

Editorial

Undergraduate training is an important element in the development and cultivation of any medical doctors, including palliative care physicians. Our Society values this and has thus introduced student membership. Starting from this issue, a 'Student corner' would be added in the newsletter. We hope that the corner would be useful to both the medical students and the graduated. Articles from the medical students are most welcomed and can be sent to our editorial board.

For the training of specialist in Palliative Medicine, palliative medicine grand rounds are held regularly with presentations from trainees and trainers. We have two articles from presentations in these meetings. Dr Michael Sham shares with us his experience in managing manipulative patients while Dr Doris Tse reported on the topic of denial in cancer patients. The dynamics and the dealing with these coping mechanisms are discussed.

For the notes of Palliative Medicine Doctors Meeting, we have variety of articles from physical condition of 'unusual cause of abdominal distension' to articles dealing with 'spiritual suffering and spiritual needs' and 'Meaning of desire for euthanasia in Chinese advanced cancer patients'.

Lastly, we have received news on hospice services in different Asian countries from the Asia Pacific Hospice Network and the article on the hospice service in Japan is put up in this issue. It is very timely as the next Asia Pacific Hospice Conference would be held in Osaka in March 2003. From the article, we have a better idea of the hospice development in Japan and to know Dr Kashiwagi, a leader in palliative care in Japan.