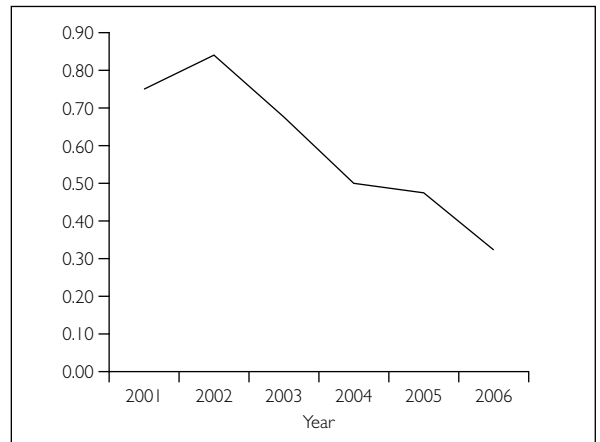


Nurtured unfailingly by the Academy of Medicine and the Medical Association, this year the *Hong Kong Medical Journal* grows unabashedly into a teenager. It has passed through two previous Editors-in-Chief (Lee and Yu), Managing Editors (Campbell and Lane), and even Publishers (Churchill Livingstone and Scientific Communications International). There have also been two previous cover designs, an artistic JAMA-style and a traditional NEJM-style, and now we are slipping into something more comfortable—our own style.

The cover you now see combines art and functionality. The drawing depicts, from issue to issue, the three attributes of a good surgeon (sorry physicians, but that's what this old English proverb says)—an eagle's eye, a lion's heart, and a lady's hand. It beats having Asclepius' snake all the time. Functionality is preserved by keeping the list of contents up front. Inside, the article layouts and the typefaces have been revamped. And if you bother to access the HKMJ online (www.hkmj.org) you will find a good deal more—like all the articles we ever published, and the super-friendly search engine. Try it—it's free.

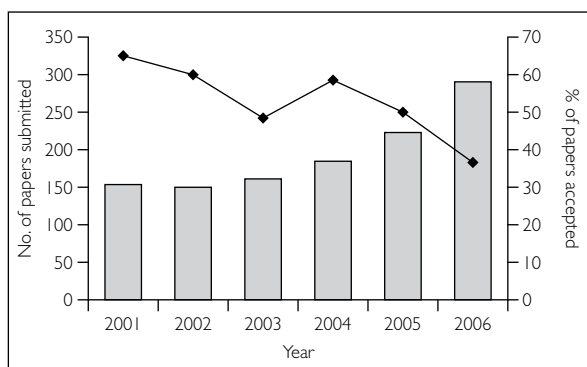
Within the editorial team, we welcome more than a dozen new members, many having chivalrously responded to our recent call for new blood. They will complement our professional staff, who also produce, besides the *Hong Kong Medical Journal*, four other



Ratio of accepted papers from two medical schools vs those from other local sources from 2001 to 2006

journals, plus a number of publications for the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine Press. This in-house entity, designed to free the HKMJ from the torment of commercial publishers, has become a truly useful resource for the entire medical community.

So much for the new bottle. Is the wine going to be any different? Where is the evidence that the HKMJ is any more palatable than it was, say, six years ago? On the first chart you will see the number of papers submitted per year has nearly doubled, while the percentage of papers accepted has fallen from 65% to less than 40%. Perhaps more tellingly, the second chart shows that the ratio of accepted papers from the two medical schools versus those from other local sources has dropped from about 0.8 to barely 0.3. These are good signs that scientific enquiry and original research are thriving in Hong Kong, and not just in ivory towers by people who have to do them. To all our authors and reviewers, we salute them and wish them a happy and prosperous new year.



No. of papers submitted (columns) and the percentage of papers accepted (line) from 2001 to 2006

Richard Kay, MD, FHKAM (Medicine)
Editor-in-Chief
Hong Kong Medical Journal