

Editorial

An Asia Pacific Journal of Clinical Nutrition

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There is a great deal happening in Asia and the Pacific as far as food and health are concerned. The international literature on experimental, clinical and public health nutrition is growing rapidly, some would say too rapidly. But, it is fair to say that the Asia Pacific region is the world's most populous and merits adequate, commensurate, if not disproportionate, representation in this literature. We have now an Asia Pacific Journal of Clinical Nutrition. Clinical nutrition is a particularly important development within contemporary medical practice, but is more than that, impinging on most health care professions, drawing on experimental nutrition, nutritional epidemiology, and clinical studies, and contributing to the new public health. This journal will acknowledge this broad base and contribution which clinical nutrition makes and aims to strengthen the discipline.

Ian Darnton-Hill and colleagues, in their paper on 'Clinical nutrition in East Asia and the Pacific' consider the geographical scope of clinical nutrition in their paper in this first issue of the journal; it is impressive. The way in which clinical nutritionists can contribute to the development of food and nutrition policy and initiatives in the region is in evidence in papers from Australia and Singapore. Lessons from population-based nutrition studies for clinical practice in preventive and therapeutic nutrition in the areas of oncology, endocrinology and metabolic disease, are available from the work of Lee Hin-Peng in Singapore, Osman Ali and colleagues in Malaysia and Prasong Tienboon and colleagues in Australia. Finally, new concepts about food-health relationships in the neurosciences and in gastroenterology are presented by Hisao Nishigo and Taketoshi Ono from Japan and by Lin Shao-Kai and colleagues from Australia.

Most noteworthy is the way in which Asians have begun to contribute to this regional literature in countries other than the ones of their origin.

Hopefully, the kind of contribution made to this first issue will encourage other workers in the region to see their original work and concepts materialize in quality papers in this journal. This particular issue has relatively more review-type papers than original articles than is planned in the future, but the intention of this issue of the journal is to identify the possibilities and measure the scope for publication in clinical nutrition in the Journal.

The Journal will offer space for more than reviews and original articles. It has established a panel of corresponding editors from Europe, the Americas, Africa and the Middle East, who will keep us abreast of developments in clinical nutrition and cognate disciplines in their regions. Every effort will also be made to alert readers to nutrition meetings and conferences of particular relevance to those who work in the Asia Pacific region. Needless to say, advice from the journal readership about such forthcoming events will be crucial to the success of the journal.

A particularly important feature of this journal will be that it will encourage a readership which is multilingual. As a first step, abstracts will be bilingual, in English and one of the major languages of the region, usually the one closest to the country from which the particular paper emanates. For example, a paper coming from China would be in English, but have both an English and Chinese abstract; one from Japan would have both an English and a Japanese abstract. The major languages which are intended for abstracts will be, apart from English, Chinese, Japanese, Thai, Indonesian or Malay and Korean.

Readers will find that some of the papers included in this issue of the journal have their origins in the Second Australasian Clinical Nutrition Conference held in Singapore in September 1991, an activity indicative of the growing linkages between clinical nutritionists in this region.

There are already a number of cohesive activities to create a strong base for clinical nutrition in the Asia Pacific region. The Asian Nutrition congresses of the Federation of Asian Nutrition Societies, most recently held in Kuala Lumpur in 1991 and next to be held in Beijing in 1995, are a good example. The next International Symposium on Clinical Nutrition will be held in Bangkok adjacent in time to the Beijing meeting in 1995. Of particular significance to this journal is the advent of the new Asia Pacific Clinical Nutrition Society whose secretariat will be in Singapore, whose membership will automatically be subscribers to this journal and whose first President is Professor Akira Okada from Japan, a co-editor of this journal. The Journal should facilitate networking amongst clinical nutritionists in the region and provide an added opportunity for the strengthening of this discipline throughout the region, in turn adding to the health and wellbeing of the peoples of Asia and the Pacific.

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