

Editorial

God rest ye merry, gentlemen (and ladies), let nothing you dismay...". It's Christmas time and we are looking forward to a new year coming. The editorial board would like to take this opportunity to give the blessing to all our readers. No matter you are a carer or being cared – May the wounded hearts be healed and be comforted! May the tired and exhausted not to be dismayed! May the busy ones enjoy good rest and to have peace!

The Society also entered into a new year with the newly elected council in the recent annual general meeting. We are pleased to have Dr Doris Tse to be our Chairperson again and there are some old friends retiring and new blood injecting into the council as reported in this issue. In one of the articles, Dr Tse shares with us her personal thoughts, and Dr. Michael Sham shares with us his own collection of photos of Nam Long Hospital.

There are four articles from our regular palliative medicine doctors' meeting. From physical problem of non-healing wound to more psychological concern of middle-aged men's cries, and from the discussion of symptom assessment to prescribing new drugs in the treatment of advanced cancer patients, diversity of interesting topics are elaborated by different authors.

Concerning scientific activities, the Society also creates a new frontier. We are pleased to have our 1st Joint Hong Kong Macau Palliative Care Symposium jointly organized with Kiang Wu Hospital in Macau in January 2004. Members should have already received application invitation and details of the symposium can be found inside this newsletter.

Finally, I would like to thank Dr H M Ma and Dr Frank Sze, who are leaving our editorial board, for their contribution to the newsletter in the past.

Dr. KS Lau, chief editor