



AMS News

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A Biannual Newsletter of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore

Message from Master

Dear Fellow Academician,

The first few months of the year have gone by rapidly and it is time again for a message to come from the Master. I am pleased to report on this year's activities and some of the key issues your Council has been deliberating, including important plans for the future.

27th Annual General Meeting, 28 May 2005

The 27th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore will be held on Saturday, 28 May 2005 at 2pm at the Faculty of Dentistry Auditorium (Level 4), National University Hospital, 5 Lower Kent Ridge Road, Singapore 119074. The Agenda and Annual Report will be circulated to all Fellows of the Academy soon. May I urge all Fellows to attend this AGM.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the support you have given to the Council this past year. After the AGM, I shall call for nominations for the post of Master-Elect from amongst the elected Council members. The Master-Elect will take office as Master at the 28th AGM in 2006.

39th Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Medicine, 30 June to 3 July 2005

The Academy of Medicine, Singapore is hosting the 39th Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Medicine from 30 June to 3 July 2005 in celebration of 100 Years of Medical Education.

The Organising Committee has drawn up an enriching and stimulating scientific programme. Highlights of the programme include:

- **Centennial Lecture** entitled, "Celebrating Milestones Achieved and Pondering the Road Ahead" by Professor Lim Pin, Past Master, Academy of Medicine, Singapore, 1980-1982 and Vice-Chancellor of National University of Singapore, 1981-1999
- Lecture entitled "The Evolution of Postgraduate Medical Education in Singapore: The Role of

Professional Associations" by **2005 Distinguished Academician**, Emeritus Professor K Shanmugaratnam, Past Master, Academy of Medicine, Singapore, 1966-1968

- **2005 Runme Shaw Memorial Lectureship** by Professor Sir David J Weatherall FRS, Emeritus Regius Professor of Medicine, University of Oxford, UK
- **15th Seah Cheng Siang Memorial Lectureship** entitled, "Liver Transplantation- Lessons Learnt and Future Horizons" by Professor Roger Williams, CBE, Director, Institute of Hepatology, University College London, UK
- **Colleges' Lectureships**

For further information about the Congress, please visit our website at <http://www.ams.edu.sg/39smcm>

The **Opening Ceremony** will be held at 6pm on Thursday, 30 June 2005 at the Shangri-la Hotel. We are extremely grateful to the Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr Lee Hsien Loong, who has consented to officiate and give an address. The Academy will also hold its induction of new Fellows during the Opening Ceremony. We will be welcoming 100 new Fellows.

Maintenance of Certification (MOC)

Over the past several decades, there has been increasing interest on the part of the public and governmental agencies in the requirement of greater accountability for healthcare professionals. In response to these concerns, legislated revalidation and recertification of practitioners are driving the profession towards mandatory professional development programmes internationally, covering a spectrum of clinical, professional, and managerial activities. Approaches differ widely around the world, but most rely on professional self-regulation.

The goals of MOC are to improve the care of patients, to set standards for the practice of medicine, to encourage continued learning and to reassure patients and the public

that doctors remain competent throughout their career. We have a responsibility to provide the best medical care for our patients – professionally, ethically and cost-effectively.

The term “Recertification” was officially used by the Singapore Medical Council (SMC) when newly formed Colleges (i.e. Anaesthesiologists, O & G, Surgeons, Physicians, Paediatrics and Child Health, and Radiologists) under the umbrella of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore (AMS) applied to SMC for the usage of college fellowship titles. SMC has requested AMS to prepare a “Recertification” programme before considering allowing various College Fellows to use the respective college fellowship title.

The Standing Committee on Continuing Education (Education Committee) held discussions with representatives from the Colleges and Chapters to agree on a common and generic template for the programme. The Committee unanimously agreed that a more appropriate name for the programme would be ‘Maintenance of Certification’ (MOC) instead of recertification or revalidation as stated in the Colleges’ Constitutions.

The generic template has been drafted and circulated to all Fellows. Also, dialogue sessions with Fellows of the respective Colleges and Chapters will be held to obtain further inputs and comments. I strongly encourage your participation and inputs to this MOC programme for specialists in Singapore. This is a unique window of opportunity for the profession to take proactive and leading roles in professional development and self-regulation. It must be a system that is effective, workable and achievable by all specialists in all sectors of practice.

The final draft will be passed by the House at Academy’s AGM on 28 May 2005.

I greatly appreciate the trust and support you have shown the Council in our first term of office. I look forward to having your continued support.

With warmest regards,
Low Cheng Hock

Nominations to the 2005-2007 Council

The following members of the 2004-2005 Council will retire at the 27th AGM on 28 May 2005:

1. Dr Chen Fun Gee
2. Dr K Satku*
3. Dr Ho Lai Yun
4. Dr George Soh Yi Wei
5. Dr Yeo Jin Fei*
6. Dr George Yeo Seow Hong

* All are eligible for re-nomination except for Dr K Satku, Immediate Past Master, who will retire from the Council; and Dr Yeo Jin Fei, who has held office for 4 consecutive terms (8 years) but may be re-elected after a lapse of two (2) years thereafter.

Nominations were called to fill in the six (6) vacancies and as at the closing time of 1 March 2005, 5.30 pm, the following four (4) nominations were received:

1. Dr Chen Fun Gee
2. Dr Ho Lai Yun
3. Dr George Soh Yi Wei
4. Dr George Yeo Seow Hong

The Council met on 7 March 2005 and accepted the nominations. These candidates will take office as elected councilors at the 27th AGM on 28 May 2005.

Nominations were opened again on 10 March 2005 to fill the remaining two (2) seats. At the closing time of 24 March 2005, 6.00 pm, the following 4 nominations were received:

Candidate	Proposer	Second
1. Abdul Aziz Bin Mohamed Nather (Orthopaedic Surgeon)	V Prem Kumar	Paul Tambyah
2. Goh Kong Yong (Ophthalmologist)	Lim Tock Han	Heng Wee Jin
3. Peter Mack On Pui (General Surgeon)	Wong Wai Keong	Lucien London Ooi
4. Vincent Yeow* (Plastic Surgeon)	R Pereira	Lee Seng Teik

*(withdrew)

As there are only two (2) vacancies left, it would be necessary to conduct a postal ballot to solicit votes from all Fellows. The ballot papers should reach Fellows by early April 2005. Deadline: 25 April 2005 by 5 pm.

DO REMEMBER TO VOTE!

39th Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Medicine, 30 June to 3 July 2005

Theme: Celebrating 100 Years of Medical Education

**Guest-of-Honour: The Prime Minister of Singapore,
Mr Lee Hsien Loong**

Opening Ceremony: 30 June 2005 at the Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore

Scientific sessions: 1 to 3 July 2005 at the Grand Hyatt

Registration

As this Congress marks an important milestone in Singapore's medical history, we would like to encourage all Fellows to come together to celebrate this significant and memorable event.

Call for Abstracts

The committee is now accepting abstracts for oral presentations. The deadline for submission of abstract is 9 May 2005.

To access the Call for Abstracts Form and Registration Form, please visit our website at: <http://www.ams.edu.sg/39smcm>.

Golf Tournament

An Annual Golf Tournament between the Academy of Medicine Malaysia and the Academy of Medicine, Singapore will be held from 18 (BBQ Dinner) to 19 (Tournament Event) June 2005 at Tiara Melaka, Melaka. For more information, please visit our website at: <http://www.ams.edu.sg>.

First CTS Conjoint Examination between the RCSE and the AMS

The first conjoint examination in Cardiothoracic Surgery between the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (RCSE) and the Academy of Medicine, Singapore (AMS) was held in Singapore on 5 November 2004. The examiners from RCSE were Dr Patrick Magee, Dr Timothy Graham, Dr Robert Jeffrey and Dr Richard Page. The examiners from Singapore were Dr Saw Huat Seong, Prof Lee Chuen Neng, Dr T Agasthian and Dr Joseph Sheares. The chief organisers were A/Prof Wong Poo Sing for National University Hospital and Dr Chua Yeow Leng for National Heart Centre.

The format of the examination is identical to that of RCSE. It is anticipated that the next examination will be held in Hong Kong

and subsequently alternating between Hong Kong and Singapore.

Our heartiest congratulations to the 4 successful candidates!

14th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Singapore Radiological Society

The meeting organised by the Singapore Radiological Society and the College of Radiologists, Singapore was held from 19 to 20 February 2005. The theme was "Women's Imaging and Therapy – Advancing the Healthcare of Women". An estimated 350 people attended the meeting.

The Second FY Khoo Memorial Lecture was also delivered at the meeting by Dr Khor Tong Hong entitled "Brachytherapy – One Man's Meat, A Personal Journey in Radiation Oncology".

Directory of Fellows

Visit the Academy's website at <http://www.ams.edu.sg> and access the Directory of Fellows to locate medical and dental specialists who are **Fellows of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore**.

You can SEARCH the online directory using any of the following criteria:

- By Name (Type last name or any given names)
- By College (Select from the drop down list)
- By Chapter (Select from the drop down list)
- By Registered Specialty with the Ministry of Health (Select from the drop down list)
- By Subspecialty Interest (Type in key words)
- By Country of Practice (Select from the drop down list)

Obituary

It is with deep sadness that we note the passing of the following Fellow:

- Dr Lim Fang Kang, an obstetrician & gynaecologist, passed away on 26 December 2004.



Dr Khor Tong Hong (left) and Dr Tan Kim Ping (President, College of Radiologists, Singapore)

Calendar of Events

April 2005

Friday 22th (2.00-6.00pm)

Saturday 23th (8.00am-5.00pm)

Chapter of Public Health & Occupational Physicians

First Singapore Public Health & Occupational Medicine Conference

Venue: Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel, Singapore

Saturday 30th

College of Paediatrics and Child Health, Singapore

Inaugural Lectureship and Dinner

Dr Ho Lai Yun who is the Assistant Master of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore and Vice-President of the College of Paediatrics and Child Health will be delivering the inaugural lecture entitled "Caring for Children with Special Needs in Singapore".

Lecture: 7-8 pm

Dinner: from 8 pm

Venue: Sheraton Towers, Singapore

May 2005

Saturday 28th

27th Annual General Meeting

Lunch served at 1.00pm; AGM will start at 2.00pm

Venue: Faculty of Dentistry Auditorium (Level 4), NUH.

All Fellows are invited and encouraged to attend.

June 2005

Thursday 30th

Opening Ceremony of the 39th Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Medicine and Academy's Induction Ceremony

Venue: Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore

July 2005

Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd

39th Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Medicine, incorporating the

Chapters'/Colleges' Scientific Meetings

Venue: Grand Hyatt Singapore

August 2005

Saturday 13th to Sunday 14th

College of Anaesthesiologists

15th General Scientific Meeting

Venue: Meritus Mandarin, Singapore

For further information, please contact the Academy's Secretariat.

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