

Nurturing tomorrow's family doctors

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'*Nurturing tomorrow's family doctors*' was the theme for the recently held WONCA Asia Pacific Regional Conference in Kuching, where primary care leaders, academicians, researchers, practitioners and students gathered to share ideas and debate issues important to family medicine. The Malaysian Family Physician helped to publish the conference supplementary abstract book.¹

A few important primary care issues emerged from this Conference. Firstly, primary care doctors are facing increasing number of challenges to deliver quality care, particularly in this era of double disease burden (communicable and non-communicable diseases), ageing population, rising healthcare cost and increasing patient expectation. The practice of evidence-based medicine and patient-centred care is expected to become the norm. The challenge remains how to deliver all these in the day-to-day busy primary care clinics.

The plenary speakers challenge us to: become a 'very very competent' family doctor; 'strengthen the experience of family medicine' provided to our students; conduct 'quality research' with rigorous methodology to provide evidence relevant to general practice; and 'develop innovative clinical service models' through an 'organised, proactive, multi-component, patient-centred approach'.¹ This is a tall order, but it is a goal that we must strive towards.

As the Editor of MFP, it is my dream (I am sure it is the same for the past and future editors) to use this journal to achieve these goals. We can do this by publishing original research that highlights issues that are relevant to primary care. Jones et al shared their experience on implementing care planning in Australia for chronic diseases, particularly the barriers they faced as allied health workers.² To be a 'very very competent' family doctor, we must first be a good diagnostician. This issue showcased a few interesting dermatological conditions; we must be mindful that sometimes, 'it is not just a simple rash'. It is also the aim of MFP to influence clinical practice by disseminating latest clinical evidence by collaborating with clinical practice guideline (CPG) developers to publish synopses of CPGs. Choon et al summarised the latest CPG on the management of psoriasis, informing us how to avoid diagnostic pitfalls and when to refer.³

I sincerely hope that you can use MFP as one of the tools to help you become a better family doctor.

References

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3. Choon SE, Chan LE, et al. Malaysian clinical practice guidelines for the management of psoriasis: An update. Malay Fam Physician. 2014;9(1):16-21.