ADDRESS BY DR LIM SHIH HUI
MASTER, ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, SINGAPORE

Induction Comitia & Opening Ceremony of 49th SMCM 2015
of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore
31 July 2015, Friday @ Auditorium, The Academia, SingHealth

Guest-of-Honor, Mr J.Y.M Pillay, Chairman of the Council of Presidential Advisers of the Republic of Singapore;

Professor Dato’ Dr P Kandasami, Master of the Academy of Medicine of Malaysia & President of the 49th Singapore Malaysia Congress of Medicine;

Dr Donald Li, President of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine;

Dr Selan Sayampanathan, Chairman, Organizing Committee of the Congress;

Professor James Best, Dean of Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine and 22nd Gordon Arthur Ramsome Orator;

Visiting Overseas Presidents, Heads of Institutions, Distinguished Guests, Fellow Academicians, Friends, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen;

A very good evening to you.

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 49th Singapore Malaysia Congress of Medicine, Induction Comitia and Gordon Arthur Ramsome Oration.

For the last 50 years, the Singapore-Malaysia and Malaysia-Singapore Congresses of Medicine and the Joint Council meetings were the main occasions when our Academy of Medicine, Singapore and the Academy of Medicine of Malaysia met annually. These regular
annual meetings gave us the opportunities to share challenges common to both Academies and possible solutions we could learn from each other. We are glad that the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine has joined us in these annual events since 2004.

For this Congress, we are privileged to have Mr J Y Pillay, Chairman of the Council of Presidential Advisers of the Republic of Singapore, grace the Induction Comitia and Opening Ceremony as the Guest-of-Honor. He will also be conferred Honorary Fellowship of the Academy later. Gordon Arthur Ransome Oration is being held once in 2 years, during the Singapore Malaysia Congress of Medicine. This year’s Oration, entitled ‘Is Medicine still an Art?’ will be delivered by Professor James Best, Dean, Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, our third medical school in Singapore.

For our new Inductees and our guests from overseas, I would like to share that our Academy of Medicine is the biggest medical specialist organization in Singapore. It was established in 1957 with 34 founding Fellows. Now we have more than 3,000 Fellows form 35 medical specialties, 5 medical subspecialties and 7 dental specialties, distributed in 11 Colleges and Chapters.

Last year, we established another Chapter, the Chapter of Family Medicine Physicians with Fellows who have undergone advance training in Family Medicine. It is important to have highly trained Family Medicine Physicians in our Academy, as we are advocating “Greater Integration for Better Patient Care” which is the theme of our Congress. In addition, as an academic organization, we recently formed a Chapter of Clinician Scientists and a Chapter of Clinician Educators, supporting the development of research and medical education amongst specialists in Singapore.

For the next 1 to 2 years, Academy will further complement the effort of the Specialist Accreditation Board and Ministry of Health Singapore to train medical specialists, especially in the area of Assessment leading to specialist certifications. In addition, our Academy, together with its Colleges and Chapters will work closely with the CME Committee of the Singapore Medical Council, to be the main driver, to operationalize the change from the
current compulsory CME system to the proposed Maintenance of Competency framework for all specialists in Singapore.

For the 73 new inductees, please accept my heartiest Congratulations! You are now truly part of us, helping the Academy to preserve and advance our medical profession! You probably have worn the academic gown quite a while ago when you obtained your basic and postgraduate degrees, but to wear the Academy’s gown at this induction comitia serves to remind you that you need to remain academic in your life-long medical learning journey, especially educating yourself as well as the next generation of healthcare professionals.

As our new Fellows, please devote time to your respective Chapters and Colleges, and eventually service in the Council of the Academy. You are our new blood with lots of fresh ideas. I am certain that you, working together with our senior Fellows, will bring our Academy to a greater height. I would like to take this opportunity to thank many of our Fellows who have devoted so much of your own time to serve our Academy and our profession. One of the recent examples of such devotion is from the team of Clinician Educators led by Dr Dujeepa who later is the Lead Inductee to read the pledge. He and his team from the Chapter of Clinician Educators, collaborates with the Maastricht University, just completed the Unit 1 of the Master of Health Professions Education in Singapore last Friday. It was hard work for them the last 3 weeks and my sincere appreciation goes to the team for a job well-done!

Let me also congratulate our 8 graduates of the Staff Registrar Scheme Diploma programs. You should be proud of your achievement to have fulfilled the stringent requirements to obtain the SRS Diploma. Your role in our public healthcare system is very important. Your longer presence will strengthen our aim to provide comprehensive and holistic care to our patients. I wish you all the best in your career advancement.

In addition, the Academy will also present the Annals Gold Reviewers and Best Publication Awards to recipients who have made outstanding contributions to the Annals of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore which is the Academy’s official journal. Congratulations
and thank you for the excellent work in furthering the exchange of scientific knowledge and information. I would like to encourage all Fellow Academicians to continue supporting the Annals by contributing as reviewers and/or submitting good scientific work and articles for publication.

Last but not least, my sincere thanks to Dr Selan Sayampanathan who is now the Master-Elect, Members of the Organizing Committee, Ms Junia Heng and her team from the Academy, for organizing this Congress.

Let me say in conclusion that this evening will not be complete without the presence of our Guest of Honor and all of you in the audience.

Thank you all. Have an enjoyable Congress, Induction and Oration.