Dear PM Lee

Condolence Letter from The Academy of Medicine, Singapore to Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on the passing of Mr Lee Kuan Yew, 23 March 2015

We all have a heavy heart, knowing that our founding father and fellow Academician passed away peacefully on 23rd March 2015 at the age of 91.

Using his vast armamentarium of virtues including strong leadership, visionary initiative, purity which was immaculate white, unblemished honesty and a strive for excellence, like an astute clinician, he brought up our nation from a third world to first world country within a mere thirty years.

Mr Lee dedicated the majority of his life to developing both the hardware and software of our country. Our very existence as a globally respected medical community here in Singapore was contributed by the direction provided by Mr Lee and his team. Whilst in his numerous leadership positions, he and his team have been responsible for countless developments not only in housing and defence, but also in the fields of medicine and public health. Through the creation of a strong healthcare infrastructure and healthcare financing system, the country has moved forward with an inclusive healthcare system of world-class standards. From previously being worried about the lack of healthcare resources to ensure that the basic health needs of our society was met, we have sufficient not only to take care of our country’s health, but aid in the meeting of healthcare needs of our neighbours both in disaster situations and peacetimes. With the implementation of policies ranging from family planning to proper drainage systems, vaccination programmes, anti-litter policies and anti-mosquito regulations, our country has certainly moved forward by leaps and bounds in terms of general population health and quality of life measures. Yesterday, our healthcare system was focussed on managing the numerous communicable diseases which plagued our communities; today, our healthcare system is mainly geared towards managing non-communicable diseases showing how far the health of our country has progressed.
Truly, we have much to thank Mr Lee for and to be grateful for. Not only have we benefitted from his policies and leadership as a medical community, but as fellow residents of our state-country.

In 1975, on the 10th anniversary of our country’s independence, it was truly the Academy’s honour to confer Mr Lee Kuan Yew the highest accolade possible by our Academy - Honorary Academician of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore. We will always remember Mr Lee for his passionate guidance and inspirational direction. There will be no similar leader like Mr Lee in the near future. As Singaporeans, we were truly privileged to be governed by such a motivated and clear-minded man. Not only was he a man with a critical mind; he was also a man with an integrous heart. There is much for all of us to learn from him and the path that he has created for generations to come.

The Council and Fellows of the Academy would like to extend our deepest condolences to your family, Dr Lee Wei Ling and Mr Lee Hsien Yang and family.

With our deepest sympathies

Dr Lim Shih Hui
Master