



AMS News

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A Biannual Newsletter of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore

Message from Master

Dear Fellow Academicians,

Greetings and well wishes from the 2006-2007 Council!

2007 will be a special year for all of us. The Academy of Medicine was formed in 1957 through the initiative and foresight of Sir Gordon Arthur Ransome, its founding Master. Hence, the Academy will be celebrating its Golden Jubilee in 2007.

Although our history is relatively short compared to many of our Sister Colleges and Academies overseas, especially those in the United Kingdom, which are all celebrating their hundreds of years of establishment, we should be proud of what the Academy has achieved in the last 50 years. We should also pay tribute to all the senior academicians who have played leading roles in bringing the Academy to what it is today.

The Academy will face more challenges ahead. Together with the other healthcare professional groups, such as the College of Family Physicians and the Singapore Medical Association, we should be united to compete with the best in the world. Council of the Academy and the Colleges have reaffirmed our commitment to maintaining and achieving the highest standards of professionalism in postgraduate medical and dental specialist training and education, as well as continuing professional development.

Major changes in the approach to training a new generation of healthcare professionals are inevitable and are to be expected in the horizon. Apart from the traditional role of serving the sick brilliantly, they must also develop the mindset and culture of lifelong learning as well as the zest to seek. We can only achieve these through proper training and education during the formative years of those who aspire to dedicate their lives to healthcare. As a partner in the Joint Committee on Specialist Training and the various Specialist Training Committees, the Academy will work closely with the Specialist Accreditation Board to realise these objectives.

The Academy and the Ministry of Health will be starting a "Staff Registrar Scheme" mainly for foreign-trained doctors working in the healthcare institutions in Singapore. The scheme is an avenue for hospitals to retain good temporarily-registered doctors. It is also open to locally-trained doctors. The scheme will not lead to specialist registration. The training curriculum will be designed and supervised by the Colleges to provide broad educational exposure to the trainees so that they attain sufficient competency to practise in the community, as well as to participate as a team member with the various specialties. On successful completion of the

programme, the trainees will be conferred a Diploma in the specialty by the College and the Academy of Medicine, recognised by the Singapore Medical Council, and can be promoted to Staff Registrars, and subsequently to Senior Staff Registrars in the hospitals. The scheme will be implemented for Obstetrics & Gynaecology and Paediatrics in the first place, with possibilities in Neonatology, Paediatric Surgery and Neurosurgery.

One of the most recent policy changes that may have far-reaching implications on our approach to healthcare in Singapore is the launching of the Medisave for Chronic Disease Management Programme by the Ministry of Health. Starting on 1 October 2006 with diabetes mellitus, and then for hypertension, lipid disorders and stroke from January 2007. The programme is unique and will take time for all healthcare professionals, be they specialists or family physicians, to adjust their practices. This is a good opportunity for the specialists in the Academy of Medicine to work even more closely with fellow colleagues in the College of Family Physicians.

The highpoint of our 50th Anniversary in 2007 is the 41st Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Medicine (SMCM), to be held at the Raffles City Convention Centre from 19 to 22 July 2007. We celebrated our 100 years of medical education together in 2005 during the 39th SMCM. The Academy of Medicine, Singapore and the Academy of Medicine of Malaysia also have a common beginning in 1957, and we will be celebrating our Golden Jubilee together again. For this Congress, we also have the official participation of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine. The theme of the Congress is "Redefining Gold Standards in Medicine: The Next Chapter". I hope that all fellow academicians would mark the dates on their calendars and turn up in full force in support of the Academy. We should also encourage as many of the younger doctors as possible to be part of the celebration as the future of the Academy really depends on their participation and contributions.

For those who are doubtful about the future and relevance of the Academy, I would like to refer you to the famous inaugural address by John F. Kennedy on 20 January 1961: "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." The Academy will only thrive and remain strong with all your contributions.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy Prosperous year in 2007.

Ho Lai Yun
Master, 2006-2007 Council

News from Chapters and Colleges

Chapter of Pathologists

17th Annual Scientific Meeting; Half-Day Symposium on "Hepatitis", 12 August 2006

This meeting was co-organised with the Singapore Society of Pathologists at the Pathology Lecture Theatre, Singapore General Hospital. Dr David Handojo Muljono, a Senior Research Fellow & Head, Hepatitis Unit, Eijkman Institute for Molecular Biology, Ministry for Research & Technology, Indonesia, spoke on "Hepatitis B Virus Mutants" & "Genetic Variations of Hepatitis C Virus: Significance & Challenges". A/Prof Chow Wan Cheng, Head of Department of Gastroenterology & Hepatology, SGH, spoke on "Clinical Utility of Nucleic Acid Testing in Hepatitis".

Chapter of Psychiatrists

4th Professional Lecture, 21 September 2006

A/Prof Richard SE Keefe from Duke University Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina, USA was the 4th Professional Lecturer and Visiting Academician for 2006. He delivered his lecture titled "Long-term Outcomes in Schizophrenia: Lessons from CATIE" at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel.



(L-R): A/Prof Chong Siow Ann, Dr Yap Hwa Ling, Dr Ng Beng Yeong and A/Prof Richard SE Keefe.

Chapter of Public Health and Occupational Physicians

Second Singapore Public Health & Occupational Medicine Conference, 13 to 14 July 2006

The Conference was held at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel. The theme of the Conference was "Challenges in Public Health & Occupational Medicine –



Prof K Satku delivering the keynote lecture.

Bridging the Gap". Professor K Satku, the Director of Medical Services, Ministry of Health was our Guest-of-Honour and the keynote lecturer. There was also a distinguished panel of overseas and local speakers sharing their wealth of experience and expertise on a wide range of public and occupational health issues. The Conference was a success with over 160 participants and a total of 8 papers and 31 posters submitted.

Chapter of Dental Surgeons

Annual Scientific Meeting 2006, 12 November 2006

The Meeting was held at the Auditorium, Faculty of Dentistry, National University of Singapore. The theme was "Dental Care in the Medically Compromised Patient". The speakers were Dr Elizabeth Coates a specialist dentist in the Special Needs Unit of Adelaide Dental Hospital, Australia; Dr Poon Choy Yoke; and A/Prof Ansgar C Cheng. It was a successful meeting with 46 participants.

College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

Medico-Legal Seminar, 25 August 2006

The College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists conducted its first Medico-Legal Seminar at Conrad Centennial Singapore. One of the highlights of the seminar was the lecture on "Lessons from Past Medico-Legal Events" delivered by Mr Lek Siang Pheng, a practising lawyer and partner at Rodyk & Davidson Law Firm. Other speakers who shared invaluable insights with the 35 participants were Dr See Tho Kai Yin and A/Prof George Yeo Seow Heong.



A/Prof Ho Tew Hong presenting a gold medallion as a token of appreciation to Prof Ho Lai Yun.

3rd College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists Lecture and Dinner, 6 October 2006

The College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Singapore held its Lecture and Dinner at the Hilton Singapore. Prof Ho Lai Yun, Master of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore, was the Guest-of-Honour and orator. He delivered the lecture entitled "The Ethics of Caring for the Very Premature Babies" to an audience of about 200.

7th Regional MRCOG Part II Examination Course, Thursday, 25 January to Sunday, 28 January 2007

More details on this preparatory course organised by the College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists are available at these websites: www.ams.edu.sg, www.kkh.com.sg and www.rcog.org.uk. For further enquiries, please email to cogs@ams.edu.sg.

College of Paediatrics and Child Health

Annual Singapore Paediatric Congress (ASPC 2006), 19-22 August 2006

This Congress was co-organised with the Singapore Paediatric Society. The theme for this congress was "Challenges in Modern Paediatrics". Prof Ho Lai Yun, Master of Academy of Medicine, Singapore was the Guest-of-Honour.

The 2nd College Lecture was delivered by A/Prof Chay Oh Moh titled "The Wheezy Child" and Prof Andrew Kemp delivered the 4th Stuart Gan Lecture titled "Polysaccharide Antibody Response Immunodeficiency in Childhood". Dr Yeo Wee-Song emerged as the Best Free Paper Award winner.



Post-congress workshop on "Advanced Resuscitation in Children" was held at KK Women's and Children's Hospital from 21-22 August. The Congress was attended by 180 participants.

A congress banquet was held on Saturday, 19 August 2006. There were great entertainment and lucky draw prizes at the dinner and all attendees had an enjoyable time.

Prof Andrew Kemp delivering the 4th Stuart Gan Lecture.

College of Physicians

3rd Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) of the College of Physicians, Singapore, 22 & 23 July 2006

The 3rd ASM of the College of Physicians, Singapore was held at the Theatre, Tan Tock Seng Hospital. Prof Ho Lai Yun, Master of Academy of Medicine, Singapore, was the Guest-of-Honour. Prof Woo Keng Thye delivered the 3rd College of Physicians Lecture and Prof Chia Boon Lock delivered the 16th Seah Cheng Siang Memorial Lecture.

The organising committee put together a comprehensive programme including discussions and debates on controversial areas as well as dilemmas encountered in daily clinical practice. The ASM was well attended by specialists of various disciplines as well as the trainees in internal medicine.



*Standing (L-R):
Prof Chia Boon Lock,
Dr Lim Shih Hui,
Prof Ho Lai Yun,
Prof Woo Keng Thye,
Dr Wong Kok Seng.*

2nd Chapter of Dermatologists Lecture, 13 October 2006

The Lecture was held at the Auditorium, National Skin Centre. Prof Sewon Kang, Director, Program for Clinical Research in Dermatology; Director, Clinical Pharmacology Unit, Department of Dermatology, University of Michigan Medical Center, delivered the lecture titled "Pathophysiology and Treatment of Skin Aging".

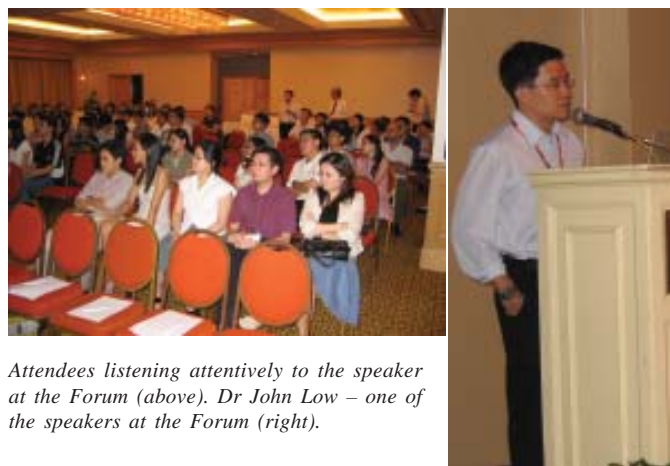
1st Singapore Medical Oncology Review Course, 26 & 27 January 2007

This will be held at the Traders Hotel. It is co-organised by the Chapter of Medical Oncologists, College of Physicians, Singapore and the Singapore Society of Oncology. The main objective of the course is to provide a critical review of the latest developments and guidelines in medical oncology to both practising oncologists and oncology trainees. For more details, please visit the website at www.ams.edu.sg/medoncology

College of Radiologists

Forum on Careers in Radiology – Radiology, Your Cup of Tea?, 28 October 2006

This Forum was organised at the York Hotel to attract housemen and medical officers to consider careers in diagnostic/interventional radiology, radiation oncology and nuclear medicine. 56 of them attended the informal forum. They asked wide-ranging questions about the work of a radiologist to the experts who were from the various specialties of radiology.



Attendees listening attentively to the speaker at the Forum (above). Dr John Low – one of the speakers at the Forum (right).

Subsidy for 6th Asian and Oceanian Congress of Neuro-radiology and Head and Neck Radiology (AOCNHNR) by College of Radiologists, Singapore

The College of Radiologists (CRS), Singapore is pleased to announce that it will be subsidising Fellows of the College attending the above Congress next year. A budget of \$5000 has been set aside. Fellows should register for the AOCNHNR and send their receipts to CRS for reimbursement of \$200 subsidy.

Early bird registration for AOCNHNR ends on **1 December 2006**.

College of Surgeons



Dr Anthony Heng presenting a token of appreciation to Mr JAR Smith.

Prestigious Lecture on Quincentenary & Beyond, 16 August 2006

Mr JAR Smith, President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (RCSEd) delivered a lecture on “Quincentenary & Beyond” at the Traders Hotel. Mr Smith provided a brief history of RCSEd, updated the audience on the Quincentenary celebration of RCSEd and also spoke on the future of surgical training in the United Kingdom and overseas.

Inaugural Dinner Lecture on Cardiac Surgery, 7 Nov 2006

The Chapter of Cardiothoracic Surgeons, College of Surgeons, Singapore held its Inaugural Dinner Lecture at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel. Dr Saw Huat Seong delivered a lecture titled “Brief History of Cardiac Surgery” and Prof Ernst Wolner, Head of Department for Cardiothoracic Surgery of Medical University of Vienna, delivered a lecture titled “Future of Cardiac Surgery”.

College of Anaesthesiologists

Several Combined Anaesthetic Meetings were jointly organised by the College and the Singapore Society of Anaesthesiologists in the second half of 2006:

1 August – ICU: What’s New and What’s Not; 26 August – Patient Safety Day; 7 October – Management of Pheochromocytoma & Tracheoplasty; and 25 October – Strategies for Prevention of Perioperative Neurologic Injury

Subscription Appeal

Appeal by Dr Gilbert Chiang, Censor-in-Chief

In the last 49 years since its founding, the Academy of Medicine, Singapore has played a pivotal role in postgraduate training. Fellowship of the Academy was recognised by the Singapore Medical Council in 1987 bringing the diploma (FAMS) on par with membership of the Royal Colleges of Medicine.

The Academy fulfills another important role in Continuing Medical Education (CME) for our Fellows, organising and accrediting lectures, courses and conferences. It also develops online CME programme with valuable assistance from the Colleges. There is a cost to running these programmes and other related and relevant activities. The operating cost of the Academy for financial year 2005 was S\$904,147. While subscriptions collected from Fellows was \$686,108. Unfortunately, many Fellows are in arrears in their subscriptions.

According to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Academy, membership of the Academy will lapse after more than 2 years of arrears. The Academy has written letters and called Fellows with longstanding arrears. As these attempts failed, the Academy is regrettably compelled to take these Fellows off the Academy membership list and the Singapore Medical Council will have to be duly informed.

The following Fellows have been taken off AM’s membership list and henceforth not allowed to use FAMS after their names:

Aw Chong Yin, Chan Choong Chee, Chellappa Mohan, Chen Walter, Cheong Mun Onn Denis, Chua Siok Meng, Chua Tsei Meng, Deb Binayak, Sasanka Sekhar Dhara, Essa Jammal Ahmad, Fok CK Alex, Fung Kam Pui, Huang Shou Wang, JA Jansen, Koh LH Daphne, Kour Anam Kueh, Kumar Ashok, Lai Sing Foo, Lee Szu Hee, Leung Chin Meng, Lim Kim Seong, Lim Su Min, Lim Swee Oon, Lim Swee Sun, Lim Yeok Teck, Lin Ming Shyue, Lo Ngai Nung, Low Boon Yong, Maghera Ranjit Gabriel, Balachandran Marar, Ng Wai Lin, Pang Yoke Teen, Nicholas Iain James Paton, Seet Lip Chai, Shah Vinit Navinchandra, Mohamed Tahir Shamsuddin, Shaik Ahmad Bin Syed Buhari, So Shun-Yang, Tan Tah Chew, Tan Teow Hin Arthur, Tan Yang Ooi Andrew, Tan Yin Yin, Tay Boon Lin, Teo Kok Pong, Teo Pek Kim, Teoh Ming Keng, Theobald David R, Thomas P Vettath, Toh Choon Lai, Toh Keng Kiat, Osborn AC Viegas, Shirley Wan, Wee Aileen, Wong Chiew Chin, Wong Sai Siong, Wong Sze Tai, Woo Kin Fatt, Yap Chin Kong, Yeo Khee Quan, Yeo Seow Woon, Yeoh Joon Kuan, Yeoh Tiong Keat and Yeow Yew Kim

Annual Subscription 2007

Your membership is due for renewal on 1 January 2007. A notice of renewal will be sent out soon to all members.

Council has also approved reforms to the subscription fees from 2007:-

1. GST of 5% will be added to the subscription fees. This will be waived if payment is received in January 2007.
2. Separate receipts will be issued for payment of subscription to AMS and Colleges as the latter does not attract GST.
3. Late payment will attract a 1% interest per month.
4. Membership will automatically cease if the Fellow is in arrears for 2 consecutive years.
5. Pledge for Building Fund is ethically binding and should be fulfilled within a year.

Continuing Medical Education

Fellows are urged to use the Distance Learning Programme of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore by logging into the AMS website (www.ams.edu.sg).

Obituary

It is with deep sadness that we note the passing of the Dr Lim Shun Ping on 13 October 2006. Dr Lim was a cardiologist specialising in the field of general and interventional cardiology. He has been a Fellow of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore since 1994 and a Fellow of College of Physicians, Singapore since 2004. He was Council member from June 2004 to May 2006. We at the Academy feel the loss of an outstanding Fellow and a good friend.

