Editorial note

Greetings to the readers of the Medical Journal of Indonesia (MJI)

Happy New Year to everyone! May this year be better than the last, and bring joy and peace so that we can be more productive in our quest to reach for perfection in our medical scientific publication world. This is MJI's 18th year, more or less the coming of age for a person. The MJI was founded in 1992. January second, by several teaching staffs of the Medical Faculty of the University of Indonesia. The name at that time was the 'Medical Journal of University of Indonesia' (MJUI), which, later in 1995 was changed to the Medical Journal of Indonesia (MJI). The aims at first are to publish research done in the biomedical fields of the University of Indonesia, and achieve better communication among researchers in the biomedical world inside and out of Indonesia.

Indonesia, being a developing country, provided very limited resources for a journal trying to reach out to the international world, so it was quite a struggle to survive for the MJI during the early years. But we managed, through several manuevers e.g. cutting down on circulation, down-grading the paper quality etc. Then after the third year (1995) came a blessing, through the Publication Comission of the Indonesian Directorate General of Higher Education (IDGHE), the MJI was chosen as one amongst 5 Indonesia scientific journals to receive financial aid from the first batch of the Journal Quality Enhancement of the URGE project for 3 years. The second batch was attained through tight competition in the year 1999.

In the year 2001, the MJI tried to be accepted by the Index Medicus, in the US National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, Maryland, USA, but to date has not yet succeeded. But we continue our efforts by trying to increase the quality of articles by being more selective, editorial works, conducting workshops on scientific medical writing, joining regional and world congresses in medical publications, etc. And by always making improvements to increase the readability and acceptability of our journal.

This year we are again, making some changes. In the editorial board personnel, we have included several scientists, prominent in their fields willing to be involved to help enhance the quality of our journal. We have also made some editorial changes to enhance our readability. We are also trying to be more outreaching and communicating and would like to invite more articles from other medical institutions, around Indonesia, regionally and internationally, by communicating more and aside from being accesible throught the University of Indonesia's digital library, we are achieving our own website and opening up for electronic submission.

Realizing that language barrier is still a problem among researchers, starting this year we will receive quality articles written in Bahasa Indonesia, provided the authors agree to have the articles translated into U.S. English by our inhouse translator team with a minimum amount of fee.

We would like to apologize for the delay of this issue, because this is the first issue of the MJI in the new improved form, in line with the changes required by the Publication Comission of the IDGHE. We assure you that the following issues will be on schedule. For this first issue of our 18th volume, aside from the usual Basic Medical, Clinical and Community researches, we would like to highlight several research articles on Medical Education along with the global changes in the Medical Curriculum. We would also like to invite more articles in this field to be published in the following issues.

We also hope to hear more from our readers and researchers on the types of articles of interest, and study/research in our ever expanding biomedical world. We look forward to receiving more articles from medical institutions as well as individual researchers, throughout Indonesia, South East Asia, and the world. Please feel free to contact our secretariate, e-mail address, and also our website.

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