

## The moving on of *Asia Pacific Family Medicine*

Last year, we launched *Asia Pacific Family Medicine* at the Wonca Regional Conference in Kuala Lumpur with the strong support of Blackwell Publishing and the family medicine fraternity of the Asia Pacific region.

*Asia Pacific Family Medicine* has grown a lot since. We are receiving many more quality submissions, not just from the Asia Pacific region but also from the surrounding regions. We have also received many positive comments from our readers.

This is the sixth issue that we have produced so far. Sadly, it is also the last issue to be published by Blackwell Publishing. Due to policy reason, Blackwell Publishing has decided to remove itself from family medicine publication. However, this is not the end of *Asia Pacific Family Medicine*. In fact, the journal will continue to be published and will be freely available at the Global Family Doctor website (<http://www.globalfamilydoctor.com/>) for all family physicians in the region and around the world. It will reach out to many more readers than we are able to now. It is therefore a very positive move for the journal.

No doubt, there will be more challenges ahead. There is still a lot of room for improvement for this new journal. The Editors and the Editorial team will have to work even harder. The excellent support from the production team of Blackwell Publishing will be badly missed. We are however, confident of eventual success of *Asia Pacific Family Medicine* because of the solid foundation already laid.

When you read the rest of this issue, you will appreciate the quality of this journal. This issue features a good variety of articles from various countries in the region. This once again shows that the journal is by, and for, the 17 member organizations of Wonca Asia Pacific. We shall continue the established editorial policy of fostering and promoting the commonality among all family physicians across the entire region, in order to improve patient care, and further develop,

uniform standards of practice. We shall also continue to place high priority to foster primary care research from the region. This is because, through this journal, many high quality research studies undertaken by Asia Pacific researchers have been able to get published thus making them available to other local researchers who really need them. These publications might not have always been possible without *Asia Pacific Family Medicine*, which is no doubt raising the family medicine research standards in the region by sharing ideas and techniques.

### Acknowledgments

As the journal will be entering a new phase, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all those individuals within family medicine who have been instrumental in the launch of this journal. We would also like to thank Blackwell Publishing for their financial and professional backing of the journal for the last 3 years. They will continue to make all issues this year available on their Synergy website (<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com>) for a period of time. We must of course thank all the authors and the readers. Without the support of all these people and organizations, we would never have come this far. We shall look forward to reaching out to you all through the Internet.

Note for interested authors:

The postal and email address of the Editorial Office will remain unchanged.

*Asia Pacific Family Medicine*, Rm 3, PAFP National Secretariat, 2336 Marconi Street, Makati City 1234, The Philippines. Email: [afm\\_wonca@pacific.net.ph](mailto:afm_wonca@pacific.net.ph)

Lyn CLEARIHAN, Tai Pong LAM and  
Zorayda LEOPANDO