



# AMS News

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## MESSAGE from Master

Dear Fellow Academicians,

2007 has been a very special year for the Academy of Medicine, Singapore (AMS). We celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary or Golden Jubilee in a big way. During the 41<sup>st</sup> Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Medicine held from 19 to 22 July, we have the privilege and honour to confer the Honorary Fellowship of the Academy to our Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. Nineteen Presidents of Overseas sister Colleges and 97 local specialists were admitted to the family of the Academy at the same time.

In a separate Golden Jubilee Celebration Induction Comitia in October 2007, another 38 fellows were inducted into the fold of the Academy and the respective Colleges and Chapters. At the same ceremony, the Academy also honoured one of the beloved fellows of the Academy, Dr Oon Chiew Seng, by conferring upon her the Honorary Fellowship of the Academy. She is one of the 34 founding members of the Academy 50 years ago in 1957. For many decades, she has not only contributed significantly to the development of her own specialty, i.e., obstetrics and gynaecology, her heart has always been with the welfare and continuing development of the Academy. After her retirement from active O&G practice, she began a new life by starting an old folks' home known as Apex Harmony Lodge; bringing joy and happiness to the senior citizens.

Our fellowship strength now stands at 2325, which is about 84.6% of the total number of fully-registered medical specialists in Singapore. The challenge is for us to convince the remaining 15% of the specialists to join the Academy. Many of these specialists are already fellows of at least one of the Overseas Colleges in the UK and Australia.



*Professor Ho Lai Yun presenting a Certificate of Appointment to Professor Dame Janet Husband as Visiting Academician 2007. She delivered a lecture titled Strategies for Cancer Imaging in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century - A Global Perspective.*

In his message to the Academy, President SR Nathan, the Patron of the Academy, has commended and reaffirmed the role of the Academy in promoting the highest standards of professional practice, as well as in maintaining an exacting code of ethical conduct amongst its members. The combined efforts of the Fellows of the Academy have not only played an important part in ensuring that Singaporeans enjoy and remain in good health, but have also helped to position our city state as a bright spot in the world map of health provision.

The future we face will be marked by exciting and challenging times as we enter a new era of healthcare, in a new environment with different emphasis and priorities. The Academy must therefore be equal to these challenges and position itself in a proactive manner not only to stay relevant but also to maintain its professional status in Singapore.

The Council has since further refined the vision and mission of the Academy and endorsed a strategic roadmap in advancing the three major thrusts of the Academy in the next five years: postgraduate specialist training, continuing professional development, and the generation and dissemination of medical and health knowledge to provide expert advice to the society. We have made significant moves in these directions in recent months.



*Dr Lim Shih Hui (left), Scribe, putting on the Honorary Fellowship robe on Dr Oon Chiew Seng.*



*Professor Ho Lai Yun, Master, Singapore conferring the Honorary Fellowship on Dr Oon Chiew Seng during the Academy's Golden Jubilee Induction Comitia on 29 October 2007.*

Following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Royal Colleges of Physicians, UK, the College of Physicians, Singapore, the Academy of Medicine, Singapore, and the Division of Graduate Medical Studies, NUS for MRCP (UK)/MMed (Internal Medicine) examination on 21 July 2007 during the 41<sup>st</sup> Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Medicine, the College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Singapore and AMS has signed a MOU with the Royal College of O&G, UK on postgraduate training on 15 February 2008. A measure of success for AMS is the number of specialist trainees joining the AMS upon passing their exit examinations and the recognition of FAMS as the exit qualification for specialists in Singapore.

The Staff Registrar Scheme (SRS) started by the Colleges and Chapters of the Academy has been well received. The following Diploma courses under the SRS have been approved by the Singapore Medical Council (SMC): nuclear medicine, obstetrics and gynaecology, infectious diseases, geriatric medicine, neurosurgery and cardiology. Two other courses on emergency medicine and paediatrics and child health have

already started and are awaiting clearance by the SMC. An Education and Training Division has been set up to plan for more training courses in the coming years.

Following the signing of the MOU with the Ministry of Health, a Professional Affairs Division has also been set up to provide professional and expert advice on health matters to the Ministry, to prepare clinical practice guidelines for the medical practitioners, and to generate and disseminate knowledge and advice to the public.

The Academy is geared up for exciting times ahead. All these initiatives towards achieving the Academy's mission and vision would not be possible and sustainable without the continuing support and volunteerism of our Fellows. I look forward to all the Fellows of AMS coming forward to serve with a sense of mission for the profession.

I would like to wish all of you a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year of the Rat.

**Dr Ho Lai Yun**  
*Master, 2007-2008*

# HIGHLIGHTS

## on the following Divisions

### Membership and IT

The Division helps to facilitate the processing of membership applications and admission of Fellows and Ordinary members. The other services include reviewing of membership categories, fees, benefits and privileges from time to time, responding promptly to membership enquiries, maintaining members' data in the membership system, providing administrative support to the Standing Committee of Membership and organising induction Comitia for inductees. The IT section provides application support as well as gathers and analyses user requirements for the development of new systems or enhancement of existing system.

#### **Note to Fellows:**

A change of members' particulars form has been sent out to all Fellows in January 2008. We invite you to update your membership particulars in order to stay in touch and connected with us. A copy of the form is available from the following website [www.ams.edu.sg/programme/form.pdf](http://www.ams.edu.sg/programme/form.pdf)

### Professional Affairs

In its quest for professional excellence, the Academy of Medicine, Singapore (AMS) has set up the Professional Affairs Division in August 2007 to support the strategic directions of the incumbent Standing Committee on Professional Affairs. One of its objectives is to set policies and procedures for professional affairs matters. It is currently staffed with two administrative staff.

The initiative is also an affirmation to the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Ministry of Health, Singapore (MOH) on 17 May 2007 to provide professional guidance on specialist medical issues. Since its inception, the Division has been working closely with the MOH on requests for expert opinions on topics such as Colonic Hydrotherapy, Cell Therapy, Coroner's Bill and the Development of National Medical Specialty Centres. The Division has also provided expert opinions on the Mental Capacity Bill following a request from the Ministry of Community Development, Youth & Sports, Singapore (MCYS).

The provision of advice for Clinical Practice Guidelines is also another activity under the Division that will enhance and streamline the professional activities of the AMS. The Division also processes requests for independent medical experts opinions requested through the Police Department from the Coroner's office.

# COMING Highlights

## Education and Training Division

### Staff Registrar Scheme Diplomas

1. The Chapter of Geriatricians, College of Physicians recently launched the Diploma in Geriatric Medicine. The application period was from 21 January to 29 February 2008. The course will commence in April 2008.
2. The Chapter of Neurosurgeons, College of Surgeons recently launched the Diploma in Neurosurgery. The application period was from 15 to 31 January 2008. The course will commence in March 2008.
3. The Chapter of Cardiologists, College of Physicians recently launched the Diploma in Cardiology. The application period is from 18 February to 4 March 2008. The course will commence in May 2008.
4. The Chapter of Emergency Physicians will have a re-run of the Diploma in Emergency Medicine in April 2008. The application period was extended from 31 January to 22 February 2008.

## Chapter of Emergency Physicians

### Diploma in Emergency Medicine

- Geriatric Module - Half-Day Session/ Thursday/21/02/08  
*Speaker: Dr Tan Thai Lian/Senior Consultant @ Head/Department of Geriatric Medicine/ TTSH @ Dr Foo Chik Loon/Consultant/ Emergency Department/TTSH*
- Trauma Module - Full Day Session/ Thursday/20/03/08/Tutorial Room/DEM/ Block 1, Rooftop Lev/SGH  
*Speakers have not been invited yet; Topics: Initial assessment of major trauma: revision, "Head @ Face Injury", "Chest Injury", "Abdominal Injury", "Spine @ Cord Injury" and "Burns @ Inhalational Injury"*
- Semester 2 PACES & debrief to be held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2008.

## Chapter of Psychiatrists

### 1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Professional Lecture 2008, 24 April 2008

Prof Shitij Kapur, Vice-Dean, Head, Section of Schizophrenia, Imaging & Therapeutics, Department of Psychological Medicine, Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London, University of London, England, will be delivering a lecture titled *How Antipsychotics Work – From Receptors to Response*. It will be held in conjunction with the Chapter's 22<sup>nd</sup> AGM from 6.30 pm to 9.00 pm.

## College of Anaesthesiologists, Singapore

### Singapore-Duke Anaesthesia and Critical Care Update 2008, 5-6 April 2008

This event will be held at the Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore. It is jointly organised by the College of Anaesthesiologists, Singapore, the Singapore

Society of Anaesthesiologists, the Singapore Society of Intensive Care Medicine and the Duke University Medical Centre.

This meeting features topics on Anaesthesia, Critical Care, Acute Pain, Regional Anaesthesia and Nursing. Topics have been carefully chosen to update delegates on important and current developments, with the objective of keeping it relevant to anaesthesiologists, critical care practitioners and nurses. For more information, please visit the website <http://www.sgduke08.com>.

## College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists, Singapore

### 9<sup>th</sup> Postgraduate Refresher Course (PGRC), 26-29 March 2008

Jointly organised by the Obstetrical & Gynaecological Society of Singapore (OGSS) and the College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists, Singapore (COGS), the course will provide a stimulating programme on topics that matter most to obstetricians and gynaecologists today. The PGRC is aimed at preparing trainees in the field of Obstetrics & Gynaecology to continually improve the standard of women's healthcare in Singapore and for busy clinicians to keep abreast with new medical information and knowledge.

## College of Paediatrics and Child Health, Singapore

### Joint Singapore Paediatric Congress (SPC) & APAPARI Meeting 2008, 3-5 Oct 2008

The Joint Singapore Paediatric Congress 2008 is co-organised by the College of Paediatrics & Child Health, Singapore (CPCHS) and the Singapore Paediatric Congress (SPS), with the participation of the Asia Pacific Association of Allergy, Respiratory & Immunology (APAPARI). The theme for this year's Congress is "Evidence-Based Guidelines in Clinical Practice Today". Opening on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2008, the SPC would be a premier paediatric event of the year incorporating a wide range of interesting topics for the practising clinicians. In addition to the 4<sup>th</sup> College of Paediatrics & Child Health Lecture and the Stuart Gan Memorial Lecture, the Scientific Programme includes topics such as Respiratory, Vaccines Update, Autistic Spectrum and Pervasive Disorders, Infant Nutrition and allergic diseases, as well as infections in childhood.

There will also be Pre-Congress Workshops on 3<sup>rd</sup> October covering practical issues such as "Paediatric Airway Management" and "Allergy Management Tools in Clinical Practice" that will certainly enable delegates to focus on some of these skills to enhance clinical practice.

Do register before 30 June 2008 to enjoy early bird registration rates! For more details on the Congress, please visit the website <http://www.ams.edu.sg/spc2008>.

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# News from **CHAPTERS**

## College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists, Singapore

### **8th Regional MRCOG Part II Examination Course, 17-20 Jan 2008**

This annual 4-day intensive course to prepare O & G Trainees in Singapore as well as in the ASEAN Region for the MRCOG Part II Examinations was held at the KK Women's & Children's Hospital. The College successfully conducted this course with the collaboration of the KK Women's & Children's Hospital, Division of Graduate Medical Studies and Singapore Representative Committee RCOG. A total of 36 candidates from Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore had benefited from the coaching of two distinguished examiners - Professor Gary Mires (Member of the MRCOG Oral Examinations Committee), and Dr Paul Fogarty (Former Chair MRCOG, Part II Essay (SAQ) Committee).

## College of Radiologists, Singapore

### **Scholarship in Radiology Education: Teach the Teacher's Workshop, 5 Jan 2008**

The workshop was held in the Singapore General Hospital. Dr Rethy Chhem, Dr Kathy Hibbert and Dr Teresa Van Deven from the Centre for Education in Radiology & Nuclear Medicine, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Western Ontario were invited to give the participants advice on education theories, pedagogies, evaluation tools, teaching and mentoring skills in radiology.

### **17<sup>th</sup> Singapore Radiological Society Annual Scientific Meeting in conjunction with 2nd Singapore Society of Oncology-Chapter of Medical Oncologists Joint Review Course 2008: Integrating Imaging with Combined Modality Treatment, 25-27 Jan 2008**

This conference was held at the Novotel Clark Quay Hotel, Singapore. This is a combined meeting of oncologists, radiologists and nuclear medicine physicians, with participation of about 200 specialists from Singapore and around the region. The aims of this meeting were to allow these multidisciplinary professionals to interact and to provide an important forum for education and collaboration within the region.

### **4<sup>th</sup> FY Khoo Memorial Lecture, 26 Jan 2008**

This lecture was held during the 17<sup>th</sup> Singapore Radiological Society Annual Scientific Meeting. Dr Joseph Wee from the National Cancer Centre delivered the lecture entitled *Nasopharyngeal Cancer Workgroup - The Past, the Present and the Future*.

*Dr Vijay Sethi, President of College of Radiologists, Singapore presented the Dr F Y Khoo Memorial Gold Medal to Dr Joseph Wee.*



## College of Physicians, Singapore

### **Heart Failure Summit 2007, 1 Dec 2007**

The Chapter of Cardiologists, College of Physicians, Singapore had organised the Heart Failure Summit @ Singapore 2007 at the Auditorium, Clinical Research Centre, National University of Singapore. The objective of the summit was to ensure that physicians were well informed of guidelines that were constantly updated. It also provided an opportunity to bring together the various healthcare personnel, such as physicians, nurses, hospice care physiotherapist, disease management team, to discuss the coordinated care of heart failure patients in Singapore. This summit focused on heart failure epidemiology, approach to diagnosis, optimal management of acute and chronic heart failure, and care of the terminally ill patients. The contents were oriented to the needs of the cardiologists and physicians who participates in the care of heart failure patients and nurse managers.

# and COLLEGES

## College of Surgeons, Singapore



### Cardiothoracic Surgery Update Session II – Cardiac Surgery Updates, 11 Jan 2008

The Chapter of Cardiothoracic Surgeons has planned to organise a series of update sessions to provide an update on the latest development of the specialty for the benefit of the members of the Chapter of Cardiothoracic Surgeons. In this second session of the update series held at the National Heart Centre, the invited speakers, Dr Lim See Lim and Dr Eugene Sim, delivered an interesting lecture on *Surgery for Atrial Fibrillation* and *Stem Cell Therapy for Heart Failure* respectively. The audience comprised members of the Chapter of Cardiothoracic Surgeons, trainees and nurses from both National Heart Centre and National University Hospital. This session was chaired by Dr Eugene Sim.

Dr Chua Yeow Leng (centre), Chairman of the Chapter of Cardiothoracic Surgeons, together with the speakers, Dr Lim See Lim (left) and Dr Eugene Sim (right).

### Glaucoma Symposium – Moving Pressure, 18 Jan 2008

The Glaucoma Symposium was held at the Regent Hotel. It was co-organised by the Chapter of Ophthalmologists and Singapore Society of Ophthalmology (SSO). The invited speaker, Dr Harvey Dubiner from the US, and the 2 local invited speakers, A/Prof Aung Tin and Dr Steve Seah, are all renowned surgeons in the field of glaucoma. Dr Dubiner delivered an interesting lecture on *Advance in Glaucoma Management*, A/Prof Aung spoke on *Efficacy & Safety of a Systemic Switch from Latanoprost to Travaprost in Patients with Glaucoma* while Dr Seah provided an informative lecture on *Strategies in the Management of Glaucoma*. The symposium was attended by members of the Chapter of Ophthalmologists and SSO. The symposium was chaired and cited by Dr Francis Oen.



A/Prof Lim Tock Han, Chapter Chairman, giving a token of appreciation to A/Prof Aung Tin (local speaker).



A/Prof Lim Tock Han, Chapter Chairman, giving a token of appreciation to Dr Steve Seah (local speaker).



A/Prof Lim Tock Han, Chapter Chairman, giving a token of appreciation to Dr Harvey Dubiner (international speaker).

### Inaugural Dinner Lecture of the Chapter of Hand Surgeons, 30 Jan 2008

Prof Tu Yuan-Kun, Director of Orthopaedics of E-Da Hospital, and a Professor with I-Shou University in Taiwan delivered an interesting lecture on *Complex Forearm and Elbow Fracture*. This dinner lecture was held at the Orchard Parade Hotel. The audience comprised members from the Chapter of Hand Surgeons as well as Trainees and Fellows in the specialty of Hand Surgery. Members and Trainees from the Chapter of Orthopaedic Surgeons also attended the lecture. The Inaugural Dinner Lecture was chaired and cited by Dr Alphonsus Chong.



A/Prof Lim Beng Hai, Chairman of Chapter of Hand Surgeons, giving an opening address.



Dr Alphonsus Chong, the Organising Chairman, giving a citation of Prof Tu Yuan-Kun.



A/Prof Lim Beng Hai, Chapter Chairman, giving a token of appreciation to Prof Tu Yuan-Kun.

# PAYMENT via GIRO

In November 2007, the GIRO payment system was introduced by the Academy of Medicine, Singapore to Fellows for payment of annual subscription fees. Payment via GIRO is convenient as Fellows are relieved of the inconvenience of having to raise separate cheques for payment to the Academy and its affiliated Colleges. For Fellows who sign up for GIRO, the Academy will be collecting the subscription fees on behalf of its affiliated Colleges. As such, Fellows only need to fill up a single GIRO Application form for payment of subscription fees to both the Academy and its affiliated Colleges.

The GIRO Application form may be downloaded at the AMS' website at [www.ams.edu.sg/membership/GIROAppnform-AMS.pdf](http://www.ams.edu.sg/membership/GIROAppnform-AMS.pdf). For clarifications with regard to GIRO application, please do not hesitate to contact the following persons:

**Mr Oke Chee Hau / Ms Pamela Hwee (Membership Section)**  
Tel : 6238 5174 / 5404  
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## SCHEDULE of Annual General Meetings

Detail	Day/Date (sorted by date)	Time	Venue
College of Paediatrics and Child Health	Wed/23 Apr 2008	Details to be confirmed	
Chapter of Psychiatrists	Thur/24 Apr 2008	6.45 pm	Pan Pacific Hotel, Ocean 1 & 2
College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists	Fri/25 Apr 2008	6.30 pm	Lecture Theatre, KKWCH
Light refreshment will be served at 6 pm			
College of Anaesthesiologists	Fri/25 Apr 2008	Details to be confirmed	
Chapter of Emergency Physicians	Wed/30 Apr 2008	4.30 pm	Blk 1, Rooftop Level, SGH
College of Physicians	Sat/3 May 2008	Details to be confirmed	
Chapter of Pathologists	Fri/9 May 2008	5.30 pm	Library, Dept of Pathology, SGH
College of Radiologists	Sat/10 May 2008	Details to be confirmed	
College of Surgeons	Fri/23 May 2008	6 pm	Gleneagles Lecture Theatre, L3
Refreshments will be served at 5.30 pm			
Academy of Medicine, Singapore	Sat/24 May 2008	2 pm	National Kidney Foundation
Lunch will be served at 1 pm			
Chapter of Dental Surgeons	Details to be confirmed		
Chapter of Public Health & Occup Physicians	Details to be confirmed		

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COMING  
HIGHLIGHTS

### College of Physicians, Singapore

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting, 5-6 July 2008

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting will be held at the Theatrette, Tan Tock Seng Hospital. The highlights of the meeting include the 18<sup>th</sup> Seah Cheng Siang Memorial Lecture and the 5<sup>th</sup> College of Physician Lecture. The 18<sup>th</sup> Seah Cheng Siang Memorial Lecture entitled *Advances in the Management of Viral Hepatitis in the Last Decade* will be delivered by Professor Prof Liaw Yun-Fan, Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Taiwan. The 5<sup>th</sup> College of Physicians Lecture entitled *In the Service of the Medical Profession – Role of College of Physicians: Past, Present and Future* will be delivered by A/Prof Chew Chin Hin, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore.

# **SURVEY** of fellows of Academy of Medicine, Singapore

Dear Fellow of AMS,

Last year, the Academy of Medicine (AMS) celebrated its Golden Jubilee. Fifty years of history is a matter of pride. However, in the context of Singapore's development and globalisation, we must soberly review whether AMS has kept up with the times and is still relevant to the medical and dental specialists practising in Singapore. I would urge you to take a little time to respond to this survey. AMS values your opinion and will give serious attention to your feedback. I would be grateful if you could return the completed form before the **deadline of 31 March 2008**.

Warmest regards,  
**Dr Tan Kim Ping**  
Hon. Executive Director

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## **Demographic Data:**

Gender : Male / Female                      Age : \_\_\_\_\_

Specialty : \_\_\_\_\_

Practice : Clinic / Hospital / University

Number of years practising medicine: \_\_\_\_\_

1. The AMS membership is of value to you.

Strongly disagree       Disagree       Neutral       Agree       Strongly agree

2. The AMS is relevant to your professional practice.

Strongly disagree       Disagree       Neutral       Agree       Strongly agree

3. What changes in AMS would you like to see?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. AMS organises the Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Medicine (SMCM) every other year. Please tell us how to make the SMCM more useful to you.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. AMS publishes the Annals every month and the AMS News Bulletin 3 times a year. Please tell us ways to improve them.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. AMS is an umbrella organisation with Colleges and Chapters within its fold. In the past few years, the Colleges and Chapters have been given wide autonomy in running their affairs. Please feedback how you think the relationship between AMS and Colleges and Chapters should be further developed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Have you visited the AMS' website recently (www.ams.edu.sg)

- Yes  No

If yes, do you agree with the statement that AMS' website is useful to you.

- Strongly disagree  Disagree  Neutral  Agree  Strongly agree

How should we improve it?

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8. There is also a distance learning programme (DLP) in some specialties on the website. How can AMS attract more Fellows to make use of it?

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9. Most medical journals are now available electronically? Do you wish to have access to them and should AMS provide free access to its Fellows?

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10. AMS currently provides a free vetting service to SMC for requests for CME points from providers. We also assist some Fellows in claiming for CME points. Are you in favour of AMS upgrading its role to accreditation of CME providers and programmes as well as specialists?

- Strongly disagree  Disagree  Neutral  Agree  Strongly agree

11. AMS is providing an Independent Medical Expert (IME) report to the Coroner's Court, Visiting Expert Verification (VEV) to the SMC and Special Review Committees (SRC) to MOH. Do you think these are important services that AMS should continue to provide?

- Strongly disagree  Disagree  Neutral  Agree  Strongly agree

Are there other professional services that AMS should provide?

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12. AMS is a partner with NUS and MOH in the Joint Committee on Specialist Training (JCST). Are you satisfied with its current role.

- Strongly disagree  Disagree  Neutral  Agree  Strongly agree

Do you feel that AMS should shoulder a dominant role in specialist training?

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