

Editorial : Why a New Medical Journal ?

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One of the general policies of the government in the development of higher education nowadays, is to make efforts in accelerating academic relation among universities, interdisciplinary as well as multidisciplinary, and to activate an academic forum and activities in the publication of scientific papers, original as well as translated ones.

In concurrence with this general policy it is stipulated in the statutes of the University of Indonesia that it is the responsibility of the university to give beneficial support to the enhancement of science, technology, culture, and arts by way of educational and teaching activities, research, and service to the community, and dedicate the results to be used by the people, nation, country, and mankind in general. In the field of research activities in the University of Indonesia, efforts are made to produce empirical knowledge, theories, concepts, methods, models, prototypes, or new information which will enrich the science, technology, culture, and arts and to activate efforts towards a university which put emphasis on research.

As one of the faculties of the University of Indonesia, the Faculty of Medicine has endeavored to develop and disseminate the medical science and technology as an effort to reach the goal of the University of Indonesia as a research university. Of course the aim of the research development of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Indonesia cannot be separated from the development of health and medical service of the Ministry of Health, the development of medical

science and the interrelated professional societies. This is so because the solution of medical problems - which are often encountered as a direct application of medical sciences in the community - become the basic pattern of medical care of the Ministry of Health. The pattern of the development will consequently anticipate the transition of disease epidemiologic in Indonesia, from infectious diseases and malnutrition to degenerative and non-infectious diseases such as cancer, metabolic diseases, cardiovascular diseases, etc. The shift in disease pattern is the partial result achieved in health development and change of community behavior.

Based on aforementioned situation the development of research activities at the Faculty of Medicine University of Indonesia is primarily directed to 10 main fields, i.e. (1) oncology, (2) human reproduction, (3) nutrition, (4) occupational medicine, (5) pollution and environmental related diseases, (6) molecular biology, (7) degenerative diseases, (8) growth and development, (9) infection, and (10) mental disorders. Research should be directed to the development of basic medical research, applied research, and medical technology.

Realization of these programs has of course to be supported by various factors. One of the main factors is the manpower resource, i.e. the academic staff of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Indonesia. The academic staff is expected to take care of the role and function of the research in the development of medical science and technology, to do research work in the effort to increase the quality of medical care to

To study, to finish, to publish
Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)

Work, Finish, Publish
Michael Faraday (1791-1867)

the community, and do research work in the frame of increasing the quality, relevancy and efficiency of education and teaching in the medical field.

A scientific research is not considered complete until the results have been published. According to the existing data, during 1990 as many as 511 scientific papers have been produced as result of research studies at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Indonesia, while during 1987-1989 as many as 1164. No information on the quality of these papers is available, but it has to be agreed that for the present condition aforementioned number is quite satisfactory. Most of the scientific papers are presented during congresses or medical scientific meetings, national as well as international. A part are published in medical journals. It is a fact that most medical journals in Indonesia have their editorial office in the departments of the Faculty of Medicine University of Indonesia. However, it is ironic that the results of most studies have not been published yet or very seldom quoted by international medical journals. One of the reasons is probably the language problem, besides that the quality is not yet considered satisfactory.

It is for these reasons that the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Indonesia endeavours to a new breakthrough, to publish a new medical journal in the English language, the *Medical Journal of the University of Indonesia*, in the effort to penetrate the interna-

tional medical world. Besides being able to become a facility for continuing medical education for our own medical community, this journal might also share a role in giving a picture about the progress in medical research in Indonesia to the outside world. Besides that, the additional value to be gained is the increase of the ability of the academic staff members of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Indonesia in particular, and the Indonesian medical community in general, to communicate the results of their works to the international world. It stands to reason that only the results of scientific medical studies which are original, valid, of general medical interest, and clearly written could be accepted in this journal. In the execution of this mission, and in order to achieve the international standard desired, we are determined to conduct a tight selection in accepting manuscripts to be published. In editing, we are determined to apply the most recent principles of scientific editing and writing. Therefore, the contributors are expected to strictly observe the Instruction to Authors, which is arranged for the convenience of the authors.

Hopefully this effort will give a significant role of Indonesia in the era of medical information explosion in the world at this moment.

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