

## Editor's note

Greetings for the New Year 2012! This year our MJI is entering its 21<sup>st</sup> year, time for more changes, hopefully for the better! Changes in our secretariat involved an addition of a much needed epidemiologist, a fresh graduate from the School of Public Health has joined us to check on the statistical analysis used in the submitted articles. There also will be a reshuffle of our editorial board members. Starting 2008 it was decided that every four years, MJI will get a fresh new editor-in-chief, so it is time that a new chief be appointed starting next August issue, and some senior editors will be promoted to editorial advisory board, and with increasing popularity of our journal, some very promising new editors will join our board.

Our failure to join Scopus last year was due to what the selection committee declared as 'weak articles'; this feedback propels us to be more selective in accepting articles submitted from now on, forcing us to listen more to our distinguished, chosen reviewers. As our electronic MJI is entering its third year, we are now starting to receive more articles, also from abroad. We hope that more and more writers in the scientific society of the medical world are interested in publishing within our MJI, so that MJI will be the preferred journal of more scientific writers!

The Indonesian Directorate General of Higher Education (DGHE) recently proposed a new regulation that requires graduating university students to publish. The new regulation states that undergraduate students must publish a paper in any journal, while Masters students are required to publish in nationally accredited journals. Finally, the Doctorate students must publish in international journals.<sup>1</sup> Such a regulation came with a great deal of controversy in the academia, mainly based on the fear of prolonged study time, and additional expenses. Franz Magnis-Suseno, a prominent Indonesian person who is also an outspoken priest, protested the regulation as being too paper consuming, and burdening students; he also questioned the quality of the resulting publication.<sup>2</sup> On the other hand, the Minister of Education who supported the DGHE proposal for several reasons, one of which is rather questionable, wherein he stated that more publication by students might reduce possibility of plagiarism. He also stated that the requirement to publish will encourage more publication from Indonesian academic scientific community.<sup>3</sup>

Despite all the controversy and with the increasing demand from the Indonesian DGHE that faculty members of Medical Schools all over Indonesia publish their research results, we will need more qualified, peer-reviewed medical journals. MJI being one among the better peer-reviewed national medical scientific journal of Indonesia, will be a target journal at least for Indonesian growing world of researcher writers and medical writers in the future. Thus, we will receive more manuscripts nation-wide to choose from!

Meanwhile we will also keep on conducting workshops for scientific article writing and publishing, thus helping to increase the quality of international scientific medical writing in our country. Our recent visit to NUHS Singapore bore a new hope of sending some of our editors to their yearly workshops of medical writing and publishing. We also hope to invite their regular attending international speakers, to visit and become part of our speakers while they are in our vicinity.

With our new team of fresh young and enthusiastic editors with a stronger secretariat, and backup of older, seasoned, more experienced editors, we have high hopes that Medical Journal of Indonesia will become a much stronger, more qualified and be more internationally recognized in the future of medical research writers world!

## REFERENCES

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