

## EDITORIALS

### THE EDITORIAL BOARD: 1986 – 1988

We regret that Dr. C.G. Lopez, because of her many heavy commitments, is unable to continue as Editor of this Journal. Her contributions and efforts are much appreciated and we wish to thank her particularly for keeping the Journal alive in the difficult period after the untimely death of its first Editor, Professor K. Prathap.

It thus fell on the Council to appoint a new Editor, an event not to be taken lightly. The Council, in making its choice, was acutely aware that the Journal is still young and in need of establishing itself as a journal of impact in this part of the world. To achieve this, it needed, at its helm, someone not only with editorial knowhow but who holds the journal close enough to heart to be willing to give it personalised attention and an inordinate amount of time. The decision was an important one. The choice fell on Professor Looi and this was endorsed by the general body in the 11th. Annual General Meeting of the Society.

Professor Looi **Lai Meng** has long been associated with the Malaysian Journal of Pathology, having served as a member of the Editorial Board since its early days in 1979. She has had many years of experience in research and the practice of Pathology. Her commitments to Pathology are many; both through her service as Professor and Head of the Department of Pathology, University of Malaya and her contributions to Malaysian pathology through the Society. We know that she has accepted the Editorship of the Journal with full awareness of its demands and we are grateful that she is willing to take on this additional task *inspite* of her many other responsibilities. With her experience and under her capable leadership, we are convinced that the Journal is in good hands.

The other members of the Editorial Board are not strangers to us. They are Associate Professor Chong Siew Meng, Dr. Khalid Hassan, Dr. M. Jegathesan, Associate Professor Victor Lim and Associate Professor Yap Sook Fan, all professionals of good academic standing. They make an excellent and balanced team representing the various disciplines of Pathology who, I am sure, will make positive contributions to the Journal.

I am also pleased to announce that Dr. Patricia Por has agreed to continue serving as Business Manager. Her long experience in this position will be invaluable to and much appreciated by the new Editorial Board. Lastly but not least, I would like to introduce Mr. Mah Yong Cheng as Editorial Assistant.

While congratulating the Board on their appointment, I would also like to record our gratitude for their willingness to serve. I am sure that with their expertise, support and time given freely to oversee the publication of the Journal, its success can be assured.

T.W. LIM  
PRESIDENT,  
Malaysian Society of Pathologists.

### TRADITIONS – OLD AND NEW

When the Malaysian Society of Pathologists decided, at its Second Annual General Meeting in September 1977, that it should publish a scientific journal to further its objectives, a new and proud milestone was established in Malaysian and indeed Southeast Asian pathology. The fledging Malaysian Journal of Pathology was nurtured by the untiring efforts and dedication of its founder Editor, the late Professor K. Prathap. Although his unexpected death in 1983 dealt a severe blow to the young journal, members have rallied around and ensured that the Journal continue. *Inspite* of heavy commitments, many have selflessly given of their time and effort to infuse the Journal with new life. Today, we see the eighth issue of the Journal.

The aim of the Journal is to publish original articles based on scientific observations of relevance to Pathology in this region of the World. It has been the policy of the Journal to encourage younger workers to contribute and to help them meet an acceptable standard. At the same time, efforts are made to attract papers from established authors. The Journal also has the tradition of publishing invited reviews and symposia to highlight advances in Pathology or specific areas of pathological practice that will be useful to members or are likely to make significant impact in the near future. These policies and traditions have been maintained.

New techniques of analysis at a molecular level have made impressive inroads into the study of human disease over the past decade, hence the choice of "Molecular Biology" as the subject of a symposium in the present issue of the Journal. Molecular techniques are of importance to pathologists in many ways. Recent developments in recombinant DNA technology have made possible the production of gene probes which may be used for the diagnosis of genetic disease, the analysis of human malignancies and the rapid and sensitive diagnosis of some infectious diseases. It has also found a wide applicability in the study of metabolic diseases and has created many new research opportunities. By probing into the molecular basis of disease, a better insight into the nature and mechanisms of tissue and cell injury has been gained, knowledge which will have far-reaching effects not only in the precision of pathological diagnosis that can be achieved but also in the treatment and prevention of disease.

This issue of the Journal also sees the publication of the First K. Prathap Memorial Lecture and the beginning of a new tradition. The annual Memorial Lecture of each preceding year will from hence be a regular feature of the Journal. While such a decision is fully appropriate in remembrance and honour of the late Professor K. Prathap, it is also felt that readers will benefit from a published record of these lectures. The first Lecture, delivered in conjunction with the 10th Annual General and Scientific Meeting of the Society, gave a lucid and inspiring account of the contribution of Pathology to renal disease. The subject is relevant to us in more ways than one. It was through pathological study that the pathogenesis of renal disease, particularly glomerulonephritis, was unravelled, providing the foundation for many subsequent advancements in the understanding of renal disease. Thus nephropathology serves as an inspiring model of what pathological study can achieve. Furthermore, the importance of glomerulonephritis as a disease entity in this region of the world is emphasised. As it is the most common group of renal diseases leading to dialysis and transplantation, it is appropriate that a conceptual account of it is delivered. The speaker has also done well to emphasise the need for standardization in the classification of this group of diseases. It is clear that acceptance and usage of a common "language" in the study of glomerulonephritis is necessary if there is to be comparability of observations and exchange of knowledge. Here too, pathologists have an important and leading role to play.

L.M. LOOI  
Editor