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Birth of Clinical Lymphology in Korea

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On February 2004, the first lymphedema symposium was held in Korea, drawing professionals from various fields (physical medicine & rehabilitation, breast surgery, gynecology, nuclear medicine, radiation oncology, physical therapists and nurses etc.), to study and research prevention, education, diagnosis and management of this disease.

Prior to the symposium, "lymphedema" was considered a minor illness in Korea, lacking proper attention for appropriate diagnosis and treatment by physicians & therapists. Primary lymphedema or secondary lymphedema which arises subsequent to many other diseases, received barely any medical attention in Korea as same is the case in the rest of the world.

Although first developed in the field of vascular medicine, lymphedema started to receive more attention as number of cancer patients increased globally and as promising results came out from treatments afterward. These consequently led to keen interest in secondary lymphedema. As of today, lymphedema has become a major disease, receiving spotlight from major countries in Europe, Asia and the United States. In Korea, Korean Society of Lymphedema was founded in 2010 and the interest and research in the field has increased significantly.

Why do we need another journal? There are few journals that deal with basic & clinical lymphology researches. Even thought these journals handle too much broader areas ranging from basic studies that study using different species to those that study lymphedema patients' quality of life or functional issues. Therefore, more focused journal was needed for clinical professionals who are studying and researching human lymphatic diseases.

We would like to thank those who worked earnestly to publish "Clinical Lymphology & Lymphedema" and hope this new journal can further contribute to the field of clinical lymphology.

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