

2004 – A Final Bow

This final issue of the *SGH Proceedings* for 2004 brings together a diverse collection of reports, all reflecting the varied activity and expertise that characterise our Outram Campus.

In one of the contributions from the segment on *Hospital Clinical Conferences*, the role of psychological therapy for irritable bowel syndrome, an ailment that is a challenge to diagnose, is reviewed.¹ It is not widely known that irritable bowel syndrome is so prevalent, affecting up to one in four of the general population, and accounting for a significant proportion of the gastroenterologists' workload. Perhaps less known is that psychotherapy and hypnotherapy are part of the treatment strategy for this condition. In the second article of the *Hospital Clinical Conferences* segment, the use of radio-frequency ablation in the treatment of liver neoplasms, a recent paradigm in the management of both primary and metastatic tumours, is discussed by Lo.²

A statistical offering on the application of Bayesian linear regression in biomedical research is detailed in the section on *Evidence-based Medicine*. With active, burgeoning clinical and basic research on our campus, we are reminded about the importance of using the right statistical method for attaining the best results.³

A description on the situation in Iran after the earthquake in December 2003 and the role of the Singapore mission are detailed by Lateef.⁴ Original research papers on ultrasonographic assessment of normal ovarian volumes in Singapore women; dysphagia screening by registered nurses; efficacy of treatment of crusted scabies using a combined regimen of oral, topical and keratolytic agents; and therapy of advanced gastrointestinal stromal tumours (GISTs) with Glivec in a local cohort, a targeted anti-CD117 drug that acts against CD117 expressed by GISTs; are presented.⁵⁻⁸

A profile on the Department of Emergency Medicine, our colleagues at the frontline, is also included in this issue, incorporating historical flashbacks that contrast against the modern dynamic department that it is today, underscoring the distance SGH has travelled.⁹

Finally, a fascinating case of cardiac amyloidosis, excellently discussed by Chia Boon Lock, is transcribed into an educational manuscript in the section on *SGH Clinico-pathological Conference*.¹⁰ The clinicopathological conference is a tradition of SGH, bringing together clinician, radiologist and pathologist, serving as an ideal forum for learning, and instilling into our younger colleagues the holistic approach towards medicine. It is a tradition that we should continue to preserve as part of our heritage of this campus, even as we look forward to the development of new skills, cutting-edge technology and exciting challenges in the years ahead.

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