

Care for the elderly

EDITORIAL

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It is our pleasure to publish the fifth volume of the *Asian Journal of Gerontology and Geriatrics* jointly by the Hong Kong Geriatrics Society and the Hong Kong Association of Gerontology. The Journal will be published twice a year to cater for articles from Hong Kong and overseas, especially in the Asian region. In the past year, we have witnessed an increasing number of articles submitted from scholars around the region. We have also established a website for the Journal for wider dissemination of information about various aspects of ageing and health care for older people.

In the present issue, Chappell and Chou¹ addressed an important aspect of dementia care and its measurement in institutions. With the rapid ageing of population in this region, the number of older people with dementia will increase rapidly, and the need for high quality care is an important area for further development. Valid instruments translated into the Chinese language can help develop the care of older people with dementia in the Chinese societies.

Chan et al² described the development of the Macao Ageing Index. This is an important issue for monitoring the well being of older people through establishing an ageing index to reflect policy development for an ageing society. Further development of such index in different countries can help foster the advance of national policies for older people and is relevant in the Asia Pacific context.

Lou³ described the congruence of health assessment between caregivers and care receivers. It is especially pertinent to health-related areas that can help develop strategies to assist caregivers in coping with the stress and health burdens they face.

Leung et al⁴ addressed the transitional residential care for elderly patients discharged from hospital. They demonstrated the importance of post-hospital care for older people with poor social support who sustain an acute medical catastrophe. A transitional care model can afford enormous relief and help patients recover and relocate back to their own community after a short period of temporary accommodation. Further development of this type of transitional care may help reduce the unnecessary institutionalisation of older people.

References

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