

MESSAGE FOR THE 50TH VOLUME

Congratulations for the 50th volume

Toyomi Fujino

*Honorary Editor, The Keio Journal of Medicine
Professor Emeritus, Keio University*



It is with great pleasure that I note that the Keio Journal of Medicine (KJM) will celebrate its 50th volume in March of 2001, and I offer my most sincere congratulations on the achievement.

I had the honor of taking over the editor's chair of the Journal in 1984, at which time it was published in an irregular manner and was actually two years behind its publishing deadline. The submission of manuscripts was so sparse that a dominant and eminent emeritus professor strongly suggested that we should discontinue publication of KJM, telling me that a general medical journal the likes of KJM would no longer find an interested readership, and that expending efforts on such a sinking ship was counterproductive. I reported equally strongly, asserting that I was by training and vocation a reconstructing surgeon, that I would apply my skills to resuscitating the ailing patient and effort the Journal's recovery.

I first of all rearranged the Journal's editorial and production processes so that it resembled the New England Journal of Medicine, establishing regular meetings of the Editorial Board members and publishing combined issues, for example, combining the January and March issues in a single issue, augmenting the submitted manuscripts with those of my own authorship and also my colleagues in the Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. With this strategy, the KJM gradually became on-schedule again. As a concomitant strategy, I actively sought the submission of original and review articles from the attendees at the

regular Keio Medical Society meetings, and so the quality of the Journal steadily improved until it reached its current very high status. In fact, it is now internationally recognized as a peer-reviewed journal of high standing and credibility, with a steady supply of quality submitted manuscripts enabling us to maintain the standard and the timely publishing of our quarterly issues, four per volume.

As part of the improvement of KJM's quality and echoing the steady increase of submitted articles, the original B5 format was increased to the larger A4 format in 1995. We were the first to produce its English language medical journal in this format, which made the KJM the envy of the other medical journals in Japan. In September of that year, I retired from the position of Editor in Chief, but I selected Professor Naoki Aikawa to succeed me in this demanding position, and I am happy that he has not only maintained the high quality of the Journal and its contents, but he has also sustained the rise in quality now well associated with the KJM.

They say that 'life begins at forty', but on the eve of its 50th volume, I can clearly see that the Keio Journal of Medicine, now successfully enrolled in the ranks of *Index Medicus*, is still young at heart with many more years ahead of it. Once again, sincere congratulations to the Journal, its editorial and production teams, and equally sincere thanks to the contributors whose articles ensure that the high position of the Journal is maintained.