MASTER’S MESSAGE

The Academy Council had a hectic schedule after the usual Christmas, year-end and New Year celebrations. This was followed closely by the Lunar New Year welcoming the Dragon year. On behalf of the Council, I would like to wish one and all a happy and prosperous 2012.

The Council met with Minister for Health, Mr Gan Kim Yong, on 13 February 2012 at COMB for lunch. In attendance were senior members of the Ministry of Health including Minister of State, Ms Amy Khor, PS Ms Yong Ying-I, DS Mr Roy Quek, and DMS Prof Satkunanantham.

Issues of the role and relevance of Academy of Medicine, Singapore were on the agenda. Our Fellowship, FAMS (Fellow, Academy of Medicine, Singapore) remains the only postgraduate medical qualification in Singapore.

We were directed towards improving our present Continuing Medical Education (CME) to evolve this into a more relevant Continuing Professional Development (CPD) system with our regulators, the Singapore Medical Council (SMC).

With all FAMS efforts and participation, we hope to have the CPD being the driver and implementation with SMC collaboration. Details of this new platform involving the six core competencies will be tailored to each subspecialty. I hope all FAMS will actively be involved in this new effort. There is indeed a lot of work that needs to be done for this programme.

Other issues brought up during the meeting were:
1. Feedback on Residency programmes
2. Maintaining AMS relevance and attracting new members particularly overseas graduates
3. AMS being able to tap on some HMDP programme relevant for our professionals and CPD

On behalf of the Council, I would like to thank Minister Gan and his MOH team for making time in having this dialogue with us.

Council members, Past Masters (Drs Chew Chin Hin, Raj Nambiar, Ho Lai Yun and Fock Kwong Ming) with invited Fellows had a retreat at the Academy on 25 February 2012. The last endeavour was in 2004. The issues tabled were CPD, postgraduate examinations, ethics and professionalism and financial matters. We also revisited our vision and mission. Going forward, the Council’s priority will be increasing the relevance of AMS. Work on CPD committees has already been started by Master-Elect, Dr Lim Shih Hui. We hope to be able to provide a framework for the Academy to spearhead the CPD for each of our subspecialties. We will need to work on this platform and present to MOH and SMC for collaborations. The driver for CPD for medical specialists of Canada, USA and Australia has been the Colleges. We will roll out other issues discussed during this eventful retreat in the near future.

In honour of our Founder Master, Sir Gordon Arthur Ransome (GAR), we have had the GAR Oration held biennially with the Induction Comitia at the Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Medicine. Past orators were President Devan Nair, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad and in last year, Dr York Chow, Secretary for Food and Health of Hong Kong.

continued on pg2
continued from pg1 (Master’s Message)

To perpetuate the GAR Oration, we need to raise funds. Members of this Fundraising Committee include Drs Chew Beng Keng, Geh Min, Chew Chin Hiong and Lee Suan Yew. The Chairman is Dr Anantharaman. I appeal to all members of the Academy and the medical fraternity to donate generously to this worthy cause.

The Hong Kong Academy of Medicine is our member of the tripartite partner with the Malaysia Academy of Medicine. The 2nd Tripartite Meeting will be held here in 2013 under the chairmanship of Dr Wong Kok Seng. We would like to encourage all FAMS and also trainees/residents of our postgraduate training to contribute and attend this meeting.

The 15th World Conference on Tobacco or Health was held at Suntec Singapore International Convention and Exhibition Centre on 20 to 24 March 2012. I had the opportunity to meet with the Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO), Dr Margaret Chan, from Hong Kong. Also present was Dr Donald Li (Vice President, President-Elect of Hong Kong Academy of Medicine) and Presidents of various Colleges from Hong Kong.

The meeting was successfully concluded with more preventive measures being spearheaded by WHO to reduce incidence of smoking, particularly in the developing countries. More awareness of the ill-effects of tobacco was also being taught in the medical school and postgraduate curriculum and has been adopted in Hong Kong.

In closing for this communication, I would like to encourage our FAMS to take a more active role in our activities.

Prof Tan Kok Chai

ELECTION OF THE ACADEMY’S COUNCIL

The Academy held its ballot exercise this year when eight nominations were received out of six Elected Council positions.

A total of 957 returned ballot cards were received out of 2,377 ballot cards that were sent out. Out of these, 103 ballot cards were invalid (100 ballot cards belonged to FAMS with arrears and three were disqualified). The number of valid ballot cards is 854.

The top six candidates who received the most votes were declared duly elected into the Council of the Academy (2012 to 2014):

- Dr Anthony Heng
- Dr Jeyaraj Premra Raj
- Dr Khoo Kei Siiong
- Dr Tay Jern Chin
- Dr Teo Eng Kiong
- Dr Thamothampillai Thirusothy

SMC ELECTION 2012

An SMC Election will be held in October 2012. All fully-registered medical practitioners who hold valid practising certificates during the Election will be required to vote. Doctors who are overseas during the Election period will be exempted from voting, if they are able to provide documentary evidence of their overseas status.

Please keep the Council updated of your latest mailing address, so that the Election documents will reach you in a timely manner. Doctors who fail to vote without a valid reason will be subjected to a fine of $500, and will not be able to renew their practising certificate when it next expires, unless the fine is paid.

The update of particulars form is available on SMC’s website at www.smc.gov.sg.

For clarifications, please write to smc_elections@smc.gov.sg

New Enrolment and Membership Scheme

Fellows of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore (FAMS), who are admitted from 1 June 2012, will not be required to pay up front $1,500, which includes the Entrance Fee of $500 and Building Endowment Fund ($500F) donation of $1,000. Instead, the amount totalling $1,500 will be defrayed over 5 years, where the annual membership fee shall be $500 for the first 5 years. Thereafter, it shall be restored to the prevailing annual membership fee at $500.

To Strengthen FAMS Membership and to Improve Allocation of Resources

The Academy has restructured its enrolment and membership fees to achieve two primary objectives:

- To improve membership enrolment and strengthen FAMS membership
- To give the Academy flexibility to better allocate resources

The defrayment of $1,500 over 5 years will ease the financial obligation at entry for new Fellows. The restructuring will also empower the Academy flexibility in deploying its resources effectively without having to increase its annual membership fees against the setting of escalating cost. The annual membership fee for Fellows has remained unchanged at $500 since 1999.

The Academy Commemorates 55 Years of Specialists’ Training and Education

This year, the Academy proudly marks its 55th year in specialists’ education and training. Commemorating this milestone, the Academy has introduced a new defrayment fee in Year 2 to Year 5 shall be $800. Thereafter, it shall be restored to the prevailing annual membership fee at $500.

For further information, please refer to http://www.ams.edu.sg/fees.asp

Supporting Members of the Medical Practitioners offering Pathology and Radiology services to the public are invited to join the Malaysia Academy of Medicine (MAMS) as supporting members.

MEMBERSHIP

New Membership Card

The Academy has taken into consideration feedback from FAMS and has implemented changes to the FAMS membership card. The new membership card is making its way to our Fellows, do keep a lookout for it.

Membership Benefits and Privileges

Commemorating the Academy’s 55th Anniversary, we are pleased to unveil a host of attractive benefits and exciting privileges for our Fellows:

- Air tickets to Hong Kong and PC Books vouchers giveaways
- Dining privileges and Guest Room benefits at Riverview Hotel
- Fujitsu Lifebook at academic prices
- Access to Continuing Medical Education (CME) and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) activities, including Distance Learning Programme (DLP)
- Preferential fees or complimentary access to the Annals, the official medical and dental journal of the Academy, which is an indexed journal of the US National Library of Medicine (Index Medicus) with an impact factor of 1.2.

For more information, please visit http://www.ams.edu.sg/benefits.asp

Induction Comitia 2012

Date: 23 August 2012, Thursday
Venue: Health Promotion Board Auditorium
3 Second Hospital Avenue, Singapore 168937
Time: 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Guest of Honour: Dr Amy Khor, Minister of State, Ministry of Health, Singapore

This year’s event will also witness the launch of the Gordon Arthur Ransome Oration Fundraising.
Sedation Task Force

The Ministry of Health (MOH) is concerned that sedation of patients for medical procedures is carried out in clinics by non-anaesthesiologists who may be inadequately trained. During audit checks of medical clinics, it was found that many clinics have doctors performing sedation for procedures. MOH is concerned that healthcare professionals may not be sufficiently experienced and/or adequately trained to perform sedation for such procedures safely.

A task force led by the College of Anaesthesiologists, Singapore with representatives from the other Chapters and Colleges was tasked to put together a set of safety guidelines for the practice of sedation. The guidelines focus on the adequacy of training of the non-anaesthesiologist sedationists, proper patient selection, monitoring of the sedated patients and the post-procedural management of such patients.

The task force committee met and discussed during a span of three months to develop the guidelines and the final draft was submitted to the Ministry of Health for consideration in March 2012. The guideline is targeted for public release in mid-2012.

Professional Opinions — January to May 2012

The Academy of Medicine received several requests seeking professional opinions from the Ministry of Health on the following topics:

- Banking of Stem Cells Extracted from Dental Pulp (College of Dental Surgeons, Singapore)
- Professional Guidance on the Links between Abortion and Subsequent Risk of Developing Breast Cancer (College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Singapore)
- Risk of Thyroid Cancer Posed by Dental X-Rays and Mammograms
- Insertion of Instruments into Bodily Orifices
- Anti-HBV Drugs — Licensing Condition
- MOH Clinical Practice Guidelines Masterplan FY2013

MOH Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG) Masterplan FY2013 & Prioritisation Exercise

Since 1998, the Ministry of Health has developed and published CPGs under the MOH CPG programme. The Ministry also collaborates with the Academy of Medicine, Singapore (AMS) to develop CPGs under the AMS-MOH CPG programme. The AMS-MOH CPG programme focuses on the publication of CPGs that provide evidence-based guidance on broader clinical topics, while the MOH CPG programme will publish CPGs to support MOH policy.

The Ministry of Health conducted its annual call for input from professional divisions within MOH, AMS, CFPS, SMA, HPB and HSA on topics for CPG development for publication in FY2013. A committee will be formed with representatives from these stakeholders to prioritise topics for CPG development. The topics for guideline development will be selected and prioritised based on:

- National priorities in disease management
- Public health impact
- Potential number of doctors and patients who can benefit
- Utility of guidelines (e.g. condition where there is effective treatment but wide variation in practice)

The Colleges and Chapters under the Academy of Medicine, Singapore have proposed the following topics for consideration to be developed in FY2013:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>College/Chapter</th>
<th>Proposed CPG Topic</th>
<th>Proposers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Chapter of Emergency Physicians</td>
<td>Guidelines on Treatment of Cyanide Poisoning</td>
<td>Prof V Anantharaman, Chairman, Chapter of Emergency Physicians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>College of Dental Surgeons, Singapore</td>
<td>Guidelines on Osteonecrosis of Jaws related to Bisphosphonate Therapy</td>
<td>A/Prof Yeo Jin Fei, Immediate Past President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Chapter of Rheumatologists, College of Physicians, Singapore</td>
<td>Gout</td>
<td>Dr Leong Keng Hong, Chairman, Chapter of Rheumatologists, CPS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Staff Registrar Scheme (SRS) Diplomas — Call for Registration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Speciality</th>
<th>Call for registration</th>
<th>Tentative Commencement Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Cardiology</td>
<td>Apr and Sep 2012</td>
<td>Jun (5th Intake) and Nov 2012 (6th Intake)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Cardiothoracic Surgery</td>
<td>Feb to Jul 2012</td>
<td>Sep 2012 (2nd Intake)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Geriatric Medicine in Hospital &amp; ILTC</td>
<td>14 Mar to 20 Apr 2012</td>
<td>Aug 2012 (5th Intake)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
<td>23 Mar to 22 Apr and Sep 2012</td>
<td>May 2012 (4th Intake) and Nov 2012 (5th Intake)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Neurosurgery</td>
<td>Jul and Nov 2012</td>
<td>Nov 2012 (4th Intake) and Mar 2013 (5th Intake)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Orthopaedic Surgery</td>
<td>Apr and Jul 2012</td>
<td>Aug 2012 (4th Intake) and Nov 2012 (5th Intake)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Paediatric Cancer Care</td>
<td>Sep 2012</td>
<td>Nov 2012 (2nd Intake)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Paediatric and Child Health</td>
<td>Sep 2012</td>
<td>Nov 2012 (6th Intake)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Radiation Oncology</td>
<td>Sep 2012</td>
<td>Nov 2012 (4th Intake)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Rehabilitation Medicine</td>
<td>Mar and Sep 2012</td>
<td>May 2012 (3rd Intake) and Nov 2012 (4th Intake)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In-Training Examinations (ITE) — January to June 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>ITE specialty</th>
<th>Name of ITE</th>
<th>ITE Provider</th>
<th>Date of Exam</th>
<th>Exam Format</th>
<th>No. of Candidates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Diagnostic Radiology</td>
<td>DXIT</td>
<td>American College of Radiology</td>
<td>11, 12, 14 and 15 Jan 2012</td>
<td>Web-based Examination (Proctored)</td>
<td>48 Trainees, 20 Residents (NHG: 6, NUHS: 4, SHS: 10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Otolaryngology</td>
<td>OTE</td>
<td>American Board of Otolaryngology</td>
<td>3 Mar 2012</td>
<td>Paper Examination</td>
<td>2 Trainees, 9 Residents (NHG: 2, NUHS: 3, SHS: 4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Chapter of General Surgeons and the College of Surgeons Singapore (CSS), supported by the Academy of Medicine, Singapore, hosted the 13th Asian Association of Endocrine Surgeons (AAES) Congress on 26 to 28 March 2012 at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront.

Focusing on the theme of “Current Practice, New Directions”, more than 250 doctors, trainees, nurses and industry delegates from the Asia Pacific region were updated on new developments in research, clinical practice and patient care by local and international experts from around the world.

“Singapore is the host city for this year, the first time in its 26-year history,” said A/Prof Cheah Wei Keat, who is the Congress President. “It is indeed a milestone and proud moment for all of us. The congress continues with the tradition of promoting the exchange of knowledge and advancements in endocrine surgery and the training of specialist endocrine surgeons in both Asian and Western countries, as well as developing a spirit of friendship among endocrine surgeons in Asia. It is with this goal in mind that the biennial Congress remains a focal point of gathering of colleagues near and far,” A/Prof Cheah said.

Echoing this, Guest of Honour, Prof Tan Kok Chai, Master, Academy of Medicine, Singapore said, “There is no better role model for endocrine surgeons than Dr Emil Theodor Kocher. He is a Swiss surgeon who won the Nobel Prize last century for his work in thyroid diseases.”

This year’s congress attracted the submissions of more than 150 abstracts from 20 countries. Keeping with tradition, the John Farndon Award for Best Poster Presentation and the Yoshide Fujimoto Award for Best Oral Presentation were awarded to Dr Ki-Won Chun, Department of Surgery, Yonsei University College of Medicine, Seoul, South Korea, and Dr Andrew Thomson, Surgical Resident, Department of Endocrine Surgery Royal North Shore Hospital, Australia, respectively.

The congress also saw big names in the medical devices participating in the trade exhibition and showcasing the latest technologies.

CHAPTER OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS

The Chapter had convened a workshop on ‘The State of Medical Care in Singapore’ (SEMS). The workshop held its 7th meeting on 17 January 2012 at the Singapore General Hospital. The 8th meeting took place on 7 February 2012 at the Changi General Hospital. Finally, the workshop participated in a Lunch Symposium Open Forum Discussion on ‘The State of Medical Care in Singapore’ during the Annual Scientific Conference of the SEMS. The session took place on 26 February 2012 at Suntec Singapore International Convention & Exhibition Centre.

CHAPTER OF PSYCHIATRISTS

Continuing Medical Education
Topic: ‘Better Remission for Better Functionality in Major Depressive Disorder’
Dr Ruth Baruch from Toronto, Ontario, Canada spoke to attendees at a session on the topic ‘Better Remission for Better Functionality in Major Depressive Disorder’ under the Chapter’s Continuing Medical Education (CME) programme. The session was held on 16 March 2012 at the Imperial Treasure, Paragon and was chaired by Dr Adrian Wang, a Fellow of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore (FAMS) and a consultant psychiatrist in private practice.

IN MEMORIAM
The Academy records with sadness the demise of the following Fellows:
- Dr Chew Guan Khuan, Andrew (Internal Medicine) Honorary Fellow
- Dr Chew Seck Bwok (Respiratory Medicine)
- Dr Khoo Don Telk (Internal Medicine) Past Master (1964 – 1968)
- Dr Teo Chin Chye Honorary Fellow
### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Organiser</th>
<th>Event Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inaugural Singapore Paediatric &amp; Perinatal Annual Congress (ISPPAC)</td>
<td>7 Jul 12</td>
<td>Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel</td>
<td>College of Paediatrics and Child Health, Singapore</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cpchs.sg">www.cpchs.sg</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Cardiac Life Support Course (ACLS) - Recertification</td>
<td>15 Sep 12</td>
<td>Singapore First Aid Training Centre</td>
<td>Academy of Medicine, Singapore</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ams.edu.sg">www.ams.edu.sg</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Advanced Cardiac Life Support Course (ACLS) - Full Certification</em></td>
<td>8 to 9 Sep 12</td>
<td>Singapore First Aid Training Centre</td>
<td>Academy of Medicine, Singapore</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ams.edu.sg">www.ams.edu.sg</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46th Malaysia-Singapore Congress of Medicine</td>
<td>12 to 14 Jul 12</td>
<td>Shangri-La Hotel Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia</td>
<td>Academy of Medicine, Singapore, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia, Hong Kong Academy of Medicine</td>
<td>mscm.acadmed.my/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hand, Wrist &amp; Distal Radius Cadaveric Course</td>
<td>2 to 3 Aug 12</td>
<td>ASTC &amp; PGMI</td>
<td>Chapter of Hand Surgeons</td>
<td><a href="http://www.css.edu.sg">www.css.edu.sg</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Combined Surgical Meeting</td>
<td>4 Aug 12</td>
<td>Grand Copthorne Waterfront</td>
<td>Chapter of General Surgeons</td>
<td><a href="http://www.css.edu.sg">www.css.edu.sg</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine Review Course 2012</td>
<td>8 to 9 Sep 12</td>
<td>Khoo Teck Puat Hospital</td>
<td>College of Physicians, Singapore</td>
<td>cps.ams.edu.sg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introductory Thyroid &amp; Parathyroid Ultrasound Course</td>
<td>9 Sep 12</td>
<td>Tan Tock Seng Hospital</td>
<td>Chapter of Otorhinolaryngology</td>
<td><a href="http://www.css.edu.sg">www.css.edu.sg</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47th Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Medicine</td>
<td>23 to 24 Aug 13</td>
<td>Suntec Singapore (TBC)</td>
<td>Academy of Medicine, Singapore</td>
<td><a href="http://www.smcm-ams.com/">www.smcm-ams.com/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ANNALS

In an effort to go-green and reduce paper wastage and reduce costs, Annals has started a new publishing approach since 2009 – publish often, print infrequently. Meaning, online issues would be published on a monthly basis while hardcopies would be printed and circulated to members who opt for print copies. If you would like to receive a print copy, please fill in the form below and fax it to 6593 7867 or email it to annals@ams.edu.sg.

To: Annals Editorial Office (Fax: 65937867)

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