

### JMAJ to serve as a global platform

Papers published in the JMAJ consist of policy and activity reports presenting the position of the Japan Medical Association, international reports for colleagues such as members of the Confederation of Medical Associations in Asia and Oceania (CMAAO) and World Medical Association (WMA), and various domestic reports from medical professionals providing fundamental and up-to-the-minute information on health care issues or fostering international readers' understanding of the Japanese health care system. We aim to publish indispensable content that cannot be found in other journals.

In this issue, a brief review by Yasuki Kobayashi entitled "Five Decades of Universal Health Insurance Coverage in Japan" presents one aspect of the complicated health insurance system in Japan investigated by a prominent Japanese academic, although it does not contain references to the activities and long-term contributions of members of the JMA to the establishment and maintenance of Japan's health system. It seems that such efforts and contributions tend

to be overlooked.

This issue also contains two interesting papers from international contributors: one about the activities of the Hong Kong Medical Association, and the other about Ethiopia's health system development. I would like to give a special mention to a paper entitled "Can National Medical Association Journals Make Greater Contributions to Global Health?" by Mieko Hamamoto, one of our editorial staff. This paper is the culmination of Ms. Hamamoto's research as part of the Takemi International Program at the Harvard School of Public Health, and was made possible through the cooperation of national medical associations in CMAAO and the WMA.

Individual papers published in the JMAJ do not necessarily reflect the JMA's position. I am more than willing for the JMAJ to serve as a platform for our medical colleagues not only in Japan but also in Asia and throughout the world.

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