25TH SEAH CHENG SIANG MEMORIAL LECTURE

Genes & Brain: Changing the Clinical Paradigm

Professor Tan Eng King
Director of Research, National Neuroscience Institute

12TH COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS LECTURE

Acute Medicine – Past, Present and Future

Professor Derek Bell
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In conjunction with the

49th Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Medicine 2015

1 August 2015, 1400 - 1700H
The Academia @ SingHealth
20 College Road
Singapore 169856

Lunch buffet is available from 1300H
PROGRAMME

13:00  Lunch buffet
14:00  25th Seah Cheng Siang Memorial Lecture
15:00  College Conferment Ceremony
15:30  Tea Break
16:00  12th College of Physicians Lecture
17:00  End
25th Seah Cheng Siang Memorial Lecture

Genes & Brain: Changing the Clinical Paradigm

It has taken millions of years for the evolution from primitive human ancestor to modern day humans. The structure and complexity of the human brain represent one of the most striking last frontiers of modern medicine. Despite technological advances, much is still unknown on the exact mechanisms how brain cells communicate with each other within the most intricate biological systems and the variable presentation of brain dysfunction and disorders.

Historically, much of the clinical discovery in neurological disorders has been based on astute identification of neurological signs and symptoms and iconic neurological syndromes have served as maxims for neurological education. However, advances in molecular science and genetics have challenged the classification of neurological syndromes based on clinical symptoms and signs, and many clinical diagnostic criteria need to be re-defined. Genetics have and will continue to influence treatment options and change the clinical paradigm for many neurological disorders. In future precision medicine, genetic testing will offer quicker and better diagnosis and potential therapeutic opportunities. We need to prepare and equip ourselves with the appropriate scientific knowledge within the context of the larger ethical, social, legal and psychological considerations in embracing these changes in our clinical practice.
Acute Medicine – Past, Present and Future

Acute Medicine initially developed in the United Kingdom and was established as a specialty in 2003. Since then it has become the largest growing specialty within the United Kingdom and has spread throughout parts of Europe and internationally. Acute medical care was established to ensure the patients admitted as a medical emergency were managed in a well-staffed and well equipped environment that could provide prompt assessment and treatment to improve outcomes for patients.

Several reports have been produced based on acute medical care; the most influential of which was the Royal College of Physicians report published in 2007. This made a number of key recommendations particularly in relation to patient safety with a major recommendation to establish and deliver a unified national early warning scoring system to assess illness severity. In addition to this the Acute Medical Unit is a specific geography and recommendations were made into appropriate facilities and equipment which should support the infrastructure of a dedicated acute medical unit.

Importantly, the acute medical team in an acute medical unit were identified as an essential part of undergraduate and postgraduate medical education and should have an appropriate training environment as well as consultant supervision.

Acute Medicine is therefore a thriving specialty within the United Kingdom which is continuing to grow. For this to develop further, the evidence base and academic content of Acute Medicine must become firmly established.