

**ADDRESS BY DR LIM SHIH HUI**  
**MASTER, ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, SINGAPORE**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Induction Comitia 2016 of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> April 2016, Saturday, National University Health System Auditorium**

**Our Guest of Honor, Mr Chee Hong Tat**

**Minister of State, Ministry of Health & Ministry of Communication and Information, Singapore;**

**Past Masters, Council Members, Fellow Academicians;**

**Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:**

A very good afternoon to all of you. Welcome to the first Induction Comitia of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore in 2016.

Firstly, let me thank Mr Chee, our MOS for Health and Communication & Information, for taking time off from his busy schedule and precious Saturday afternoon to be our Guest of Honor to witness this Induction Comitia.

The Academy has held 6 Induction Comitias since I took over from Prof Tan Kok Chai in 2012. Today will be my 7<sup>th</sup> and last Comitia as the Academy's Master before I handover to Master-Elect Dr Selan Sayampanathan in June. Of the 7 Comitias, 2 were held in conjunction with the Singapore Malaysia Congress of Medicine. The other 5 were dedicated standalone Comitias where our Guests of Honor were key leaders from the Ministry of Health, Singapore.

To have MOH officials presiding as GOHs, namely SMOS Dr Amy Khor, MOS Dr Lam Pin Min, PS Mrs Tan Ching Yee and DMS A/Prof Benjamin Ong, and now MOS Mr Chee Hong Tat, highlights the importance of cultivating and maintaining a strategic partnership between our Academy of Medicine Singapore, the largest Medical Specialist Professional Body in Singapore, and Ministry of Health, the biggest healthcare provider in Singapore. The partnership between the Academy and Ministry of Health is founded on our common mission of pursuing medical excellence, promoting good health and reducing illness.

As you know, the Academy, together with its 11 Colleges and 41 Specialty & Subspecialty groups, is a membership organization for more than 3,000 medical and dental specialists. Just like any other professional bodies, the Academy acts in the interest of the profession, and promotes and supports its Fellows' professional development. However, we share similar view with the Ministry of Health in that specialists in Singapore need to maintain high standard of clinical competencies and ethical integrity which are essential for good patients care and safety.

For the 78 new inductees, please accept my heartiest Congratulations! You are now truly part of us, helping the Academy to preserve and advance our medical profession! You may have worn the academic gown quite a while ago when you obtained your basic and postgraduate degrees. I hope, donning the Academy's gown this afternoon and later reflections of your photos in academic gown, will remind you that you need to remain academic in your life-long medical learning journey. As academic clinicians, you need to devote time in education, research, or both, in addition to providing excellent patient care.

As specialists in your own field and Fellows of the Academy, I have no doubt you are providing a high standard of care to your patients and you will endeavor to maintain your clinical competencies by actively taking part in your continuing professional development (CPD) programmes. However, medical CPD goes beyond learning specialty-specific knowledge and technical aspects of medicine. Our healthcare system needs clinicians who are increasingly able to respond flexibly and adaptively to the complex health needs of patients in different settings. Making accurate and time-sensitive decisions and continuously re-assessing situations or priorities while addressing patients' needs, often in a fast-moving and stressful environment, can be challenging. I have learnt that major patient safety inquiries worldwide have also highlighted systemic problems around professionalism, particularly communication, leadership, inter-professional cooperation and compassionate patient care.

You need broader human qualities and skills – such as being able to communicate effectively, to work as part of or lead a team, to teach or educate the next generation of doctors, and to apply a range of other professional skills or judgements in complex or difficult circumstances. These are the foundation of professional practice. Developing an understanding of the factors that affect human behaviour and performance are therefore central to high quality clinical care and underpin professional excellence.

With the formation of the Deanery and Office of Professional Affairs within our Academy, we will continue to work with the Ministry of Health and the 3 medical schools to help our Fellows develop and enhance these generic and universal professional capabilities so as to effectively deal with the complexity, uncertainty and challenge of contemporary medical practice.

Let me also congratulate our **26** graduates of the Staff Registrar Scheme Diploma programmes. You should be proud of your achievement to have fulfilled the stringent requirements to obtain the SRS Diploma. Your role in our public healthcare system is very important. Your longer presence will strengthen our aim to provide comprehensive and holistic care to our patients. I wish you all the best in your career advancement.

Last but not least, the Academy will also present the Certificate of Appreciation to the Teaching Faculty of the Master of Health Professions Education Singapore, a joint venture with Maastricht University. Thank you for your passion, enthusiasm, valuable time and professionalism in producing better clinician educators for Singapore.

Let me say in conclusion that this afternoon will not be complete without the presence of our Guest of Honour and all of you in the audience.

Thank you all. Have an enjoyable induction.