



MASTER'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Academicians

As we start the new year, I would like to wish you a great 2013 and an enjoyable festive season. Even in the closing months of last year, the Academy and its Colleges were kept abuzz with activities for which I am pleased to bring you the updates.

Mrs Tan Ching Yee, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Singapore Visits the Academy

The Academy Council had the pleasure of hosting a dinner in honour of Mrs Tan Ching Yee, Permanent Secretary for Health at the Academy of Medicine, Singapore on 19 November 2012.

Held in the relaxed setting of the Academy's Boardroom, we engaged Mrs Tan on the overview and history of the Academy as well as highlights of the Council's Strategic Plan 2012-2014. A lively and candid discussion invariably followed and much of it pivoted around the role and relevance of the Academy and its many challenges. We elaborated on the Council's plans to place more focus and resources on its Fellows and to stay relevant to them. A key initiative is to develop a robust continuing professional development (CPD) model and infrastructure to support Fellows' life-long learning and help them maintain their professional and specialists' competencies throughout their 30-year career as specialists. We also highlighted that a well-developed and effective CPD model and programmes would require considerable resources and suitable training facility.

Our discussion also touched on concerns relating to specialists training vis-à-vis Residency programmes, exit examinations, partnership with professional bodies, Private Education Act, permanent home for the Academy and statutory board as alternative.

On all counts, the meeting was positive and constructive. Mrs Tan expressed her appreciation of the Academy's direction and the Council's concern on the relevance and sustainability of the Academy. She would bring these issues back to MOH to discuss with her colleagues and review a roadmap for long-term partnership between the Academy and MOH.



Mrs Tan Ching Yee with the Academy Council.

On behalf of the Council, I am grateful to Mrs Tan for taking time to dine with us. The Academy's goal remains in upholding the professionalism and clinical competencies of doctors in Singapore. The Council will continue to engage MOH and look forward to many good years of MOH's support in maintaining the standards of the specialists.



Networking Session by College of Dental Surgeons, Singapore

I thought it is noteworthy to mention the forward-looking initiative spearheaded by the [College of Dental Surgeons, Singapore](#) (CDSS). College President, Dr Chan Siew Luen, and his Council held a Networking cum Dinner Session on CPD-MOC for Dental Specialists at the Academy on 1 November 2012. Invitations were extended to all dental specialists in Singapore, i.e. Fellows and non-Fellows, and I was given the privilege to address the session.

Dr SL Chan presented an overview and state of the different CPD-MOC models and also illustrated several frameworks on competency, assessment and revalidation. He underscored that unlike the medical specialists, the validity of the dental specialists' practising certificate is ten years. As such, MOC is imminent and the leadership of CDSS is duty bound to advocate for the College to develop a robust but practical CPD-MOC framework to help its Fellows maintain competency and standards. Addressing the non-Fellows, Dr SL Chan urged them to join as Fellows to give the College the numbers and legitimacy to influence and deliver the dental specialists' CPD-MOC agenda. In his closing on CPD-MOC, the CDSS President pointedly concluded, "If we don't do it, somebody else will."

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Paper on Dual Accreditation for Nuclear Medicine and Diagnostic Radiology by College of Radiologists, Singapore

On 23 November 2012, the Academy submitted to the Specialists Accreditation Board the paper on Dual Accreditation of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine Specialties in Singapore by the [College of Radiologists, Singapore](#) (CRS). The paper was prepared by a joint committee from the Chapters of Nuclear Medicine Physicians and Diagnostic Radiologists. The joint committee met over two years to draft, review and revise the paper. It was eventually circulated to all Fellows of CRS before a finalised version was ratified by the CRS Council. The paper also received endorsement from the Council of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore.

College of Surgeons, Singapore Launched its Distinguished Surgeon Award

The [College of Surgeons, Singapore](#) (CSS) unveiled its Distinguished Surgeon Award recently. The award is to recognise individuals, who are recommended by its Chapters, to have contributed to the development of surgery in Singapore for the past three years with good character and academic records.

On the recommendation of the [Chapter of Cardiothoracic Surgeons](#), the CSS Council awarded the honour to five individuals, who received the decoration from Dr Sayampanathan, CSS President, at the College's and Chapter's Conferment Ceremony held at the Conrad Centennial Singapore on 24 November 2012.

Recipients	Institution of Affiliation
Prof Malcolm John Underwood	Professor & Chief, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Department of Surgery, Prince of Wales Hospital, Chinese University of Hong Kong
Dr Robert R Jeffrey	Consultant, Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Aberdeen Royal Infirmary NHS Trust, Aberdeen
Dr Pala Babu Rajesh	Consultant, Regional Department of Thoracic Surgery, Birmingham Heartlands Hospital, Birmingham
Dr Richard D Page	Consultant, Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Liverpool
Dr Timothy R Graham	Consultant, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham

In his citation, Dr Lim Chong Hee, Chairman of the Chapter of Cardiothoracic Surgeons highlighted that the recipients were recognised for their significant contributions as examiners for cardiothoracic surgery since 2002. They played an instrumental role in ensuring an impartial and high standard of examination and in the training of local examiners, which brought international recognition to our exit examinations. They have also helped our cardiothoracic team conduct review course on cardiac and thoracic surgery since 2006.

I was invited as Guest of Honour in this special event. In my [address](#), I commended Dr Sayampanathan and Dr Lim Chong Hee for their leadership in bringing our surgical specialists to reach this great milestone in Singapore. I urged more Fellows to come forward to serve the Chapter, the College and the Academy as part of their duties and commitment to serve our medical profession.



Membership Update

The Academy together with its Colleges and Chapters has made commendable strides to strengthen our Fellowship. As we bid the year to a close, I am delighted to report 125 new Fellows joined the Academy in 2012! This enrolment number is the highest after 2005.

Year	No. of New Fellows	Year	No. of New Fellows	Year	No. of New Fellows
2000	83	2006	77		
2001	67	2007	83		
2002	66	2008	105		
2003	200	2009	103	2012	125
2004	112	2010	77		
2005	162	2011	66		

This year, the Academy proudly commemorated its 55th year by launching a new membership enrolment scheme on 1 June 2012. The concerted effort in recruitment drives and initiatives to introduce the [new membership scheme](#) and the Academy's [Strategic Plan 2012-2014](#) brought to bear stronger interest in the Academy and the good enrolment numbers. The upcoming year of 2013 shows encouraging promise for the Academy, especially with the induction of new Fellows to augment our present.

The time has come to pause and reflect upon the achievements of the past year. I look forward to present a year in review in the upcoming Annual Report along with the Financial Statement for 2012.

For now, here's wishing you a happy and festive season, and a good year ahead!

Prof Lim Shih Hui

The 1st Asia Pacific Symposium on Liver-Directed Y-90 Microspheres Therapy 2012, jointly organised by the College of Radiologists Singapore (CRS), and the Singapore Radiological Society (SRS), was held on 17 November 2012, at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel in Singapore.



Dr Anthony Goh, organising chairman and President of CRS delivering his speech.

In cooperation with Sirtex Medical, an Australian-based medical device company specialising in SIRT treatment, this one-day intensive programme focused on the role of SIRT in the treatment and management of liver diseases.

“Numerous treatment options are available for liver tumours; the locally-directed treatments may utilise heat, cold, radiation, vascular disruption, chemical agents, as well as combinations of these effects. A number of radioactive agents have been employed, of which Y-90 radiomicrospheres have gained increasing acceptance” said Dr Anthony Goh, organising chairman and the President of CRS, “this is a perfect opportunity for practitioners to review the current data, update their knowledge, and understand the clinical issues in radiomicrosphere therapy.”



Doctors from the Asia Pacific region interacting with one another.

More than 250 doctors, trainees, nurses and industry delegates from Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, South Korea, Australia, India, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Philippines and Vietnam were updated on new developments in research, clinical practice and patient care from international and local experts around the world.

Education & Training

In-Training Examinations (ITE) – January to March 2013

No	ITE Speciality	Name of ITE	ITE provider	Date of Exam	Exam Format	No. of Candidates
1.	Diagnostic Radiology	DXIT	American College of Radiology	2 to 30 January 2013	Web-based Examination	10 Trainees, 40 Residents (NHG: 11; NUHS: 8, SHS: 21)
2.	Obstetrics and Gynaecology	CREOG	American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists	26 January 2013	Paper Examination	22 Trainees, 33 Residents (SHS: 27, NUHS: 6)
3.	General Surgery	ABSITE	American Board of Surgery	2 February 2013	Web-based Examination	55 Trainees, 85 Residents (NHG: 20, NUHS: 22, SHS: 43)
4.	Otorhinolaryngology	OTE	American Board of Otolaryngology	2 March 2013	Paper Examination	2 Trainees, 20 Residents (NHG: 8, NUHS: 6, SHS: 6)

Staff Registrar Scheme (SRS) Diplomas – Call for Registration

No.	Speciality	Call for Registration	Tentative Commencement Period
1.	Cardiology	September 2013	November 2013 (5 th Intake)
2.	Cardiothoracic Surgery	March – April 2013	September 2013 (3 rd intake)
3.	Emergency Medicine	February 2013	May 2013 (7 th Intake)
4.	Geriatric Medicine in Hospital and ILTC	Tentatively in March 2013	August 2013 (6 th Intake)
5.	Hand Surgery	July – August 2013	November 2013 (2 nd intake)
6.	Internal Medicine (with Focus on Hospital Medicine)	Tentatively in March 2013	May 2013 (6 th Intake)
7.	Medical Oncology	July – August 2013	November 2013 (2 nd intake)
8.	Neonatology	May 2013	July 2013 (6 th Intake)
9.	Neurosurgery	February – March 2013	July 2013 (4 th intake)
10.	Orthopaedic Surgery	October – November 2013	February 2014 (5 th Intake)
11.	Paediatrics and Child Health	September 2013	November 2013 (7 th Intake)
12.	Paediatric Cancer Care	September 2013	November 2013 (3 rd Intake)
13.	Palliative Medicine	1 – 28 February 2013	1 April 2013 (5 th Intake)
14.	Radiation Oncology	September 2013	November 2013 (2 nd Intake)
15.	Rehabilitation Medicine	1 – 28 February 2013	1 April 2013 (4 th Intake)

New Board Members

The growing number of neonatologists and 'Neonatology' being one of the four new subspecialties necessitated the formation of a chapter of Neonatologists under the College of Paediatrics and Child Health, Singapore. The formation of the Chapter of Neonatologists was approved at its 8th Annual General Meeting held on 26 May 2012. A first meeting was convened on 11 December 2012 at the Department of Neonatology, KK Women's and Children's Hospital.

The following doctors were elected to the 2012 to 2013 Interim Board:

- Clin A/Prof Victor Samuel Rajadurai (Chairman)
- Dr Ng Chin Yuen Steven (Vice-Chairman)
- A/Prof Daisy Chan Kwai Lin (Honorary Secretary)
- Dr Ikshuvanam Malathi (Member)
- A/Prof Lee Jiun (Member)
- Dr Low Kah Tzay (Member)
- Dr Subramaniam Sivasankaran (Member)



From left: Dr Low Kah Tzay, Dr Subramaniam Sivasankaran, A/Prof Daisy KL Chan, Dr Ikshuvanam Malathi, Clin A/Prof Victor Samuel Rajadurai and Dr Steven C Y Ng. Absent: A/Prof Lee Jiun.

Look out for the first of our combined Paediatric and Neonatal updates featuring four local speakers:

Event : A Neonatal Nutrition Update
Date : 2 March 2013
Time : 2 pm
Venue : Traders Hotel Singapore

College of Paediatrics & Child Health

Continuing Medical Education

Theme : Full of Neurology
Date : 3 November 2012
Venue : The Pines
Chairperson : Dr Liew Woei Kang, Consultant Paediatrician, Paediatric Allergist & Immunologist, SBCC Baby & Child Clinic, Mount Elizabeth Medical Centre & Gleneagles Medical Centre

- **Common Eye Conditions in Children**
by Dr Pauline YY Cheong, Consultant Ophthalmologist, Ophthalmic Consultants Pte Ltd, Gleneagles Medical Centre
- **Fits, Faints & Funny Turns**
by Dr Phuah Huan Kee, Consultant Paediatrician, SBCC Baby & Child Clinic, Mount Elizabeth Medical Centre
- **Got a Headache? – Updates in Evaluation & Management**
by A/Prof Ong Hian Tat, Senior Consultant, Division of Neurology, Department of Paediatrics, National University Hospital, National University Health System (NUHS)



From left: Dr Pauline YY Cheong, A/Prof Ong Hian Tat, Dr Phuah Huan Kee and Dr Liew Woei Kang.

47th Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Medicine - Paediatrics and Child Health Symposium

Date : 24 August 2013
Time : 4:30 pm to 6:15 pm
Venue : Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel Singapore
Symposium Director : Clin A/Prof Victor Samuel Rajadurai (Head & Senior Consultant, Department of Neonatology, KKWCH)
Topics / Speakers : Recurrent Abdominal Pain in Children
Prof Lee Way Seah, College of Paediatrics, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia
Feed Intolerance and Prevention of NEC in Premature Babies
Prof Ng Pak Cheung, HK College of Paediatricians

Dinner Symposium

Celebrating Advances in Neonatology – Tiny Feet Take the Biggest Steps

Jointly organised by the College of Paediatrics & Child Health and the Perinatal Society of Singapore (and supported through an educational grant from Abbott Nutrition), this dinner symposium was held on 29 November 2012 at The Regent Singapore. It was chaired by Clin A/Prof Victor Samuel Rajadurai.

Topics presented include:

- **The Early Days of Neonatology in Singapore**
A/Prof Roy Joseph (Senior Consultant, Department of Neonatology, NUHS)
- **Advances & The Future of Neonatology**
Clin A/Prof Victor Samuel Rajadurai (Head & Senior Consultant, Department of Neonatology, KKWCH)
- **Neonatal Nutrition – What's on the NICU Menu Today?**
Ms Anna Jacob (Senior Manager for Nutrition Science & Communication, Abbott)
- **The Respiratory Care Continuum: Moving Towards Prevention of Illness**
Dr Khor Swee Kheng (Medical Manager, Abbott)
- **Babies Born too Soon – Blessing or Burden**
A/Prof Daisy KL Chan (Senior Consultant, Department of Neonatal & Developmental Medicine, SGH)
- **Tiny Feet Take the Biggest Steps – Be Part of the Solution**
Clin A/Prof Victor Samuel Rajadurai



A/Prof Daisy Chan delivering her topic



From left: A/Prof Roy Joseph, Dr Khor Swee Kheng, Clin A/Prof Victor Samuel Rajadurai (Chairperson) and Ms Anna Jacob.



Participants at the Dinner Symposium.

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