

The Future of Singapore Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

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Singapore Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (SJOG) is now in the 37th year issue since March 1970 when it started off as The Proceedings of the Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society.¹ It has evolved to its present name 'Singapore Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology' since 1977 (on the 8th year) to accommodate a more expansive role, more than just the deliberations of the society's academic activities. While the origin of its volume issue number can be traced to 1970, its academic origins and the inspiration of the Journal went as far back as 50 years ago to 1956.

The Journal began as the Bulletin of the Kandang Kerbau Hospital (KKH) for Women in March 1956, which published the proceedings of the weekly Clinico-Pathological Seminars held at the Kandang Kerbau Hospital. At that time KKH was the world's largest maternity hospital. These meetings were held in rotation by the two Obstetrical and Gynaecological Units (A and B) and the Paediatric Section of the hospital, largely for the postgraduate students of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. The Unit's Chief acted as Moderator: one of the junior members of the unit presented a case and elaborated on the studies relevant to it.

The first editor of the Bulletin was the late Professor Benjamin Henry Sheares who, in his foreword in the maiden issue, wrote "It is hoped that this Bulletin will fill the needs of postgraduates who are preparing for the higher examinations in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and also that it will find enthusiastic acceptance by other readers who have, perforce, to practice these specialities. It is hoped that it will become not just 'one more journal' but one which will be eagerly awaited and read." This is an admirable objective but has since become a very challenging calling for us, in this era of massive proliferation of paper and electronic literature. Many journals in the world faced problems of lack of sufficient funds, keen readership and supply of good quality articles, more so now than ever.

KK Women's and Children's Hospital has on its own, started and supported a successful peer-reviewed hospital journal "KK Hospital Review" since 1998 (now in the 9th volume in 2006). In addition, earlier (early 1990s) in the old KK Hospital before the shift across Kampong Java Road, there was a hospital series of "KK Review" on O&G matters for a few years. In fact, various hospitals or cluster groups now have their own journals. In Singapore, we have two Medline indexed journals, namely Singapore Medical Journal and the Annals, Academy of Medicine of Singapore. These journals themselves, despite being indexed and web-based, faced strong competition worldwide and regionally in attracting good quality articles.

The Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Singapore's (OGSS) objective is to promote and maintain a high standard in Obstetrics & Gynecology in Singapore and one of the stated constitutional objective is to publish paper and other literature related to Obstetric and Gynecology and allied subjects. The SJOG is also the academic voice of the society. Thus there is this important need to continue with SJOG with support from OGSS members.

For SJOG to survive in the future, it has to evolve in its role, while still maintaining the status of a good-refereed journal. There are 2 important functions for SJOG to perform better. One relates to our members (the O&G and associated community of Singapore) and the other to our postgraduate trainees.

The Journal has to be relevant to the activities and discussions of our members just like when it was "The Proceedings of the Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society." Articles published should be useful to local practice, much akin to the articles in the journal for continuing professional development from the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, "The Obstetrician & Gynaecologist". We hope that OGSS members will actively contribute articles of academic or educational interest for our O&G fraternity in Singapore and the region.

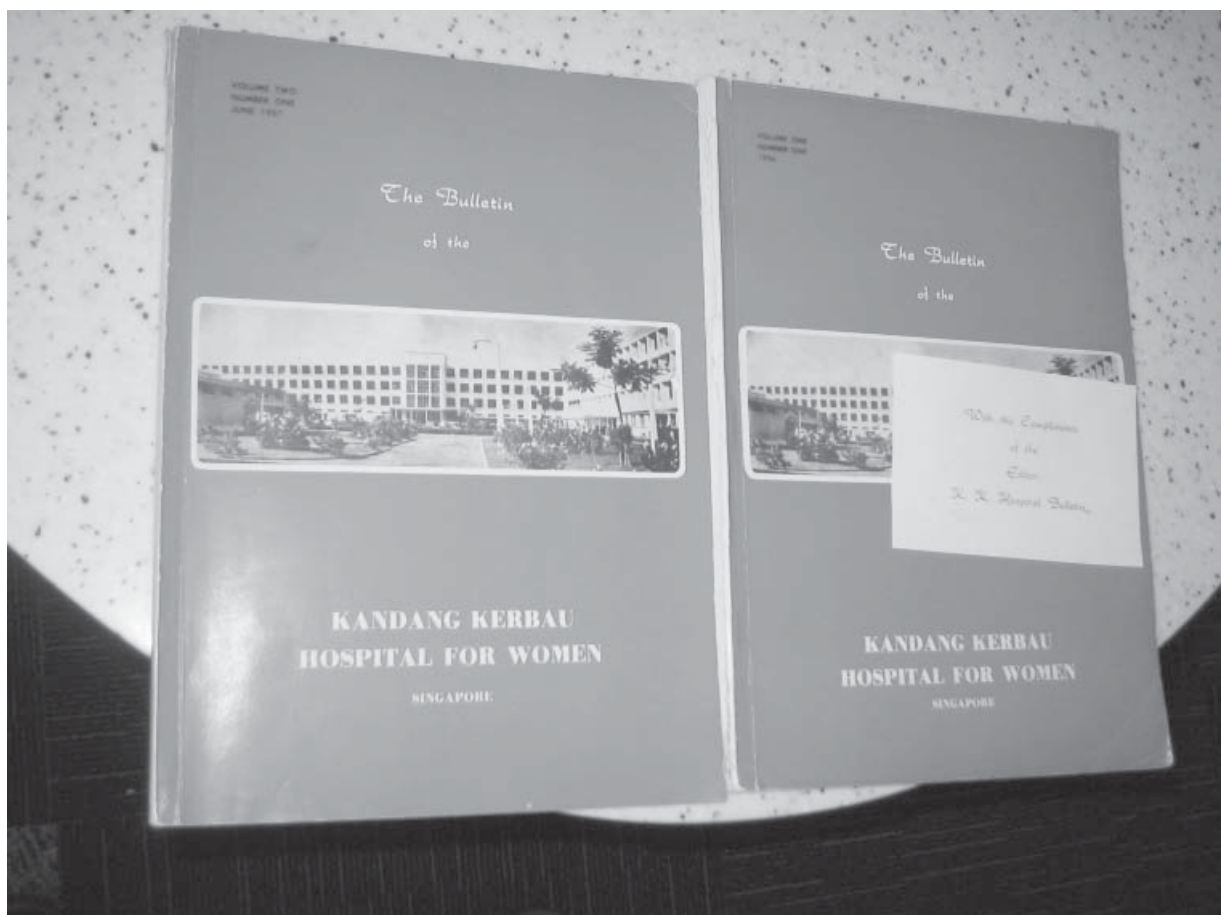
postgraduate trainees similar to past 'Bulletin of the Kandang Kerbau Hospital for Women' where O&G trainees can seek useful relevant information and importantly, SJOG can provide them with opportunity and guidance to publish their academic endeavours. Collaboration with sister organizations (like the College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists Singapore, Perinatal Society of Singapore and the Society for

Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology of Singapore) and various O&G related institutions (including KK Women's and Children's Hospital, Singapore General Hospital and National University Hospital as the training ground for O&G postgraduates) are important in this respect.

It is hoped that this Journal will succeed on these two endeavours.

REFERENCES

1. Loganath A & Vengadasalam D. *The Singapore Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*. In: Tan KH & Tay EH, editors. *The History of Obstetrics & Gynaecology in Singapore*. Obstetrical & Gynaecological Society of Singapore and National Heritage Board, Singapore. P155-158 & P186-187. 2003



The First and Second Issues of Bulletin of the Kandang Kerbau Hospital (KKH) for Women (1956 & 1957)