

ADDRESS BY DR S R E SAYAMPANATHAN
MASTER, ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, SINGAPORE
INDUCTION COMITIA 2016, ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, SINGAPORE
22 OCTOBER 2016, 1400 HRS, HEALTH PROMOTION BOARD
AUDITORIUM

Our Guest-of-Honour, Dr Chia Shi-Lu

Chairman, Government Parliamentary Committee for Health, Singapore
and Member of Parliament for Tanjong Pagar GRC;

Council Members;

Fellow Academicians;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

A very good afternoon to all of you. Welcome to the second Induction
Comitia of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore for the year.

Firstly, let me thank our Guest-of-Honour, Dr Chia Shi-Lu, Chairman of the Government Parliamentary Committee for Health and Member of Parliament for Tanjong Pagar GRC, for taking time off from his busy schedule and precious Saturday afternoon to be with us and witness this significant event of the Academy.

The past few Induction Comitias have been graced by officials from the Ministry of Health, namely the Minister, Senior Minister of State, two Ministers of State, the former Permanent Secretary and the Director of Medical Services. Over the years, we have built a close working relationship with the Ministry of Health, an association and partnership of mutual trust and respect which we hope to continue to strengthen over time.

For the first time, we have the privilege of a non-Ministry or non-Government Parliamentarian as our Guest-of-Honour. We trust that this may lead to strategic relationship of value. The GPC for Health has a very important function in Parliament and the Academy, with its pool of specialists from diverse background, is pleased to facilitate any discussions relating to healthcare in a transparent, open and constructive manner.

The Academy of Medicine, Singapore was formed in 1957 with 34 members. Today, the Academy has grown to more than 3,200 Fellows from 35 specialties and 5 subspecialties plus 7 dental specialties, distributed over 12 Colleges and 4 Chapters. I am delighted to announce that the Academy will be celebrating its Diamond Jubilee next year.

Albeit the challenges, this dynamic diversity also presents strength as these specialists, with their extensive experiences and knowledge, are housed under one roof in a harmonious and cohesive composition under the Academy.

This is evident in the requests for professional opinions from the Ministry of Health, Singapore or other statutory boards which seek the advice from our Fellows on a variety of healthcare-related policies and issues. Multi-disciplinary topics such as "The Guidelines on Sedation", pose great challenges, but through the Academy the task has been accomplished. And I am happy to report that such cases were efficacious on many occasions.

The rising number in the requests for professional opinions and provision of medical advice reflects the pivotal role that the Academy

plays as a professional body and its involvement in the improvement and development of the healthcare policies in Singapore.

The Academy plays a leadership role in maintaining the highest standards of competency and ethical integrity of the medical profession and promoting the highest standard of healthcare delivery to patients. With the establishment of the Deanery two months ago, the Academy is poised to meet the educational needs of the specialists in the next two decades. We strive to maintain high standards of competency and professional standards through Continuing Professional Development.

Continuing Professional Development is a process of lifelong learning in practice that will help us remain relevant and competent. It is important that we continue to keep abreast of the global trends in medical education and research through CPD activities.

The maintenance of professional standards is most suited to be under the purview of a professional body. The great advantage of the Academy is that it embraces all specialties. Our domain of experts includes many good Fellows holding strategic and important positions in both the public and the private sectors. Their individual competency,

wealth of knowledge and collective wisdom is a valuable asset to Singapore's healthcare system.

This afternoon, I am pleased to confer Fellowship to 64 new inductees who will join our esteemed professional organization. Congratulations to all of you. I hope donning the Academy's gown will remind you of the significance of lifelong academic pursuit in your medical career. As academic clinicians, you need to devote time in education, research, or both, in addition to providing excellent patient care. On this note, I hope you will take the opportunity to participate in the programmes and activities conducted by the Academy.

Since 2007, the Academy, together with its Colleges, has been conducting the Staff Registrar Scheme Diploma programmes. The SRS Diplomas have been implemented as part of the collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Singapore to enable our public sector healthcare institutions to employ foreign-trained doctors who are able to provide a middle level of service equivalent to that provided by a Staff Registrar or Registrar.

To-date, we have a total of 28 SRS Diploma programmes in various specialties. We will continue to improve the standards and quality of

our training programmes so that our graduates will be better equipped to handle the challenges in healthcare and contribute significantly to the middle tiers of patient care.

And this afternoon, we will witness 39 graduates who have successfully completed these rigorous and intensive programmes. My heartiest congratulations and best wishes to you as you set on to fulfill such an important role in our public healthcare system in providing comprehensive and holistic care to our patients.

In conclusion, I wish the Fellows and SRS graduates every success in your academic and professional endeavours. And to all of you in the audience, I wish you an enjoyable afternoon.

Thank you.