

By Professor Seah Cheng Siang

"With considerable foresight and with keen interest on postgraduate medical education Professor Ransome inaugurated a meeting of medical specialists in his own home in July 1957, with a view to the formation of an academic body . . . "

"His devotion to students of medicine and to patients aside, Professor Ransome has also distinguished himself in public duties. His contribution to society at large and to communities beyond our own shores has earned him recognition by way of honours bestowed on him . . ."

By Professor Khoo Oon Teik

"The greatness of a clinical teacher of medicine is measured not by the membership of learned societies nor by the impact on society for Gordon wrote comparatively little and devoted most of his time to the practice of medicine. Sir Gordon's greatness is in his ability to enthuse, to inspire the Art of Medicine. And he showed by example, by his humility, by his word of a gentleman that the physician has to live not so much by a code of ethics but by a higher code."

". . . But to several generations of students, Sir Gordon left an indelible mark compounded of a blend of kindness, curiosity, honesty, excellence and for want of a better word, humanity. Sir Gordon has left his footprints on the shores of Singapore medicine for others to see and follow on."

By Professor Cheah Jin Seng

"If ever there was a truly honest doctor, GAR was one. Whenever he missed a diagnosis, he would openly admit it to his staff (junior and senior alike). Whatever that he did not know, he never tried to hide or bluff; like a true great man, he would confess that he did not know. In an age clouded by much dishonesty and deceit, his honesty shone like a bright beacon."



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a tribute to
**GORDON
ARTHUR
RANSOME**



Professor Gordon Arthur Ransome (1910 – 1978) was the founding and first Master of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore. A legendary pioneer in medicine in Singapore, he practiced at the Singapore General Hospital for 33 years and mentored most of the senior physicians and surgeons of today. As Professor of Medicine in the then University of Singapore, he laid the foundations of post-graduate medical training in the country. He spent the best parts of his life in Singapore dedicated to patients and to the teaching of undergraduates and postgraduate doctors. In July 1957, he inaugurated a meeting of medical specialists in his own house with a view to the formation of an academic body. His devotion to students of medicine and to patients aside, Professor Ransome also distinguished himself in public duties. His contributions to society at large and to communities beyond our own shores earned him numerous honours. He practiced medicine as close to the Hippocratic Oath as any doctor could hope to do.

In 1970, to honour his life and contributions to medicine in Singapore, his friends and colleagues created the Gordon Arthur Ransome Oration which has served as the keynote address at the biennial Singapore-Malaysia Congresses of Medicine. These addresses were financed by a Gordon Arthur Ransome Oration Fund. This fund serves to perpetuate this legacy of service to our patients and dedication to teaching, research and statesmanship in the field of medicine and healthcare of the community. Not all of you may have met or known him, Professor Ransome was a role model for the medical profession in Singapore. The Academy of Medicine, Singapore owes much to Professor Ransome's foresight. The Academy has, over the years, assumed an increasing role in the conduct of post-graduate medical training and examinations.



Your contributions to the Fund will help to remind us of the highest standards of patient care, education and behaviour that we, as specialist doctors and servants of our patients and good community citizens should aspire to emulate.

Why give now to the Fund?

Gordon Arthur Ransome believed that a doctor is placed in a special position to gain the patient's trust. His doctor-patient and doctor-doctor relationships are the hallmarks of a truly exemplary physician and teacher. The Academy of Medicine, which Professor Ransome founded, has initiated this drive to help perpetuate these highest ideals of Medicine which he exemplified. Presently available funds will not be adequate to sustain this cause. The Academy will raise at least \$400,000 for the fund. This will serve to manage the Orations for the next 20 years, at the least.

During every biennial Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Medicine, a luminary person from one of the fields of either medicine, education, scientific research, ethics or politics will be invited to be the Ransome Orator. All fellows of the Academy and persons from other walks of life would be invited to this landmark Oration. The Oration will also serve as a useful reminder to the members of the medical profession of the highest ideals of the profession and of the service to humanity that is core to medical practice. All this will surely help not just the medical profession, but, more importantly, the patients and the community we serve.

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