First, I would like to congratulate the members of the Korean Society of Menopause (KSM); honorary presidents; current president Tak Kim, MD, PhD; editor-in-chief Jung Ryeol Lee, MD, PhD; and editorial board members for their hard work and dedication to our journal.

Our journal constantly competes with both domestic and international journals to improve its quality, which may often be overlooked or unseen by others. As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Journal of Menopausal Medicine (JMM), I would like to briefly talk about the history of the JMM.

The JMM published its first issue (Volume 1, Number 1) under the name “Journal of Korean Society of Menopause” (JKSM) in 1996. Since its first issue, the JMM has consistently maintained its publication schedule without a single break. In 1996, because our country (Korea) lacked a proper national system or guidelines, articles that were submitted had to be reviewed by revising and printing manuscripts written on square manuscript paper. It is certain that, without the sacrifices and efforts of the early honorary presidents, editorial board members, and professors and researchers in menopausal medicine who had to endure these difficult circumstances, the journal would not have made it this far. Once again, I would like to thank the hardworking people who spared no efforts to ensure that the journal made systematic progress with each passing year.

Reading the various articles published in the JKSM, it can be stated with pride that the journal, from its early days, contained world-class literature worthy of global attention. These early articles would be considered valuable sources of information even by today’s standards. Because the articles used to be written in the Korean language and did not contain any English translations, however, the early works in the JKSM were not recognized by the international community of medical doctors.

Immediately after the publication of the JKSM’s first issue in 1996, there was a massive transformation in menopause medicine, starting in 1998. Unfortunately, as famous journals in the field, such as Maturitas, Menopause, and Climacteric, began to publish pessimistic research (HERS/WHI) on menopausal hormone therapy (MHT), not only did MHT prescriptions drastically decrease but the number of physicians, researchers, and physician-scientists dedicated to the menopause field also significantly declined. Even today, 20 years after this series of events, the reputation of the field has not recovered [1].

Due to the creation of the KoreaMed and Korea Citation Index (KCI) lists of accredited journals as well as the formation of the Korean Federation of Science and Technology Societies (KOFST) for providing
support to academic journals, the 21st century has turned into an era of constant, perpetual competition, leading to rapid expansion in the domestic journal system.

Since 2010, thanks to the JMM’s contributions to improving domestic journals, the current system has improved and developed without much difficulty.

After the JMM was added to the KoreaMed list of accredited journals, it soon became a KCI candidate journal in 2011 and became eligible for support from the KOFST in 2012. In 2013, following its switch from Korean to English, the journal adopted its present name, the JMM, and quickly achieved international recognition. Later, by joining PubMed/PubMed Central in 2015 as part of its efforts to reach a global audience, the journal finally became accessible to many international researchers. Furthermore, in 2015, it became part of the KCI list of accredited journals. Although it has not made it into the SCOPUS list of accredited journals yet, following further improvements in the system, I eagerly hope that the JMM will someday soon be included in more lists of accredited journals, such as the list of journals indexed by Scopus, and Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI), and Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE) so that it may stand alongside other top journals worldwide.

Once again, I would like to congratulate the members of the KSM, present and honorary presidents of the KSM, editor-in-chief, editorial board members, and MEDrang publisher. I hope that this wonderful team continues to contribute to the further development of the JMM. Congratulations to the JMM on its 25th anniversary.

REFERENCE