MESSAGE

from Master

Dear Fellow Academicians,

It is with a sense of humility and responsibility that I took over the office of Master from Prof Ho Lai Yun at the end of May this year. I anticipate many challenges and hard work ahead following the footsteps of the past Masters, many of whom have left an indelible mark in academia, teaching, patient care and medical administration. In my first communication, I wish to share with you some of the planned projects of the Academy over the next 2 years.

One of the top priorities for the council is to find a new home for the Academy. This was a resolution passed at the AGM in May this year. The Academy including its colleges and chapters with a membership of more than 2200 has grown tremendously over the years and the current premises at Neil Road are insufficient to house this expansion and cater for our activities. The general body has given the search committee the mandate to find a new office. The committee has identified a new office at the NKF building at Kim Keat Road. Taking the top two floors of the building, we plan to have modern office facilities for our own administrative support staff, meeting rooms for the colleges and chapters and a lounge for fellows. In addition, we also have access to the use of the auditorium, lecture halls and gymnasium facilities in NKF. Under this one roof concept, we hope to utilise our resources and funds wisely and at the same time, create opportunities for fellow academicians to interact with one another regularly, not necessarily through meetings, but through other events. For a start, the council has approved holding this year’s induction ceremony scheduled for 11 November 2008 at the auditorium. It will also provide an opportunity for fellows who have yet to view the premises to do so.

The next priority is to form standing committees to carry out activities that fulfill the objectives of the Academy:

1. The standing committee for Professional Affairs takes charge of the professional issues of the specialists, which include getting specialist opinion for medico-legal enquiries, granting approval for short-term registration of medical specialists performing procedures at workshops and most important of all, expressing opinion on medical practice. Over the recent issue of aesthetic practice, the Academy together with the College of Family Physicians, Singapore and the Singapore Medical Council (SMC) convened a group consisting of plastic surgeons, dermatologists and family physicians to provide guidelines. This committee needs to obtain views from these specialists and crystallise into statements that represent the majority view. Prof Ho Lai Yun chairs this committee with members nominated by the colleges and chapters and is supported by the Division of Professional Affairs.

2. Another new standing committee is the Specialist Training and Examination Committee chaired by Prof Lee Kok Onn. The focus is on the assessment of the trainees (BST) and the advanced specialist trainees (AST). The committee has started work with the common trunk specialties of Internal Medicine and General Surgery.

3. The Corporate and International Relations Committee which I chair is to develop working relationship with overseas colleges on postgraduate training/education, continuous professional development (CPD) assessment as well as accreditation. We are aware that colleges in the western world are reviewing and reforming these activities and the Academy needs to keep abreast of the developments.

4. The Continuing Professional Development Committee, which has been set up previously,
has been revamped and tasked with reviewing programmes for continuing professional development. The Committee members work closely with the Singapore Medical Council of Maintenance of Competency Committee.

5. Other committees include the Professional Conference Organisation Committee, which has been set up under the leadership of Dr Chan Yew Weng, to ensure the management of conferences, congresses and postgraduate courses and a Committee on Membership Welfare, chaired by Prof Lee Kok Onn, will look after the welfare of members and ways and means to improve the benefits of fellows and members.

The world is changing rapidly, so will the practice of medicine as well as postgraduate training. Lifelong learning and continuous update on the technical aspects of medicine can be expected. Technology brings forth advances that can raise moral and ethical issues which the specialists need to address. The objectives of the Academy of Medicine, advancing the art and science of medicine and promoting postgraduate medical education for specialists through training, examination, accreditation together with lifelong learning remain unchanged. To achieve our objectives, all fellows can contribute by taking part in the activities of the Academy, suggest ideas for implementation and provide constructive feedback. Together, we can build the stature and reputation of the Academy in society as a pillar of medical professionalism in Singapore.

At the same time, we will work alongside with the SMC, the Ministry of Health, the Clusters, and the Division of Graduate Medical Studies (DGMS) as partners to gain the profession’s support and community respect. As our fellow academicians continue to advocate good doctor-patient rapport, we must be stringent in maintaining the highest professional standard while discouraging the proliferation of medico-legal litigation, that often arises as a result of inadequate communication, misunderstanding or excessive expectations. We hope to achieve this by seeking to do more through the involvement in various government statutory/advisory bodies, and specialty societies to ensure that the community will be educated with the understanding of advances as well as limitations of modern medicine.

Prof Fock Kwong Ming, Master
2008 - 2009 Council

AMS TO MOVE to larger premises

The Academy of Medicine, Singapore will be moving into larger premises in the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) building on Kim Keat Road before the end of the year. It has leased levels 11 and 12 of the building for the next 18 years.

While the current premises at 142 Neil Road have served the Academy well, they are unable to accommodate the expansion needs of the Academy which house the secretariat of 7 Colleges and 4 Chapters. The new premises on the 11th and 12th floor of the building have twice the total area which will not only provide a more conducive working environment for staff, but also additional facilities for members as well as Colleges and Chapters.

The 12th floor will include a dedicated Members’ lounge, a conference room, meeting rooms and workstations for staff while the 11th floor hosts the Joint Committee of Specialist Training (JCST) and provide the additional space required for the JCST expansion from its current 19 staff to 45 staff over the next two years.
years. On the same floor, additional rooms are provided for Colleges and Chapters to conduct their meetings. To facilitate this, Secretariat staff are located on the 11th floor.

Additional facilities include the use of the NKF auditorium and training rooms for the various events run by the Academy, Colleges, Chapters and JCST.

The move to NKF Building will bring AMS to next level of our development. Physically in terms of space and identity, we can have both the STC and SMC in the same building. Professionally there will be ample space and facilities to have CME and involvement of specialist societies for relevant activities in this location. We hope all academicians will utilise this opportunity to further enhance the academy role for medical specialists in Singapore.

Dr Tan Kok Chai
Scribe

The move to NKF Building is good for the Academy of Medicine, Singapore as well as for the Colleges. The present premises are unable to accommodate any further staff that will be required to ensure that the Academy runs the Specialist Training Committees well. This move will create more space for the Academy, Colleges and STCs to grow - to meet the specialist training and CME requirements of our Fellows. I support Master and the Council in their plans to relocate the Academy.

Dr Chang Tou Choong, President
College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

The Academy will hold its Induction Comitia on 11 November 2008. In conjunction with the Comitia, there will be a Distinguished Academician lecture. Details are as follows:

**Induction COMITIA 2008 & Distinguished ACADEMICIAN 2008**

Speaker : Professor Stephen Courtenay Robson
Topic : “Recent Advances in Fetal Medicine”
Venue : Shaw Auditorium
        National Kidney Foundation
        81 Kim Keat Road
        Singapore 328836
Time : 5.00 pm to 9.00 pm
News from CHAPTERS

Chapter of Pathologists

19th Combined Annual Scientific Meeting 2008, 27 Sept 2008
The meeting is jointly organised with the Singapore Society of Pathology. It will be held at the Sheraton Towers, Singapore. Areas to be covered include Anatomical Pathology, Clinical Chemistry, Pathology for all and Microbiology/Haematology. Time: 8.30am - 1pm.

Chapter of Psychiatrists

The First Professional Lecture Y2008, 24 April 2008
The First Professional Lecture was held at Ocean 4 & 5, Level 2, Pan Pacific Singapore. 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, United Kingdom delivered the lecture entitled How Antipsychotics Work – From Receptors to Response.

The Second Professional Lecture, 16 July 2008
The Second Professional Lecture Y2008 was delivered by Dr Gary Michael Quinn, Director, Jerusalem Stress & Trauma Institute, Israel. He delivered the lecture entitled Treatment of PTSD in Israel.

Chapter of Public Health & Occupational Medicine

Third Singapore Public Health & Occupational Medicine Conference, 16 & 17 Sept 2008
The Conference, organised by the Chapter of Public Health and Occupational Medicine, was held at the Suntec International Convention & Exhibition Centre.

Public Health and Occupational Medicine professionals as well as allied medical communities came together to reflect, discuss and chart the way forward. A distinguished panel of overseas and local speakers had been invited to share their wealth of experience and knowledge on a wide range of Public Health and Occupational Medicine issues.

In addition, a concurrent session was held with the 19th Asian Conference on Occupational Health on 17 September 2008.

19th Asian Conference of Occupational Health (ACOH), 17-19 Sept 2008
The Asian Conference on Occupational Health is a triennial conference held in different countries in the Asia Pacific region. This was the 19th in its series. It was last held in Singapore in 1982. The theme was “Redefining Occupational Health in the face of Globalization” to cover the multitude of occupational and environmental health issues arising from globalisation that affect both developing and developed countries.

The conference was organised by the Occupational and Environmental Health Society and supported by the Chapter of Public Health and Occupational Medicine Physicians, Academy of Medicine and many occupational health and safety (OSH) organisations.

It provided an excellent learning platform for OSH personnel. Eminent speakers from organisations such as International Labour Organisation (ILO), International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH), Ministry of Manpower and Ministry of Health shared their knowledge and experiences on occupational health. The highlights of the conference included keynote lectures, concurrent symposiums and many interesting free papers presented by various countries including Singapore.

Running concurrent with the event were also two exhibitions – OS+H Asia exhibition show-casing the latest OSH equipment and OSPIMedica ASIA – show-casing latest medical equipment and supplies.

College of Anaesthesiologists, Singapore

This event was jointly organised by the College of Anaesthesiologists, Singapore, Singapore Society of Anaesthesiologists, the Singapore Society of Intensive Care Medicine and the Duke University Medical Centre. It was held at the Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore with about 500 local and regional participants from private and public institutions.

Annual General Meeting Dinner Lecture, 25 April 2008
The lecture was held at the Intercontinental Hotel, Singapore during the College’s 4th Annual General Meeting. The guest speaker, Dr Ruban Poopalalingam, Consultant Anaesthesiologist in Singapore General Hospital and Visiting Consultant Anaesthesiologist at the National Heart Centre, delivered a lecture entitled “Thoracic Anesthesia and Neuromuscular Blockade – Sharing Experience”.

Chapter of Surgeons, Singapore

19th Asian Conference of Occupational Health (ACOH), 17-19 Sept 2008
The Asian Conference on Occupational Health is a triennial conference held in different countries in the Asia Pacific region.
College of Dental Surgeons, Singapore

AMS-SDA Study Club
The Chapter of Dental Surgeons has linked up with the Singapore Dental Association to launch the AMS-SDA Study Club in July. Sessions are held once a month, with each session focusing on a specialty area. The Study Club offers participants a different kind of experience from the usual lecture-style activities. Instead, sessions are interactive and participants are invited to share their viewpoints on the topics and journal articles presented.

Dentists who attended the Study Club sessions are entitled to Continuing Professional Education (CPE) points. Two sessions of the Study Club have been held so far and participants have enjoyed and benefited immensely from them. Here is some of the feedback received from the participants:

“Small study groups enable participants to examine the subject with greater scrutiny. The perusal of selective papers on the subject further enhances and improves the flavour”.

“It is good that AMS is able to educate many of the GPs to greater depths on specific topics in dentistry”.

“The session is more enjoyable than the usual run-of-the-mill formal lecture”.

The remaining schedule for the year 2008 is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Facilitator</th>
<th>Journal Article(s)/ Specialty Focus</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 Sep 08</td>
<td>Dr Ansgar Cheng</td>
<td>Evidence-Based Immediate Loading of Dental Implants</td>
<td>Prosthodontics</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Oct 08</td>
<td>Dr Marianne Ong</td>
<td>Overview of the American Academy of Periodontology Guidelines for the Management of Patients with Periodontal Diseases</td>
<td>Periodontics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Nov 08</td>
<td>Dr Elvin Leong</td>
<td>Tooth Preparations for Complete Coverage Crown Restorations – A Revisit</td>
<td>Prosthodontics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Dec 08</td>
<td>Dr Rashid Tahir</td>
<td>Evidence-Based Dentistry: Pulp Therapies in Dentistry Primary Teeth</td>
<td>Paediatric Dentistry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Time: 6.00 – 8.00 pm  Venue: Singapore Dental Association

Incorporation of College of Dental Surgeons, Singapore
The College of Dental Surgeons, Singapore was officially incorporated on 6 August 2008. Its Inaugural General Meeting will be held within three months from the date of its incorporation.

The College would like to take this opportunity to thank all Fellows and Members for their support in the College formation. The College would like to involve the participation of its Fellows and Members in designing the College Crest. All are invited to submit their designs of the crest. The motto of the College will have to be included in the crest. All designs are to be accompanied with a short write-up on the meaning behind the design and are to be submitted to joyce_lee@ams.edu.sg.

College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists, Singapore

World Fertility Awareness Month, June 2008
The Section of Reproductive Medicine, College of O & G continues its annual celebration of the World Fertility Awareness Month (WFAM) by focusing healthcare professionals’ attention on key issues affecting the reproductive health and welfare of men and women in Singapore. This year, the Section focused on the theme of “Endometriosis” and organised the following events in June/July 2008:

14 June 08  Public Forum on “Endometriosis: Is it affecting your love and marriage?”
28 June 08  Specialists Forum on “Controversies in the Management of Endometriosis”
12 July 08  GPs Forum on “Endometriosis: Learn to Diagnose & Treat”

COGS Scientific Congress 2008 in conjunction with the 4th ISUOG Obstetrics Ultrasound Outreach Course, 10-13 Nov 2008
The event will be held at the Suntec Singapore International Convention and Exhibition Centre. The 3-day ISUOG outreach course will start on 10 November, Monday, and runs back to back with the College of O &
G Scientific Congress on 13 November, Wednesday. The theme of the College of O & G Scientific Congress is “Evidence-Based O & G”. The one-day programme will review current data and knowledge as well as explore how new evidence can be incorporated into clinical practice.

For more details on the programme and registration, please visit the website http://www.isuog-cogs-singapore-2008.com.sg/.

5th College of O & G Lecture & Dinner, 12 Nov 2008
The College of O & G, Singapore is privileged to invite Prof Stephen C Robson to deliver a most fascinating and intriguing subject area that will be of interest to all, “Sub-specialisation in O & G: Boon or Bane (Lessons from the RCOG Experience)”.

Details of the 5th College Dinner & Lecture are as follows:
Date/Day: 12 November 2008, Wednesday
Time: 6.30pm - 8.00 pm [Lecture]
8.00pm – 10.00pm [Dinner]
Venue: Ocean Ballroom, Level 2, Pan Pacific Singapore, 7 Raffles Boulevard, Marina Square, Singapore 039595.

9th Regional MRCOG Part II Examination Course, 15-18 Jan 2009
This course is jointly organised by the College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists [UK], Singapore Representative Committee RCOG and the Division of Graduate Medical Studies. It will be held at the KK Women’s & Children’s Hospital. This annual 4-day intensive course will give an opportunity for O & G Trainees in Singapore as well as in the ASEAN region to experience the full mock MRCOG Part II Examination. We are privileged to have Dr Paul Fogarty, Former Chair MRCOG, Part 2 SAQ Committee and Director of Northern Ireland RCOG Training Programme, as well as Dr Ian Ramsay, Chairman EMQ Subcommittee, RCOG, to be the Examiners of the 9th MRCOG Part II Examination Course.

18th Singapore Radiological Society Annual Scientific Meeting, 28-29 March 2009
This meeting is co-organised by the Singapore Radiological Society, the College of Radiologists, Singapore and Medical Ultrasonography Society, Singapore. Over the years, this annual scientific meeting has established itself as a regional event. This 2-day scientific conference will be held in the Theatrette and conference facilities at Tan Tock Seng Hospital, and will have “Musculoskeletal imaging and intervention” as the theme. In addition, there will be pre-conference workshops from 26 to 27 March 2009 which include hands-on musculoskeletal ultrasound as well as musculoskeletal MRI reading and interpretation. For more info, please refer to www.srs.org.sg.

The annual F Y Khoo lecture will also be held as part of the meeting.

1. The College of Surgeons would like to keep in constant contact with all our College Fellows and we encourage all our members to utilise the “Change of Particulars Update Form” which is available at our College website at www.css.edu.sg under “Who We Are” – Forms, to inform the College of your updated particulars if any.

2. The College of Surgeons has recently made further improvements to its College Lecture, the Scientific Programme includes topics such as Respirology, 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 covering practical issues such as “Paediatric Airway Management” and “Allergy Management Tools in Clinical Practice” and a Pre-Congress Lecture on “Myths & Misconceptions on the Diagnosis & Management of Cow’s Milk Protein Allergy” on 3rd October.


College of Radiologists, Singapore
Forum on Career in Radiology, 19 July 2008
This forum was organised with the aim to attract more young doctors into taking up a career in the three specialties of the College of Radiologists. It was held at the National Cancer Centre [NCC] lecture hall. Housemen and medical officers from various institutions were invited to attend. Speakers were invited to give a talk to the participants on their own specialties. After the lectures the participants were given a tour of the state-of-the-art equipment of the Diagnostic and Therapy departments of the NCC. During the tour there was much discussion amongst the participants and the senior staff of the departments who led the tour.

College of Surgeons, Singapore
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2. The College of Surgeons has recently made further improvements to its College
eForum which was launched in April 2007 for the purpose of providing a platform for the benefit of our College Fellows to conduct discussions, sharing of cases, knowledge and expertise with fellow peers. Additional features as follows have been added to the College eForum:

- **Email notification of new topics / replies posted in the eForum either by members or by the eForum moderator.** Members of the Chapter will receive an email alert to login into the eForum to view the new topics / new replies posted on existing topics. Example: If a new topic is uploaded in the eForum of the Chapter of Cardiothoracic Surgeons, the members of the Chapter of Cardiothoracic Surgeons will receive an email alert triggered by the eForum that a new topic has been added to the eForum. Members of the other Chapters will NOT receive this email alert meant for members of the Chapter of Cardiothoracic Surgeons.

- **“Forget Password” feature.** All College Fellows have been issued with a set of login information that comprised of your User ID (which is your MCR number) and the system-generated password in year 2007 when the eForum was launched. With the progress of time, some Fellows may have forgotten their login password and with this “forget password” feature implemented, Fellows can now regenerate a new login password. Security checks are in place to ensure that the user who is requesting for a re-generation of the login password is a genuine Fellow of the College of Surgeons. All College Fellows are advised to change their passwords at their first login into the eForum for security purposes. Please also take the time to browse through the Regulations formulated for the usage of our College eForum at the login page.

All College Fellows are encouraged to fully utilise the College eForum at www.css.edu.sg/Forum as a communication platform, a privilege created specially for our members.

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**College of Physicians, Singapore**

**2nd Chapter of Renal Physicians Lecture, 12 April 2008**

The Chapter of Renal Physicians, College of Physicians, Singapore was honoured to have Prof Evan Lee Jon Choon from the National University Hospital delivered the 2nd Chapter of Renal Physicians Lecture titled “Once upon a time in Nephrology” at the Furama Riverfront Hotel. Prof Ho Lai Yun, Master, Academy of Medicine, Singapore was the guest-of-honour.

**5th Annual Scientific Meeting, 5-6 July 2008**

The 1.5-day programme included lectures, updates and clinical opinions in the various specialties of Internal Medicine. A BST corner was specially allocated for junior doctors/medical trainees (BST).

Prof Liaw Yun-Fan from Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Taiwan delivered the 17th Seah Siang Memorial Lecture titled “Advances in the Management of Viral Hepatitis in the last Decade”. The 5th College of Physicians Lecture titled “A Physician’s Odyssey: Some Recollections and Reflections” was delivered by Dr Chew Chin Hin, Honorary Postgraduate Advisor & Adj Assoc Professor from National University of Singapore. Both lectures were very well-received.

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Group photo at the 2nd Chapter of Renal Physicians. From left to right: Prof Evan Lee, Prof Ho Lai Yun, Prof Ng Keng Yeen, A/Prof Wong Kok Seng and Dr Lim Shih Hui.

Group photo at the 5th Annual Scientific Meeting. From left to right: Dr Lau Tang Ching, Prof Liaw Yun-Fan, Prof Ng Keng Yeen, Dr Chew Chin Hin, Dr Roland Chong and A/Prof Lim Shih Hui.

Prof Ng Keng Yeen presenting the 5th College of Physicians Lecture Gold Medal to Dr Chew Chin Hin

Prof Ng Keng Yeen presenting the 17th Seah Siang Memorial Lecture plaque to Prof Liaw Yun-Fan
**Best of ASCO 2008, 15-16 Aug 2008**
The Chapter of Medical Oncologists, College of Physicians, Singapore with the American Society of Clinical Oncology and the Singapore Society of Oncology held the popular Best of ASCO meeting for the first time in Singapore at the Intercontinental Hotel. The event featured high-impact abstracts from the 2008 ASCO Annual Meeting representing the most relevant and cutting-edge science in Oncology today. The 2-day programme was well-attended by local and overseas delegates.

**Singapore Palliative Care Conference 2008 (SPCC 2008), 29-30 Aug 2008**
The Section of Palliative Medicine, College of Physicians, Singapore co-organised the Singapore Palliative Care Conference 2008 which was held at the RLC Hotel. The theme was “Respecting Choices” where different issues and challenges faced by healthcare workers, patients and their families when making choices in palliative care were addressed.

**5th Congress of Asian-Pacific Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis, 18-20 Sept 2008**
This Congress was organised by the Chapter of Haematologists, College of Physicians, Singapore, with the support of the Singapore Society of Haematology and the Singapore Association for Medical Laboratory Sciences.

**COUNCIL 2008-2009**

| Elected Council Members |  |
|-------------------------|  |
| Dr Fock Kwong Ming      | Master |
| Dr Ho Lai Yun           | Immediate Past Master |
| Dr Lim Shih Hui         | Assistant Master |
| Dr Tan Kok Chai         | Scribe |
| Dr Anthony Heng         | Bursar |
| Dr Ng Boon Keng         | Assistant Bursar |
| Dr Lee Kok Onn          | Censor-in-Chief |
| Dr Chan Heng Thye       | Censor & President, College of Surgeons |
| Dr Chan Yew Weng        | Censor |
| Dr George Yeo Seow Heong| Censor |
| Dr Edward Fang Chee Ping| Censor |
| Dr Ikshuvanam Swaminathan| Censor |
| Dr Sarvesalan Sayampanathan| Censor |

| Appointed Council Members |  |
|---------------------------|  |
| Dr Venkataraman Anantharaman | Chair, Chapter of Emergency Physicians |
| Dr Cuthbert Teo Eng Swee | Chair, Chapter of Pathologists |
| Dr Yap Hwa Ling | Chair, Chapter of Psychiatrists |
| Dr Derrick Heng Mok Kwee | Chair, Chapter of Public Health & Occupational Physicians |
| Dr George Lim | President, College of Anaesthesiologists |
| Dr Andrew Aw Kian-Li | President, College of Dental Surgeons |
| Dr Chang Tou Choong | President, College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists |
| Dr Lee Bee Wah | President, College of Paediatrics and Child Health |
| Dr Ng Keng Yeen | President, College of Physicians |
| Dr Vijay K Sethi | President, College of Radiologists |
| Dr Chan Heng Thye | President, College of Surgeons |

**Ex-Officio**

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**43rd Singapore - Malaysia Congress of Medicine, 6-8 Aug 2009**
It will be held at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel, Singapore. The theme is “Conquering Morbidity and Mortality in the Next Decade”. So do keep a look out for our announcement.