

Bringing Up-to-Date Public Health Research to Your Doorstep

With the start of the new decade, the *Journal of Preventive Medicine and Public Health (JPMPH)*, an official journal of the Korean Society for Preventive Medicine, is transforming itself to become an international journal. *JPMPH*, established in 1968 as *Yebang Uihakhoe chi* (Journal of the Korean Society for Preventive Medicine), has served to introduce the latest developments in research, policy, practice, and education in public health to the general scientific community in the region for the past 40 years. In 2004 the journal changed its name to *JPMPH*, targeting a wider audience worldwide. Since then the course has been set to make the journal into an outstanding publication with an international public health impact. The policy to make the journal more accessible to the international research community is strongly supported by its governing board, currently headed by Dr. Heechoul Ohrr, Dean of the Graduate School of Public Health at Yonsei University.

Issues of public health and prevention are no longer contained within or relevant to a particular region. The H1N1 pandemic of 2009 clearly demonstrated to the world and the scientific community that health problems and efforts to control them have an impact across national and continental boundaries. The global population composition is changing, with population aging affecting both the developing and developed countries.

With limited healthcare resources and economic constraints, prevention has taken on a new importance. Recent controversies generated by breast cancer screening have again indicated the need for a systematic presentation of evidence and rapid translation of research into practice. Prevention is at the forefront of public health.

Today's physicians and public health professionals need to keep up-to-date with preventive strategies to tackle new health problems.

The need to foster dissemination of timely information on urgent public health issues is increasing. Epidemiologic research on behavioral, environmental, and genetic risk factors of chronic diseases, development of novel community-based health programs, and evaluation of policies that promote preventive strategies are all vital in advancing the health of the population.

JPMPH will serve as an effective channel to deliver current evidence on research, policy, and practice in public health to the international scientific community. Due to extraordinary leadership of previous editors of *JPMPH* significant progress has been made in raising the standard of publishing in preventive medicine and public health research. I was fortunate to have worked with my predecessor, Dr. Byung-Joo Park at Seoul National University, as an Editorial Board member early in his tenure. During his 6-year stewardship as Editor-in-Chief, publication standards have been raised for *JPMPH*, achieving recognition for quality publishing by the Korean Association of Medical Journal Editors. The journal has also acquired a wider international readership, being indexed in international databases, such as PubMed in 2004.

JPMPH is in the process of renewing its organization and operation to better serve the international scientific community. We have strengthened the group of Associate Editors to include experts in the field of epidemiology, environmental health, and health policy. We have also invited outstanding scientists, both domestic

and abroad, from diverse disciplines to our editorial board. World-renowned researchers in genetic epidemiology, nutrition epidemiology, cancer control behavior, tobacco control, health services research, gerontology, geriatric assessment, occupational medicine, family and reproductive health, life course research, economic evaluation, comparative health systems research, health promotion, health education and work-force training –and the list goes on– have joined our Editorial Board. We have installed the position of Statistical Editors, to help enhance the quality of the analyses and their presentation.

In terms of operation, we are planning to transform the journal into a truly international publication by aiming to publish full text in English by the end of the year. Because effective dissemination of information is critical, we will make the journal more accessible by expanding its open-access system and introducing improvements to its homepage. Currently, about 2 out of 5 unsolicited submissions are rejected. We are known for the high quality reviews by our expert

reviewers. We will continue to require that articles in *JPMPH* abide by rigorous standards of scientific research. To stay current and comprehensive, *JPMPH* will actively seek to publish emerging public health issues, solicit review papers on important topics from international experts, and support submission of evidence-based research findings with practical implications.

I sincerely hope that *JPMPH* will appeal to a higher level of readership. On behalf of our Editorial Board, I welcome constructive criticisms on ways to improve our editorial content to better meet your needs. I would also like to encourage your active participation in the process by contributing quality manuscripts to the journal.

Best wishes for 2010!

Yunhwan Lee, MD, DrPH
Editor-in-Chief