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Embracing Change

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Greetings from the editorial board of *Education in Medicine Journal*. We are most delighted to announce that we are now under the management of Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) Press since January 2016. With this move we have also made some new changes to further improve the standing of the journal. These include a new editorial team, more diverse reviewers and a friendlier submission-to-publication process. We also would like to increase the visibility of the journal internationally and hope these changes will further increase our readership, making it specific to the specialist yet wide enough to the general readers. We also aspire to constantly improve ourselves, from the quality of publications we feature in *Education in Medicine Journal* to the services we provide. One thing which we wish to maintain is the spirit of global knowledge sharing, thus keeping the journal as open access. We believe in knowledge should be free for all to share.

In this issue of the journal, we have brought together more exciting original works. Ahmad Fuad Abdul Rahim and Muhammad Saiful Bahri Yusoff present their findings from Multiple Mini Interviews for potential medical student selection at USM. There are a plethora of methods which has been employed by various medical schools worldwide in selecting the most suitable candidates for their programs. A review General Medical Council United Kingdom showed that MMI, in combination with

other assessment strategies offer a “better” selection approach (1). Although there are various methods available, there is still little concrete evidence to support the best practice. From personal experience, selecting the most academically suitable, although may have an impact, may not necessary result in good doctors. Good doctors are not just about academic excellence but the ability to exercise the human side of medicine. This should be the goal of a good medical program.

Other articles in this series have contributed to this human aspect of medical practice and how we can get better at it. Effective communication is an important aspect of medical practice. In our globalised world, being able to communicate across culture is important in ensuring good practice. In this series, Hani Salem Mohamed Atwa and Asmaa Abdel Nasser present their findings from a pilot study in Jeddah which demonstrated intercultural communication. This is followed by two interesting articles by Muhamad Riduan Daud et al. and Fahisham Taib et al. that showcase palliative care preparedness among medical students and use of reflective diaries in palliative care learning. This is an important aspect of medical student development in the area of insight and empathy, areas which sometimes taken for granted. Some of these skills are difficult to be taught but require the subjects to experience the process followed by guided reflection of those processes.

We at the journal would like to see more diverse approaches to medical education, especially those related to innovative medical teachings. Teachings should be the primary aim of academics and balanced by innovative research to contribute to knowledge. In my personal opinion, medical education has become too commodified, where medical knowledge and teaching have been turned into commodity that can be purchased at a price, with little regards to the quality of those encounters. More needs to be done the quality of the graduates meet the expectation of the society.

We thank all of you for your support and may this new venture with USM Press be a success for all parties.

References

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