

EDITORIAL

The Kuala Lumpur Declaration: a commitment to quality research and publication for evidence-based medical practice and policy advice

Lai-Meng LOOI

Editor-in-Chief, Malaysian Journal of Pathology

From 31st August to 3rd September 2012, more than 130 medical editors and editorial personnel from 27 countries converged in Kuala Lumpur to share, discuss, debate and reaffirm the vision and commitments of the Asia Pacific Association of Medical Journal Editors (APAME). The 2012 APAME Convention can be considered a landmark event for medical publication in Malaysia in many ways. It is a sign of maturation in the Malaysian publication arena that local biomedical journal editors, through the newly-formed Association of Malaysian Medical Journal Editors (AMMJE), worked together for the first time to host such an event, sharing their aspirations and collaborating in charting a path for the future of medical publication in the region. The Malaysian Journal of Pathology is proud to have been part of this effort.

During the course of organization of the Convention, it was mooted that a Kuala Lumpur (KL) Declaration would be a welcome outcome. I was tasked with developing this, and consulted with KH Ng (Biomedical Imaging and Intervention Journal), Wilfred Peh (Singapore Medical Journal) and Jose Lapena (Philippine Journal of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery) around various areas of need before settling on the “Promotion of Scholarly Writing Skills and Standards in the Asia-Pacific Region (including SEA)” as the most appropriate for this occasion. This was in cognisance of the responsibility of APAME to help less “developed” countries achieve writing and publication of an acceptable standard before we address more in depth issues like authorship and ethics (not that these are not important).

The first draft of the KL Declaration was a masterpiece by Jose Lapena. It was then circularized to editors and interest groups in APAME, WHO consultants of the Western Pacific and South East Asian Regions, and underwent four minor revisions before it was finally proclaimed on 2nd September at the APAME 2012 convention. The KL Declaration is a serious commitment to fundamental truths, to credible research and publication that will provide the sound basis for medical practice and advice to policy makers. This should be what our Journals, whether general or speciality, stand for.

The KL Declaration is reproduced in this issue of the Journal with permission from APAME.