

## Editorial

Like all other disciplines in medicine, the progress of dermatology has made a big leap forward since last decade. This is fuelled with advances in scientific researches and new insights gathered from various clinical trials. Despite all these, the role of accurate bedside observation cannot be overemphasized. The importance of diagnostic acumen remains a cornerstone in the practice of clinical dermatology, and this will certainly prevail in the next few decades.

In this issue, we are honoured to have Dr Ng's contribution. She describes an alopecia condition which is probably underappreciated. Frontal fibrosing alopecia, as the name implies, carries a high scarring potential. Either a delay in diagnosis or suboptimal medical treatment will ensure a permanent baldness. Those who are affected will have irreversible hair loss over frontal scalp region, eyebrows, and eyelashes. The sequelae of untreated disease are therefore easily spotted upon daily encounters. One could imagine the psychological burden and social stigma that come along with the disease. In most cases, the challenge mainly lies in the degree of therapeutic success. Here in her original work, Dr Ng critically reviews the role of finasteride in this somewhat nasty condition. Her writing is fully packed with gems and practice tips. A must read in this issue!

Dr Leung has caught us off guard with her recent encounter. She reported a potentially lethal condition which could take on various clinical phenotypes. A high index of suspicion plus early biopsy constitutes the key step in the medical

management. Multi-disciplinary care is considered the standard nowadays. You will be amazed by the Dr Leung's writing style, and all the nicely taken photomicrographs by the reporting pathologist.

The original article accompanying this issue worths mentioning. Dr Yong, Dr Han and their co-authors describe a case series of graft-versus-host disease, an important entity in stem cell transplant recipients from their home country. It will be fruitful to bear in mind such condition, especially when your practice is hospital-based or involves collaboration with haematologists or bone marrow transplant unit. Graft-versus-host disease is notoriously difficult to diagnose and manage.

Last but not the least, our editorial board is obliged to say goodbye to late Professor Stephen Lee, an Australian-based doctor who was born and grown up in Hong Kong. His contributions to the discipline of dermatology are invaluable. As you browse through our archive you would appreciate how dedicated Professor Lee was as an academic dermatologist.

I sincerely hope that the quality writings we cherry-picked would bring you hours of joyful reading and reflections. On behalf of the editorial board, I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. See you again in year 2024!

**HF Cheng**  
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