ADDRESS BY DR DONALD LI
PRESIDENT, HONG KONG ACADEMY OF MEDICINE
Induction Comitia & Opening Ceremony of 49th SMCM 2015
of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore
31 July 2015, Friday @ Auditorium, The Academia, SingHealth

Prof. JY Pillay, Guest of Honour - Chairman of the Council of Presidential Advisers

Dr. Lim Shih Hui, Master, Academy of Medicine, Singapore

Prof. Dato’ Dr P Kandasami, Master, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia

Dr. S R E Sayampanathan, Chairman, Organising Committee, 49th SMCM

Prof. James Best, (22nd Gordon Arthur Ransome Orator

Council Members and representatives of Academy Colleges

New Fellows

Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good evening.
On behalf of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, I would like to bring you greetings and good wishes from Hong Kong. It is my great honour to be here with you today attending the 49th Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Medicine 2015 and welcoming you all to this year’s Induction Comitia of the Academy of Medicine of Singapore.

The Induction Comitia is a celebration of the formal admission of new Fellows. Let me, therefore, proffer my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to your success and achievements. Today you have reached an important landmark in your career. It is the celebration of all your stories of success; a time for reflections of your sacrifices made, accomplishments as well as disappointments. You now have the obligation to show without flinching, the skills you have honed, and make full use of the knowledge you have acquired to best serve the community with the highest professional standard.

As future leaders in the profession, you need to learn to accept change. Human society is stepping into unknown territory and is developing continuously. The changes will not stop, and may even accelerate. As technology advances at such great speed today, the years of education and training you have received will not be sufficient for you to pursue a lifelong career facing the many challenges that lies ahead.

You should progress from seeking professional credentials to achieving core competencies in order to deliver quality services in our health system. The strength of the profession relies on the collective and concerted efforts of accomplished individuals like you. You should continue to work hard for improvement and strive for excellence in your area of expertise.

The ageing population, and increased prevalence of chronic diseases require a strong orientation towards prevention, self-care, and there is demand for quality primary care delivered by family physicians that is well co-ordinated and integrated. The overall healthcare strategy needs to include bringing in new disciplines, perspectives, and methodologies and taking into account anthropology, sociology, epidemiology, economics and health policies.
The Hong Kong Academy of Medicine was established by statute in 1993, empowered to set and maintain standards of specialist training in Hong Kong. Today, we have over 7,000 Fellows under 15 specialty Colleges.

As some of you may know, I am a family physician. The Hong Kong College of Family Physicians was one of the founding Colleges when the Hong Kong Academy was formed 20 years ago. We have now over 400 Fellows under the College who have gone through structured training to become specialists in Family Medicine. I am delighted to learn that last year, the Singapore Academy has formed the Chapter of Family Medicine Physicians, integrating Family Physicians into its membership of specialists. This is an important and well-deserved recognition of the discipline. Family doctors provides holistic care and take responsibility in evaluating the patient’s total health needs over an extended period of time and is thus a specialty in breadth rather than depth.

The theme of this year’s congress “Greater Integration for Better Patient Care” is most timely and appropriate. The theme highlights the need for family physicians, specialists and allied healthcare professionals to work in collaboration, involving the patient and family to evaluate treatment options and planning.

May I take this opportunity to congratulate the Organizing Committee for putting together such an excellent and well-structured program. The Congress offers an excellent opportunity for medical experts from many specialties to exchange knowledge and share expertise with the ultimate aim to improve people’s health and quality of life. May I wish you all a fruitful experience during the Congress.

Once again, I congratulate all the new Fellows wholeheartedly on your achievements today. If you have not already done so, I urge you to take a few minutes to thank the people who supported you all these years - emotionally and financially. I wish you every success and great happiness in the years to come.