

# Evolution of Asian Journal of Ophthalmology

As a vehicle for Asian ophthalmologists to publish local research results and to exchange their knowledge, skills, and ideas, the Asian Journal of Ophthalmology (AsianJO) was established in 1998. In 2003, AsianJO became the recognised journal of the South East Asia Glaucoma Interest Group (SEAGIG). This evolution to the status of official voice of a growing and energetic regional glaucoma organisation required parallel evolution of the Journal's goals, strategies, structure, and processes.

To improve understanding of the glaucomas and related diseases, their mechanisms, causes, diagnosis, investigation, and management throughout our region and beyond, thus contributing to improvements in management at both individual patient and community and society levels, the Journal's objectives are now:

- to disseminate new information
- to report educational activities thus extending their reach
- to publish the results of research projects
- to work closely with researchers and clinicians in Asia and worldwide
- to provide a forum for younger and perhaps less experienced researchers to present their results as Original Articles within an international platform
- to promote relationships with any organisation and institution with similar goals.

Changes to strategies and structure include working towards indexing in Medline, creating a more academic layout with an attractive reader-friendly format, expanding the Editorial Board, including the appointment of Professor Prin RojanaPongpun (Thailand) as Deputy Editor to join our Editor-in-Chief Professor Paul Chew (Singapore), enhancing robust peer-review processes, further developing the Journal's website and linking it with that of SEAGIG, aligning the goals of the Journal more closely with those of SEAGIG itself, and making contact with the various ophthalmic and glaucoma societies in Asia to improve collaboration and cooperation.

Timing for these developments could not be better. New technologies for diagnosis and treatment have increased exponentially for the glaucomas during the past decade. Ophthalmology in general and glaucoma in particular have witnessed rapid change, no more so than in the Asia-Pacific region, where disease patterns and health care infrastructure and resources differ greatly, both within the region itself and from those in Europe and the USA. Knowledge of the epidemiology of the various types of glaucoma in our region and, in particular, understanding of optimal management of angle closure has increased hugely, permitting the publication of the Asia-Pacific Glaucoma Guidelines in 2003 to 2004 (available at [www.seagig.org/apgg.html](http://www.seagig.org/apgg.html)) and the rapid evolution of SEAGIG in partnership with the Asian Oceanic Glaucoma Society (AOGS) led by Professors Yoshiaki Kitazawa (Japan) and Por T Hung (Taiwan).

SEAGIG has incorporated and has elected Office Bearers and a Board representative of the countries in our region, with portfolios including educational strategies and development of resources for prevention of glaucoma-induced visual disability, as well as biannual scientific meetings alternating with those of the AOGS. The AsianJO is an integral part of these developing educational strategies and resources. All these developments require financial support to enable them and to facilitate them. Pfizer Ophthalmics (previously Pharmacia) has been the supporter of AsianJO since its inception and has been joined by many other pharmaceutical, instrument, and educational companies (most notably, Allergan and Alcon) in their support of SEAGIG and AOGS. This past support has been indispensable and is most gratefully acknowledged. Ongoing support is vital if the organisation and the Journal are to survive and to thrive.

Both AsianJO and SEAGIG urge existing sponsors to renew and to strengthen their relationships with us by becoming official corporate members of SEAGIG and of AsianJO. We warmly invite potential sponsors to become partners with us. Similarly, we enthusiastically invite glaucoma subspecialists, ophthalmologists, all eye care workers, and fellow medical practitioners, health care administrators, trainees, and any individuals, corporations, and institutions keen to support our noble goals to join with us to reduce what should be preventable visual disability from the glaucomas.

We can be proud of how much we have achieved together so far; the challenges ahead beckon us. Our patients and our communities urge us onwards. If we pull together, there should be no limit to what we can conquer.

Ivan Goldberg  
President  
South East Asia Glaucoma Interest Group