



# AMS News

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*A Biannual Newsletter of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore*

## Annual Induction Ceremony 2003

Held at the Ritz Carlton on 10 November 2003, last year's Induction Ceremony had one of the largest intakes of new Fellows, due to overwhelming response to our membership drive. Our Guest of Honour, President SR Nathan, special guests Mrs Nathan, Acting Minister for Health Mr Khaw Boon Wan and Mrs

Khaw, distinguished guests, Past Masters and the 108 Inductees were warmly welcomed by the Master, Professor K Satku. In his Address, Prof Satku highlighted the challenges and outlined measures taken by the Academy of Medicine to meet these challenges, such as the launch of a self-appraisal questionnaire and the setting up of Colleges. He called on our specialists to "come on board to take ownership", a call echoed by Professor Tan Ser Kiat, SingHealth Group CEO, who urged the new Fellows to "not only remain within the fold of the Academy, but be engaged in its activities".



Representative of the Inductees, Dr Ivor Lim, spoke on the new era of clinician scientists and "improved treatment strategies" for the "betterment of the health of the people in our country and, certainly, around the world". Dr Lim then led the Inductees to take the Pledge.



*President Nathan accepting the conferment of Honorary Fellowship of the Academy.*

"Who should be responsible for ensuring that Singaporeans will continue to trust their doctors and have confidence in the medical profession?" asked the DMS Dr Tan Chorh Chuan. His next line, "If I took a quick poll now, I suspect many of you would say that this is the job of the Director of Medical Services and the Ministry of Health", brought smiles and appreciative laughter from the audience. Dr Tan continued, exhorting our medical professionals to "adhere to high standards of professionalism and ethics" and to keep in mind that as role models, the values that "we transmit in our words, and more importantly through our actions, will determine the character of Singapore medicine in the years to come".



# Message from Master

Welcome to the inaugural newsletter of the Academy of Medicine Singapore. The aims in producing the AMS News are for the membership of the Academy to be better informed of activities of the Academy and to serve as a means of communication between the Council and Fellows. It is anticipated that the newsletter will be published biannually, in March and September.

In my newsletter last year, I informed you that the Council undertook a major review of the Academy's Memorandum and Articles of Association (M&A) to prepare for the setting up of Colleges. I am delighted to announce that this is coming to fruition. A number of Chapters have completed or are having dialogue sessions with Fellows of their Chapters to address queries regarding the M&A of their proposed Colleges. Our Academy's EOGM will be held on Saturday, 27 March 2004 at the NUS Clinical Research Centre's Auditorium to discuss and approve the M&A of the Colleges. I believe you have just received the notice of meeting. I hope you will attend this EOGM which marks an important milestone of our Academy.

It is heartening to note the overwhelming response to our recent Fellowship drive. On 10 November 2003, we inducted 108 members and to date we have approximately 200 more Fellows to be inducted. Due to the large numbers, the Council has decided to hold two induction ceremonies for this year, one on 28 May 2004, back to back with the Joint Meeting of the Royal College of Surgeons of England and the Chapter of Surgeons; and another on 19 August 2004 in conjunction with the Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Medicine. We have grown in numbers, but it is imperative that we continue to interest colleagues and friends in joining the Academy. Also, I would like to encourage Fellows to support the Academy by taking part in its activities. Your participation is critical to the success of all events organised by the Academy.

Last but not least, I would like to thank all those who have served on the Council and the various committees during my term of office. Please continue to support the Master-Elect, Dr Low Cheng Hock, who is taking office in June 2004 as we work together for the improvement of our fraternity.

*K Satku*

## Staff News



*The Master handing the Long Service Award to Encik Mohd.*

At the first Council Meeting this year, long-service awards were given to the following staff: Haji Mohd bin Haji Omar (25 years of service), Ms Michelle Choy (15 years), Ms Marianne Yee (15 years), Ms Shanita Nadarajan (10 years) and Ms Yong Bee Choon (10 years).

Our despatch rider, Encik Mohd, retired in December 2003. We would like to thank Encik Mohd for his hard work and dedication over the last 25 years.

## Announcements

### **Announcement of Master-Elect**

At the January 2004 Council Meeting, Dr Low Cheng Hock was elected as the Master-Elect. His term of office for 2 years as Master will begin at the next Annual General Meeting scheduled for 26 June 2004.

### **Joint Meeting of the Chapter of Surgeons and the Royal College of Surgeons of England**

The Joint Meeting will be held on 27 and 28 May 2004 at the Regent Singapore. The President of the College, Sir Peter Morris, will be leading a team of surgeons to Singapore on this occasion.

Some of the highlights of the scientific programme include a Keynote Lecture on "Demography of Singapore Health Services", Plenary Lectures on "Cyber Surgery—State of the Art" and "Surgical Complications in Diabetes". For current programme and registration details, please visit the Academy's website.

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# 38th Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Medicine

To be held from 19th to 22nd August 2004 at the Meritus Mandarin, Singapore, the theme of this year's Congress is "Continuing Professional Development and Professionalism: The Next Lap".

In line with this theme, the distinguished Sir Donald Irvine, President of UK's General Medical Council from 1995 to 2002, has agreed to deliver the 17th Gordon Arthur Ransome Oration, entitled "Patient-Centred Professionalism".

Additionally, Dr John WD McDonald, President of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, will deliver the 2004 Runme Shaw Memorial Lecture on "Professionalism: An

Important Concept In Need of Nurturing".

As this is the most important scientific event of the Academy for 2004, the Chapters are making a concerted effort and will be holding their annual scientific meetings in conjunction with the Congress.

Highlights include the 14<sup>th</sup> Seah Cheng Siang Memorial Lecture, the Young Investigator's Award, the 9<sup>th</sup> Yahya Cohen Memorial Lecture, the 15<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Surgeons Lecture and the 4<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Paediatricians Lecture. Programme and registration details will be made available via our website at <http://www.academyofmedicine.edu.sg/>.

## Pilot Programme on Self-Appraisal

The Academy has recently launched a pilot quality initiative for Fellows. The focus of this programme is on facilitating self-awareness of core professional competencies such as Competence and Continuing Professional Development, Compassion, Ability to teach and train, Communication, Ethics, Health advocacy and Self-regulation.

The Programme is open to all members of the Academy and 3 types of questionnaires are available on the Academy's secured website. Access is via member's MCR no. and password (a password will be generated and mailed out to all members shortly). These are the Self-appraisal Questionnaire, the Patient Questionnaire and the Appraisal by Medical Colleague Questionnaire. A reference number will automatically be generated for each member when they download the questionnaires.

Suggested distribution of the 3 questionnaires

includes self, 5 medical colleagues and 10 patients.

Please mail all completed questionnaires to the Professional Development Division—Self-appraisal Questionnaire, Academy of Medicine, Singapore at 142 Neil Road, Runme Shaw Building, Singapore 088871. Please indicate "Private & Confidential" on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.

The Academy will manage the collection, tabulation and reporting for this programme. Identification of results will be via the generated reference number. We would like to assure members that confidentiality of information gathered will be guaranteed. Data and information from this appraisal will be **STRICTLY** used for educational purposes only.

We would like to encourage members to support and participate in the programme. The questionnaires will continually be refined as we obtain feedback from our members. For details, please visit the Academy's website at <http://www.academyofmedicine.edu.sg/>

## 1st Joint Specialty Fellowship Examination in Orthopaedic Surgery

The first local conjoint examination in Orthopaedic Surgery was held in Singapore on 22 (written), 27 and 28 November 2003. Conducted over 2 days at the Changi General Hospital, three examiners from the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, 1 from the Hong Kong College of Orthopaedic Surgeons and 4 members from the Academy's Orthopaedic Surgery Specialist Training Committee "grilled" our 12 young trainee surgeons in a variety of clinical long cases and short cases, as well as vivas in hand surgery and paediatric orthopaedics, basic science, adult orthopaedics, and musculoskeletal trauma.

Our heartiest congratulations to the 8 successful candidates!



Seated (L-R): Profs Shamal Das De, Lee Eng Hin, James Hutchison, Tay Boon Keng & V Prem Kumar. Standing are our successful candidates (L-R): Drs Chia Shi Lu, Lim Jit Kheng, Lim Yeow Wai, Wong Lee Yuen, Fong Shee Yan, Gabriel Liu Ka Po, James Loh Sir Young & S S Sathappan.



### Singapore Medicine

SingaporeMedicine is a multi-agency government initiative aimed at making Singapore's world-class healthcare services easily accessible to international patients. It is championed by the Economic Development Board (EDB) and supported by the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) and International Enterprise Singapore (IE Singapore). The awareness of Singapore as a healthcare destination is being raised through various means, including:

- 1) the creation of the Singapore Medicine website ([www.singaporemedicine.com](http://www.singaporemedicine.com));
- 2) distribution of marketing collateral in various languages;
- 3) print advertisements in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Middle East and other markets; and
- 4) the setting up of Singapore Medicine Information and Service Centres at Terminal 1 and Terminal 2 of Changi Airport to target the millions of transit passengers.

### Obituary

Professor Tan Sri Ong Guan Bee, O.B.E., (1921-2004), Honorary Member of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore, passed away on 10 January 2004 at the age of 82.

From 1957 to 1963, Prof Ong served with great distinction as Surgeon-in-Charge of Kowloon Hospital. In 1964, Prof Ong assumed the University of Hong Kong's Chair of Surgery and Head of the Department of Surgery, where for 2 decades, until his retirement from the University in 1982, he spearheaded academic and clinical activities of the Department through surgical innovations and high quality research endeavours.

Prof Ong was also a prolific writer, publishing over 250 papers in addition to more than 10 books and monograph.

In recognition for his contributions to the field of medicine, he had received numerous merited honours.

Professor Ong will be dearly missed by all whose lives he touched.

# Calendar of Events



## March 2004

### Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>

Extraordinary General Meeting  
Lunch served at 1.00pm; EOGM will start at 2.00pm  
Held at the Auditorium, Clinical Research Centre, NUS

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## April 2004

### Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>

9<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting  
Organised by the Chapter of Public Health & Occupational Physicians  
Held at the Clinical Research Centre, NUS

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### Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>

Singapore Gateway Event leading to the 18<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Health Promotion and Health Education  
Organised by the Health Promotion Board, Chapter of Public Health & Occupational Physicians, and the Department of Community, Occupational & Family Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, NUS  
Held at the Orchard Hotel

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## May 2004

### Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> to Friday 28<sup>th</sup>

Joint Meeting with the Royal College of Surgeons of England  
Organised by the Chapter of Surgeons & Royal College of Surgeons of England  
Held at the Regent Singapore

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### Friday 28<sup>th</sup>

Academy's Induction Ceremony  
Held at the Meritus Mandarin

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## June 2004

### Friday 11<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>

Diagnostic Cytopathology Workshop  
Organised by the Chapter of Pathologists  
Held at the Department of Pathology, NUH

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### Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>

Annual General Meeting  
Venue and time to be confirmed

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## August 2004

### Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>

8<sup>th</sup> Postgraduate Refresher Course in Obstetrics & Gynaecology  
Organised by the Chapter of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists & Obstetrical & Gynaecological Society of S'pore  
Held at Kent Ridge Wing, NUH

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### Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>

Opening Ceremony of the 38<sup>th</sup> Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Medicine and Academy's Induction Ceremony  
Held at the Meritus Mandarin

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### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>

38<sup>th</sup> Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Medicine, incorporating the Chapters'/Colleges' Scientific Meetings  
Organised by the Academy of Medicine, Singapore  
Held at the Meritus Mandarin

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*If undelivered, please return to:*

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