, workshops, academic meetings, and lectures. With the help of the Orthopaedic College, which is also run by HKOA members in a separate body, a formal orthopaedic teaching curriculum was developed.

Being stratified into various orthopaedic subspecialties, there was a need to unify a written platform for sharing our academic achievements; the Journal was born about 20 years ago out of

this need. We are proud that the standard of orthopaedic practice in Hong Kong no longer lags behind any country. The Journal now receives many submissions from various countries around the world, including USA, UK, Australia, India, China, Egypt, Sweden, Belgium, and more. We have obtained various medical indexes including ScienceDirect, SCOPUS, EMBASE and SIIC Data Bases. Our Journal is being internationalized to match our standard of orthopaedic practice.

"Return to our roots and pursue our future" is our inspiration this golden jubilee year. It is a good time for us to remember those who set the foundation for our success. "Not a matter of luck, not by chance but by their hard work and dedication." Without their solid contributions, we would not have succeeded. Without their efforts, we would have struck air.

Although some of our leaders have passed away, including Prof. Hodgson, Prof. Harry Fang, Prof. Arthur Yau and Dr. K.C. Ho, their spirits and dedicated motives receive our highest respect from all HKOA members. I take this opportunity to salute their historic achievements on behalf of all HKOA members. From our hearts, we express our special thanks and offer the Journal as a tribute to them.

Conflicts of interest

The author declares that he has no financial or non-financial conflicts of interest related to the subject matter discussed in this article.

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