

The evolution of the Medical Journal of Malaysia - beyond a century

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INTRODUCTION

The Medical Journal of Malaysia (MJM) is the oldest medical journal not only in Malaysia but also in the region, serving more than 17,000 doctors, and the wider healthcare community. The vision of the MJM is to be the foremost medical journal that promotes the integration of medical research and scholarly publication across South East Asia nations in particular and the world at large. The mission of the MJM is to improve all peoples' lives by assisting and strengthening the capacities of members of the Malaysian Medical Associations (MMA) and Medical Associations of South East Asian Nations (MASEAN) by training and publishing sound scientific articles. MJM is a double-blind peer-reviewed scientific journal. It publishes multidisciplinary manuscripts that seek to advance medical and health sciences research, including all aspects of clinical and preventive medicine; political, economic, environmental social and technological (PEEST) subjects related to medical practice. The journal follows the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) and Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) guidelines with regard to concerning its editorial policies on publication ethics, scientific misconduct, consent and peer review criteria. The aim of this editorial is to record the history of MJM.

History of MJM

In this editorial, we trace the history of the MJM from its inception. The first medical journal ever published in Southeast Asia was the Journal of Straits Medical Association (JStMA). It was the official journal of the Straits Medical Association (StMA) which was established in 1890 [Figure 1(A)]. The StMA was then led by Dr. D. J. Galloway as the President [Figure 2 (A)]², with Dr. W. Gilmore Ellis being the Vice President. The first edition of the journal was under the editorship of Dr. Max F. Simon who was then the principal civil medical officer of the Straits Settlements.³

The journal published the minutes of meetings, rules of the association, reports of the committee and the address by Dr Galloway. There were only three manuscripts in the March–September 1890 issue, on 'Puerperal Eclampsia', 'A case of Syphilitic Coma' and 'A type of Puerperal Fever' in the 48 pages issue. Dr. Max F. Simon dated 21st November 1892 mentioned that nearly all the members of the medical profession in the Straits Settlement which included the whole of the Malay Peninsular had joined as corresponding members of the StMA, which has been recognised as a branch of the British Medical Association (BMA). He stated that a journal may be established which shall contain contributions from all the practitioners in the Malay Peninsula. The headquarters of the association was in Singapore. He hoped

that the journal would become a means of communication between all medical men in the whole Peninsular of Malaya, notes of cases and improved methods of treatment which may be forwarded and received for publication, besides as a record of the proceedings of the association.³

According to the research work by W.S. Tiew (1999) on 'Some Scholarly English Periodicals In Pre-Independent Malaysia: An Historical Overview', he found that the JStMA was one of the earliest Pre-independent Malaysian Scholarly English Periodicals, with the Journal of the Indian Archipelago and Eastern Asia was the first published in 1847, followed by the Journal of Eastern Asia (1875), the Journal of the Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society (1878) and the Agricultural Bulletin of the Malay Peninsula (1891).⁴

The second issue of the JStMA (October 1890–March 1891) was edited by Dr. Max Frank Simon. There were papers on 'Parangi disease', 'Case of Myxoedema', 'Beri-beri to accompany microscopical specimens' with notes of discussion on Beri-beri, notes of cases and a memorandum on Ancylostomiasis in the 36 pages issue. The third issue (April 1891–March 1892) was with a new editor, Dr. W. Gilmore Eliis. There were eight papers including one on Leprosy. According to the editor (in his editorial), the third number of the JStMA was bulkier than the previous issues with 60 pages. The fourth issue of the JStMA (April 1892–March 1893) was edited by Dr. T.S. Kerr. A few interesting papers were papers on 'Disorders of sleep', 'Malarial diarrhea', 'Amok of the Malays', 'Treatments of sciatica' and 'Ulcerative tuberculous of the lobe of the ear' in a 75-page issue.

The fifth issue of the JStMA (April 1893–December 1894) with 17 scientific papers was the period of the transaction of the StMA until the end of 1894, which thereafter became a branch of the BMA. Interesting papers include topics on 'Acromegaly' and 'Spinal concussion' and a paper on unqualified practice in Singapore were published in the 158-page issue. It was noted in the minutes of the regular monthly meeting on 4th November 1893 that Dr. Middleton, the secretary, reported that 15 out of the 23 circulars sent to members not residing in Singapore indicated their willingness to join the BMA, with two expressing unwillingness. In the annual general meeting dated 16th December 1893, it was unanimously agreed that the secretary should draw up the necessary requisition of joining the BMA. The annual subscription of the journal was fixed at \$9 with \$3 as the annual subscription to the branch. All the papers in the issues were discussed in the monthly meeting prior to the publications.⁵ All the first five volumes were printed by the Government Printing Office in Singapore.

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On 1st January 1894, the StMA was admitted as a branch of BMA, known as the Malaya Branch of the British Medical Association (MBBMA).⁶ In their regular monthly meeting held on 6th May 1894, a committee was formed to draft new rules and by-laws for the purpose of transmission to the branch organisation committee of the BMA. The membership of the new entity was 38 members. The publication of the JStMA was discontinued following the formation of this new entity.⁶

By 1910, half of 215 registered medical practitioners in British Malaya including Singapore joined the association.⁷ The revival of the journal with a new name, the Journal of the MBBMA, occurred in 1904 [Figure 1B(i)]⁸. The news was published in the Straits Times on 29th June 1904. Dr. J. Kirk, as the chairman of the editorial committee, along with the assistance of Dr. McDowell, who established the local branch of the BMA, ensured the journal's reappearance with greater regularity in its issues. Articles on topics such as dengue fever by Dr. More and malarial fever by Dr. Galloway were considered relevant at that time. The second volume was published in 1905. These two volumes were printed by the Pinang Gazette Press Ltd, located in Penang, Malaya.

The third volume (Session 1905–1906 and January 1907) of the Journal of the MBBMA was published. The 118-page volume contained the minutes of the Council of the Malay Branch 1904 and 1905, minutes of meetings of the Singapore division for 1905 and 1906, the report of the Medical Registration Bill Committee and 14 other papers. [Figure 1B(ii)]⁹. However, due to insufficient contributions and editorial issues, the journal could not sustain its publication in 1907.

The journal was revived in January 1911 as the Malaya Medical Journal (MMJ). It was considered as the IX volume (previously five volumes as the JStMA and three volumes as the Journal of the MBBMA). Dr. Gilbert E Brooke was the editor with his last issue in October 1912 [Figure 1C(i)]¹⁰ and 1C(ii)]¹¹. The journal was the organ of the MBBMA and the Malaya Branch of the Far Eastern Association of Tropical Medicine. There were a total of two volumes, each consisting of four parts. The first volume, which was published in 1911, includes a 74-page January issue, a 66-page April issue, a 97-page July issue and a 74-page October issue. The second volume, which was published in 1912, includes a 68-page January issue, a 58-page May issue, a 34-page August issue and a 48-page October issue. The two volumes were printed by the Methodist Publishing House in Singapore [Price \$4.00 per annum (\$2.00 to BMA members), Single copies \$1.00].

He was replaced by Dr. J.W. Scharff in 1922, and the journal was given a new name, the Transactions of the MBBMA, with 56 pages.⁷ Dr. J.W. Scharff served as the editor until 1923. For the subsequent twelve volumes issued between January 1926 and March 1937, the journal was renamed as the Malayan Medical Journal, by the MBBMA. There were four editors, namely Dr. T.S. Macaulay (1926), Dr. J.R. Kayo-Mouat (1927), Dr. G.H. Macalister (1928-1929) and Dr. G.V. Allen (1930-1937) for those issues [Figure 2(B)]¹².

On 17th December 1926, the quarterly MMJ was officially adopted as the official organ of the MBBMA. There were six

original articles in its first January–December 1926 issue, covering topics such as 'Epidemic Jaundice', 'Leptospirosis', 'A system of Intelligence as a Handmaiden of Hygiene', 'Occupational Cancer with Special Reference to the Industries of Malaya', 'Epithelioma adenoidescysticum' and 'An experiment with Paris Green as an Anopheles ludlowaelarvicide'. A special obituary notice of the late Miss Elizabeth Fletcher, Matron of the General Hospital, Singapore was published too. The subscription rate was six dollars per annum. The managing headquarters was located in Kuala Krai, Kelantan.¹³

The MMJ reverted to its previous name, the Journal of the MBBMA for its five volumes of quarterly publications between 1937 and 1941 [Figure 1D(i)]¹⁴ and 1D(ii)]¹⁵. The Advertising & Publicity Bureau Ltd, Singapore was the printing company of the journal. A supplementary issue of the Journal of the MBBMA was published in June 1941 which consisted of the names of Asiatic members.¹⁶ A study done by Teng et al in 2019 showed that out of five medical journals published in pre-independence British Malaya from 1890 to 1941, the MMJ published 59.5% of the articles.¹⁷

There was no publication during World War II. However, following World War II with the return of the British to Malaya and Singapore, the journal reappeared as the Medical Journal of Malaya under the same association, the MBBMA, from 1946 to 1959. The journal was printed by the Young Advertising & Marketing Ltd, Singapore. The first two volumes published between 1946 and 1947 were under Dr. D.W.G. Faris as the editor, while Dr. D.E.C. Mekie was the editor for the subsequent seven volumes published between 1948 and 1954. Dr. H.M. McGladdery was the next editor for the 11th volume (September 1956) through the 15th volume (2nd issue in December 1960).

The close relationship between MBBMA and BMA can be observed in a correspondence published on 8th January 1949 in its parent journal, the British Medical Journal (BMJ). The correspondence was written by Dr. Webb Johnson, the President of the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund regarding gift parcels sent by MBBMA.¹⁸ However in 1958, the situation changed. In November 1958, medical doctors in both the Federation of Malaya and Singapore decided to withdraw from the MBBMA and established a new entity, the Malayan Medical Association. On 5th November 1958, an article was published in the Straits Times, stating that 'the 1,500 doctors in Singapore and Federation will be holding their inaugural meeting of the Malayan Medical Association on 10th November 1958'. A draft of the constitution with 13 items was introduced.¹⁹ However, the drafted constitution of the Malayan Medical Association was rejected by the Malaya Registrar of Societies (ROS) as reported in the Straits Times dated 7th March 1959. The rejection was on the grounds that doctors from both the Federation of Malaya and Singapore were considered separate political entities before the formation of Malaysia and a single association could not represent doctors in both territories.²⁰

The Malayan Medical Association appealed against the decision, arguing that the association is a professional, non-political body and political objections should therefore not impede the formation of a pan-Malayan organisation for



Fig. 1: A: First edition of the Journal of Straits Medical Association March–September 1890; B(i): The front page of the Journal of the Malaya Branch of the BMA session 1904–1905; B(ii): The contents of the Volume 3: Session 1905–1906 of the Journal of the Malaya Branch of the BMA; C (i): The front page of the Malaya Medical Journal, January 1911, Vol IX. Part 1; C (ii): The front page of the Malaya Medical Journal, January 1912, Vol X. Part 1; D (i): The content page of the Journal of the Malaya Branch of the British Medical Association, Volume II, No. 4 (1st March 1939); D(ii): Front page of the Journal of the Malaya Branch of the British Medical Association, Volume 3, No. 3 (December 1939); E(i): Index page of the Medical Journal of Malaya, Volume 11, September 1956–June 1957; E(ii): Front page of the Medical Journal of Malaya, Volume 12, No. 2 December 1957; E(iii): Index page of the Medical Journal of Malaya, Volume 14, September 1959–June 1960; E(iv): Front page of the Medical Journal of Malaya, Volume 15, No.2 December 1960; F(i) Front page of the Medical Journal of Malaysia, Volume 47, Issue 3 September 1992; F(ii) Front page of the Medical Journal of Malaysia, Volume 59, Issue 2 June 2004; F(iii) Front page of the Medical Journal of Malaysia, Volume 64, Issue 1 March 2009

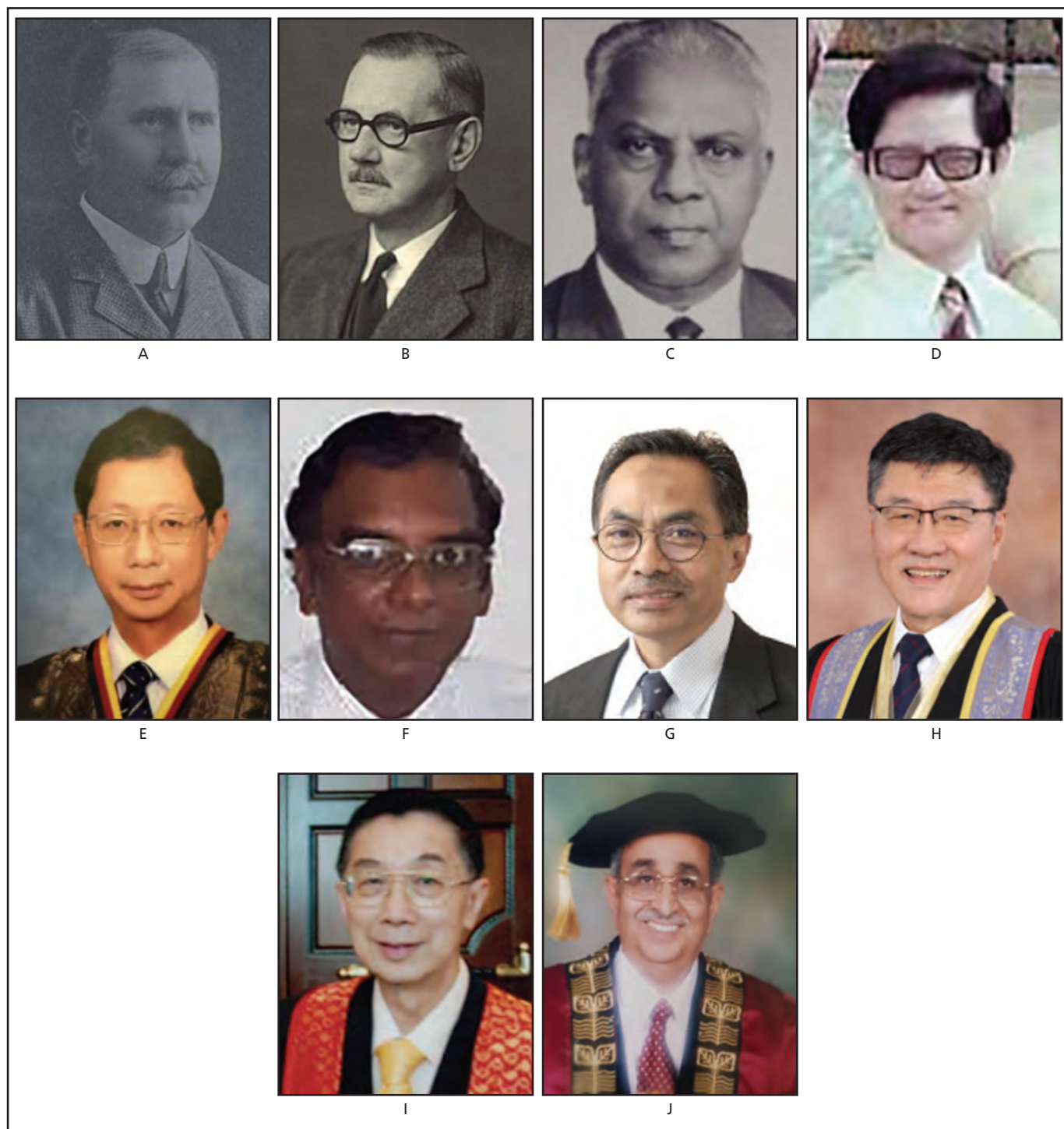
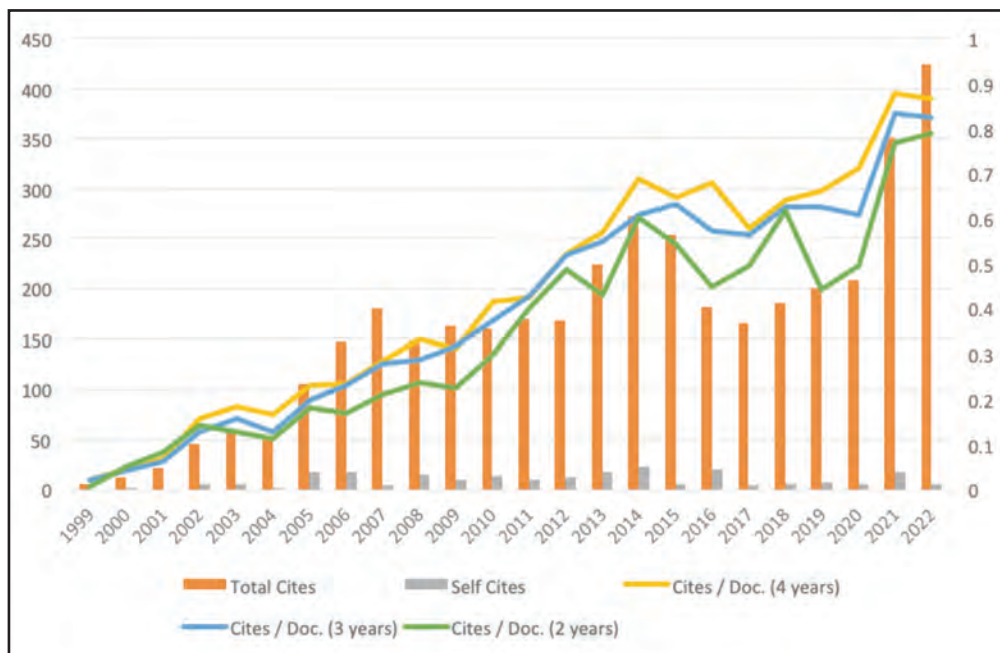


Fig. 2: (A): Dr. David James Galloway; (B): Dr. George Vance Allen; (C): Dr. A. A. Sandosham; (D): Dr. Paul C.Y. Chen; (E): Dr. Victor K.E. Lim; (F): Dr. John T. Arokiasamy; (G): Dr. Azhar M. Zain; (H): Dr. K.G. Lim; (I): Dr. Khoo Kah Lin; (J): Professor Datuk Dr. Lekhraj Rampal



*Bar graphs using left vertical axis and line graphs using right vertical axis
Source: Scimago Journal & Country Rank

Fig. 3: The Medical Journal of Malaysia Metrics 1999–2022.

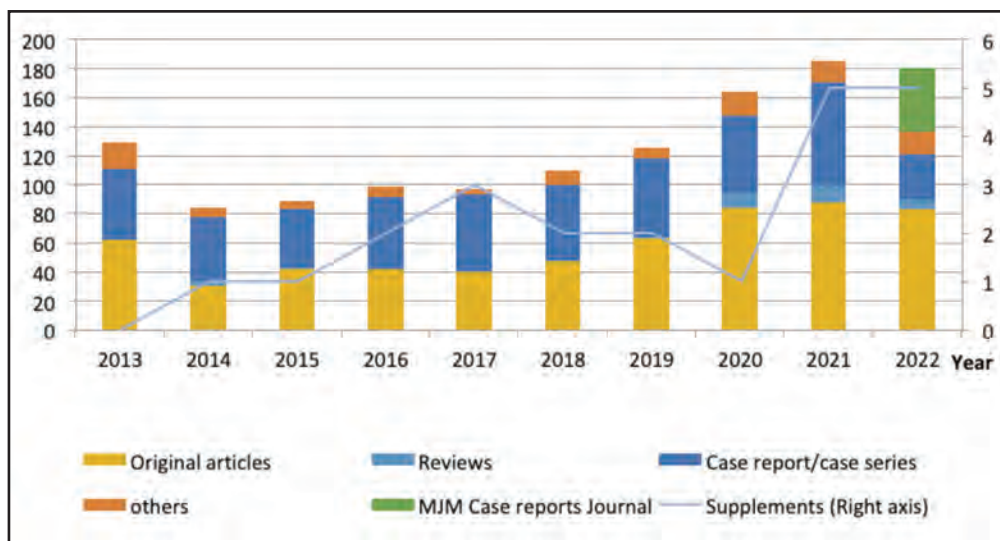


Fig. 4: The Medical Journal of Malaysia: Number of articles according to the types of articles and number of supplements in 2013–2022 (including the new 2022 MJM Case Reports journal).

doctors. On 2nd July 1959, the Federation Government again turned down the request of 1500 doctors in the Federation and Singapore to register their newly formed Malayan Medical Association. The decision was made by Mr. J. G. Adams, the Registrar of Trade Union and Societies, based on the Federation's interest in having a Federation body with Federation citizens as officials.²¹

The Straits Times, dated 4th August 1959, reported that 'The oldest medical organisation in Malaya, the MBBMA, which is

more than 50 years old, will be dissolved soon'. The last president of the association was Dr. A.W.S. Thevathasan.²² On 31st August 1959, news regarding the formation of a new medical association, the Singapore Medical Association (SMA) was reported. On 15th September 1959, the new association took over the functions of the present Alumni Association of the King Edward VII College of Medicine and the Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, as well as the British Medical Centre. This news was announced by Dr. V. Thambipillai, the President of the Alumni Association. He

Table I: Information on Pre- and Current volumes of the Medical Journal of Malaysia, 1890– Present

Name of the journal	Labeled volume (cumulative volume)	Published month, year	Editor/Honorary Editor/ Editor-In-Chief [Issue]
Journal of Straits Medical Association ^a	1,2 (2) 3 (3) 4,5 (5)	Mar,1890–Mar,1891 Apr,1891–Mar,1892 Apr,1892–Dec,1894	Dr. Max Simon Dr. W. Gilmore Ellis Dr. T. S. Kerr
Journal of the Malaya Branch of the British Medical Association ^b	1-3 (8)	1904–Jan,1907	Dr. J. Kirk
Malaya Medical Journal ^b	9,10 (10)	Jan,1911–Oct,1912	Dr. Gilbert E Brooke
The transaction of the Malaya Branch of the British Medical Association ^b	(11)	1922–1923	Dr. J.W. Scharff
Malayan Medical Journal ^b	(12)	Jun,1926–Mar,1927	Dr. J.W. Scharff [1,2]; Dr. T.S. Macaulay [3,4]
	(13) (14,15)	Jun,1927–Mar,1928 Jun,1928–Mar,1930	Dr. J.R. Kayo-Mouat Dr. G.H. Macalister
	(16-23)	Jun,1930–Mar,1937	Dr. G.V. Allen
The Journal of the Malaya Branch of the British Medical Association ^b	(23-28)	Jun,1937–Mar,1942	
The Medical Journal of Malaya ^b	1,2 (29,30) 3–10 (31-38) 11-13 (39-41)	Sep,1946–Jun,1948 Sep,1948–Jun,1956 Sep,1956–Jun,1959	Dr. D.W.G. Faris Dr. D.E.C. Mekie Dr. H.M. McGladdery
The Medical Journal of Malaya ^c	14-18 (42-46) 19 (46)	Sep,1959–Jun,1964 Sep,1964–Jun,1965	Dr. H.M. McGladdery Dr. H.M. McGladdery [1,2]; Dr. A.A. Sandosham [3,4]
	20-26 (47-53)	Sep,1965–Jun,1972	Dr. A.A. Sandosham
The Medical Journal of Malaysia ^d	27-30 (48-57) 31 (58)	Sep,1972–Jun,1976 Sep,1976–Jun,1977	Dr. A.A. Sandosham Dr. A.A. Sandosham [1-3]; Dr. Paul C.Y. Chen [4]
	32-41 (59-68) 42-45 (69-72) 46-53 (73-80) 54-63 (81-90) 64,65 (91, 92) 66,67 (93,94) 68 (95)	Sep,1977–Dec,1986 Mar,1987–Dec,1990 Mar,1991–Dec,1998 Mar,1999–Dec,2008 Mar,2009–Dec,2010 Feb,2011–Dec,2012 Feb,2013–Dec,2013	Dr. Paul C.Y. Chen Dr. N. Chandrasekharan Dr. Victor K.E. Lim Dr. John T. Arokiasamy Dr. Azhar M. Zain Dr. K.G. Lim Dr. K.G. Lim [1-3]; Dr. Khoo Kah Lin [4-6]
	69 (96) 70-78*(97-105)	Feb,2014–Dec,2014 Feb,2015–present	Dr. Khoo Kah Lin Dr. Lekhraj Rampal

Publishers of journal: ^aStraits Medical Association; ^bBritish Medical Association Malaya Branch; ^cMalayan Medical Association; ^dMalaysian Medical Association; *Until the 2023 issue

also mentioned the formation of a similar body, the Malayan Medical Association, in the Federation.²³

Two medical associations were formed to replace the MBBMA: the SMA on 15th September 1959, and the Malayan Medical Association on 24th October 1959. Both medical associations were affiliated with the BMA, based in London. Since then, the Medical Journal of Malaya has been under the Malayan Medical Association and has been handled by the same editor, Dr. H.M. McGladdery, until 1965 [Figure 1E(i), 1E(ii) and 1E(iii)].

The SMA established its own medical journal, the Singapore Medical Journal (SMJ), in 1960.²⁴ The SMJ published an article entitled 'Galloway Memorial Lecture' which was written by Dr. J.W. Scharff in 1960. In that article, it was stated that 'Sir Dr. David Galloway was the first president of the Straits Medical Association in 1890. Four years later, he became the president of the newly formed MBBMA. He passed away on 5th March 1943 at the age of 85 years old'.²⁵

Dr. A.A. Sandosham was the first Malaysian to serve as the editor for the Medical Journal of Malaya, appointed by the

Malayan Medical Association, from 1965 until [Figure 2(C)]²⁶. A total of three volumes, spanning from the 3rd issue of the volume XXIV to the 4th issue of the volume XXVI, were under the editorship of Dr. A.A. Sandosham. The Straits Times Press (S) Sendirian Berhad, Thomson Road, Singapore was the printing company of the journal.

In 1972, following the formation of Malaysia in 1963, the journal was renamed as the Medical Journal of Malaysia (MJM) in September 1972, following the renaming of the Malayan Medical Association to Malaysia Medical Association (MMA) (Table I). Dr. A.A. Sandosham continued as the honorary editor of the MJM. He was replaced by Dr. Paul C.Y. Chen, the honorary editor for the 4th issue of the 31st volume, in June 1977 [Figure 2(D)].

In the 1st issue of the 37th volume of the MJM, published in March 1982, the honorary editor, Dr. Paul C.Y. Chen wrote an editorial titled 'The medical journal of Malaysia: Past and Future'. In the editorial, which marks the journal's 92nd year, he stated that 'the MJM is the leading medical journal in the region. To maintain the highest level of editorial and medical writing, the journal has acquired the part-time services of an

executive assistant, tasked with assisting in maintaining the difficult and meticulous editorial policy of the Journal'. During his tenure as the honorary editor, the journal faced financial problems as the cost of publication continued to rise.²⁷

In 1987, the first BMA Congress was held in Kuala Lumpur to recognise the MMA as one of the former overseas branches of BMA. Despite the fact that MMA was an independent association in sovereign states, the BMA Congress helped to maintain the old ties and create new ones.²⁸ Dr. N. Chandrasekharan was the honorary editor from 1987 until 1990. He was replaced by Dr. Victor K.E. Lim in 1990 [Figure 2(E)]. The second article on the history of the MJM was published in 1995.²⁹ Dr. John T. Arokiasamy [Figure 2(F)] served as the next honorary editor from 1999 until 2008 and was subsequently replaced by Dr. Azhar M. Zain. [Figure 2(G)]. Dr. K.G. Lim [Figure 2(H)] took over the helm from Dr. Azhar M. Zain in 2011.

In 2011, the Honorary Editor at that time, Dr. Lim Kean Ghee wrote an editorial for the 66th volume of the MJM entitled 'The Medical Journal of Malaysia: Its History and Its Mission'.³⁰ The first volume is considered to date back to the publication of the Medical Journal of Malaya in 1946. However, according to him, the Medical Journal of Malaysia can claim 121 years of history based on the heritage of the forerunning medical associations such as the StMA, which was established in 1890.³⁰ The appearance of the MJM has been changing over years (Figure 1).

Dr. K.G. Lim's tenure as the Honorary Editor ended after the 3rd issue of the 68th volume. Dr. Khoo Kah Lin [Figure 2(I)] replaced him and served until the end of 2014 (Table I). His position as the Honorary Editor was taken over by Dr. Lekhraj Rampal in 2015. At the annual General Meeting of the Malaysian Medical Association in 2019, the post of Honorary Editor was changed to Editor in Chief. Dr. Lekhraj Rampal has been serving as the EIC of the MJM from 2015 and remains the EIC at the present tenure. A summary of all the previous and current versions of MJM and its editors, honorary editors and EICs are shown in Table I.

In 2019, the EIC, Professor Datuk Dr. Lekhraj Rampal informed the Editorial Board Members, that the time was now ripe for moving to the next level. He stated that steps need to be taken to improve the quality and quantity and its impact factor on the health sector. MJM editorial board needs to identify the bottlenecks and remove them. During the period 2019/2021, bottlenecks were identified and removed to ensure better quality and quantity. Articles that were accepted were published in the next issue. The staff was replaced. Criteria were set for applicants to join the in as editors. Younger members were admitted as Editorial Board members. They had to apply and meet certain criteria. In 2021, the Editorial Board decided to separate the MJM into two journals, namely, the Medical Journal of Malaysia and the Medical Journal of Malaysia Case Reports (MJM Case Reports). This policy change explained by Prof Rampal was that the case reports were not well cited and the journal citation index was being affected.

The first volume of the MJM without case reports was volume 77, issue no. 4, published in July 2022. However, the need for a separate journal for case reports was felt for the training of young doctors. The policy to have a separate journal for case reports was approved in the Annual General Meeting of the MMA. The first issue of MJM Case Reports was published in August 2022 with a new International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) 2948-3859. It contained 22 articles. It is being published regularly, three issues per year. Case reports represent a relevant form of advancing medical scientific knowledge, especially of rare diseases or conditions. They are important learning resources for doctors. They are usually the first encounter that trainees or residents will have in their early careers. It serves also as a platform for them to write and learn the techniques of scientific writing.

MJM: The way forward

Currently, in 2023, with the 78th volume, we are also celebrating 133rd years anniversary of the journal since the publication of its first version of the JStMA in 1890. Over one century, we have covered many milestones. The most noted is that of sustainability and an increased number of scientific manuscripts published in each volume.

The MJM continues to provide a scientific platform for medical doctors and scientists to contribute new knowledge which leads to better healthcare for the population. The reviewing and editing of our medical journal have been conducted on a voluntary basis by the medical fraternity. The MJM follows the COPE Guidelines and a double-blind peer review system. From initially being only the printed version, the MJM has since 2010 been made available online with free access. The MJM can be accessed at the uniform resource locator <http://www.e-mjm.org>.³¹ The availability of archives of previous issues from 1980 was made available in 2013.³² In 2020, under the leadership of the EIC, Professor Datuk Dr. Lekhraj Rampal, he and his team have performed rigorous searches for the availability of non-digitised issues of the MJM. Those issues from 1979 were first made available online in December 2020. Most of the past issues from 1960 were made available online in February 2022. The MJM is currently indexed in MEDLINE, EMBASE, PubMed and Scopus. The MJM is now moving forward to be indexed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) and Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE).

MJM SCImago Journal Rank (SJR) h-index is 39 (Q3) in 2023.³³ The Medical Journal of Malaysia Metrics 1999–2022 in the SJR website shows a positive linear correlation coefficient between year and number of citations per document. The same correlation was shown between the year and the total citations with almost zero linear correlation coefficient between year and self-citation. These figures indicate that the increasing number of total citations was not due to self-citation with the number of self-citations remaining low over the past 23 years in the MJM (Figure 3). Abrizah reported that MJM was one of the Malaysian medical journals with the highest h-index score based on the Malaysian Medical Journals Indexed in MyCite in 2015 report.³⁴ There has been an increasing trend of original articles being submitted to the MJM. Despite the separation of case reports and case series from the MJM, there have been encouraging numbers of publications in the MJM Case

Reports. The number of proceedings from meetings held in Malaysia has been encouraging due to its high prestige (Figure 4).

CONCLUSION

The MJM has evolved from its initial publications of variously named as the Journal of Straits Medical Association in 1890, Journal of the Malaya Branch of the BMA session in 1904, the Malaya Medical Journal in 1911, the Medical Journal of Malaya in 1946 and the current MJM since 1972. MJM has been served by 22 editors since its inception in 1890. Currently, in 2023, with the 78th volume, we are also celebrating 133 years anniversary of the journal since the publication of its first version of the JStMA in 1890. Over one century, we have covered many milestones. The most noted is that of sustainability, an increased number of scientific manuscripts published, the number of issues each year and increased citations. The MJM is now the journal of choice among clinical researchers in Malaysia to publish their research findings and is one of the most cited medical journals published in Malaysia. It has marched forward to ensure the MJM remains as an open-access journal with its e-version with limited copies of the printed form. The MJM continues to improve the lives of all people by assisting and strengthening the capacities of clinicians, academicians, practitioners and scientists by publishing sound scientific articles.

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