

Guardianship of a journal from inception onwards

Dr Samuel PY Kwok
Chairman of editorial board
Surgical Practice

The College of Surgeons of Hong Kong

- An academic organization
- Good surgeons, many of them academic
- Good surgical papers from Hong Kong
- Therefore “a good idea” to have our own journal

Evolution of a journal from inception

- Get started (inauguration)
- Growth
- Consolidation
- Survival of the fittest
 - live for die

Annals of the College of surgeons of Hong Kong get started in 1997

Its initial form depends on

- **organization need**
- **“niche” of the journal**
- **style**
- **frequency of publication**
- **people involved**



Annals

of The College of Surgeons of Hong Kong
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Journal can metamorphose, but cannot be too frequent

- **Get it more or less right the first time round**
- **Can be small volume, less frequent but form should be complete**

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ABSTRACTS

- 6th Annual Meeting of the Hong Kong Society of Minimal Access Surgery (20 December 1998) A1
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Get people involved and keep them involved

- **Editorial board**
- **International advisory board**
- **Board of reviewers**
- **Authors**
- **Publisher**
- **Prospective readers**

To win people commitment

- Strong leadership is the key
- Vigorous communication is the way

- Questionnaire as a vehicle of communication
- Feedback important to drive improvement over time
- Read publisher's report
- Get people involvement in changes

Style of the journal

- Format
- Design
- Paper types and mix
- Special considerations
 - Chinese abstract

Generation of support

- own organization
- other societies
- universities
- International bodies

Get systems in place

- Editorial process
- Review process
- Establish work flow schedules
- Harness on-line possibilities

Consensus building in conflicts of opinion

- Get second, third, fourth, etc opinions
- Editorial board meetings (face to face)
- Bold to make decisions
- Uphold **quality**
- Standard will evolve (steer by editorial board)

Competing for papers

- Authors submit their papers to good journals
- Especially journals with citation index and high impact factor
- The question is 'how to get into this virtuous cycle of good paper, good journal'

Commissioning of papers

- **Reviews**
- **Systematic reviews**
- **Papers from scientific meetings**
- **Themes for papers**
- **Paper competition**

Addition of new paper categories

- Surgical Technique paper
- Education forum
- Video and on-line papers
- etc

Preparation for indexing

- No slippage of publication
- Get into as many indexing services as possible
- Enhance searchability of papers
- Enhance citation of papers
- Get the right people involved

Examples of Indexing Services

- Academic Search (EBSCO), ADONIS, APAIS, Australian Medical Index, Biomedical References (EBSCO), CancerLIT, Current Contents/ Clinical Medicine, EMBASE/ Excerpta Medica, Health Source Nursing/ Academic (EBSCO), INIS Atomindex, Journal @ Ovid, MEDLINE, OncoDisc, Science Citation Index, SCOPUS, etc

Great leap forward

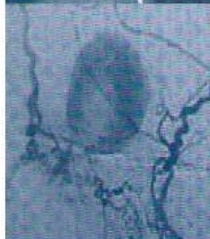
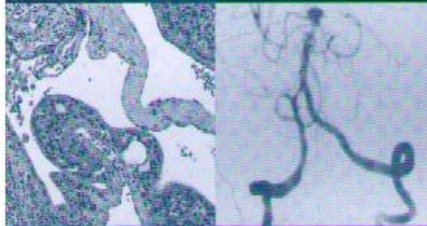
- Detach local label
- Expand ownership to international organizations
- Enter significant indexing services
- Enhance impact factor
- Meet electronic publishing challenges

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