



Chapter of Cardiothoracic Surgeons College of Surgeons, Singapore Annual Report 2008

2ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2nd Annual General Meeting of the Chapter of Cardiothoracic Surgeons was held on Tuesday, 6 May 2008 at 6.15pm at Tutorial Room (Level 3), National Heart Centre, Mistri Wing, 17 Third Hospital Avenue, Singapore 168752.

CHAPTER SPECIALTY BOARD

The following Chapter Specialty Board Members continued to serve their office from 2008-2009:

Chairman:	Dr Chua Yeow Leng
Vice-Chairman:	Dr Sriram Shankar
Honorary Secretary:	Dr Lim Chong Hee
Board Members:	Dr Lim See Lim
	Dr Ooi Oon Cheong
	Dr Sim Kwang Wei, Eugene
	Dr Tan Tiong Tee, Christie (Co-opted)

At the time of writing the Annual Report, the 2008-2009 Chapter Board had met two times to conduct the business and affairs of the Chapter for year 2008.

MEMBERSHIP

The total membership as of 31 December 2008 under the Chapter of Cardiothoracic Surgeons now stands at 27 Fellows comprising of 25 Local Fellows and 2 Overseas Fellows.

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

Cardiothoracic Surgery Update Session II

The Chapter of Cardiothoracic Surgeons has planned to organize a series of update sessions to provide an update on the latest development of the specialty for the benefit of trainees, nurses, as well as, Members of the Chapter of Cardiothoracic Surgeons.

In the 2nd Update Session on *Cardiac Surgery Updates* held on Friday, 11 January 2008 at the National Heart Centre, the invited speakers, Dr Lim See Lim and Dr Eugene Sim, delivered an interesting lecture on *Surgery for Atrial Fibrillation* and *Stem Cell Therapy for Heart Failure* respectively. The audience comprised of Members of the Chapter of Cardiothoracic Surgeons, trainees and nurses from both National Heart Centre and National University Hospital. A buffet dinner was followed by the informative lectures. This session was chaired by Dr Eugene Sim.

Cardiothoracic Surgery Update Session III

The Chapter organized its 3rd Update Session on *Lung Cancer Updates* on Friday, 2 May 2008 at National Heart Centre. Attendees consisting of Members of the Chapter of Cardiothoracic Surgeons, trainees and nurses have received informative lectures from Dr Tay Miah Hiang on *Adjuvant Therapy for Lung Cancer* and from A/Prof Koong Heng Nung on *Surgery for Lung Cancer*. Refreshment was provided after the lectures. This session was chaired by Dr Agasthian Thirugnanam.

Third Dinner Lecture & Cardiothoracic Surgery Update Session IV

Dr Taweesak Chotivatanapong, Head of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery of the Chest Disease Institute of Thailand delivered an interesting lecture on *Valve Repair or Replacement: The Thai Experience* in the Third Dinner Lecture organised by the Chapter of Cardiothoracic Surgeons on Friday, 11 July 2008 at Xi Yan, an Asian Fusion restaurant. Attendees mainly comprised of Members from the Chapter of Cardiothoracic Surgeons, trainees, nurses and perfusionists from both National Heart Centre and National University Hospital. Dr Chan Heng Thye, President of the College of Surgeons, Singapore was also invited to grace this dinner. The Organising Chairman was Dr Eugene Sim. The Third Dinner Lecture was chaired and cited by Dr Chua Yeow Leng.

The Chapter continued with its 4th Update Session on *Mitral Valve Surgery Updates* on Saturday, 12 July 2008 where the Chapter is privileged to invite Dr Taweesak Chotivatanapong to speak on *Techniques in Mitral Valve Reconstruction*, together with an informative lecture by Dr Saw Huat Seong on *Indications & Decision-Making in Mitral Valve Surgery*. Case discussion moderated by Dr Chua Yeow Leng was also conducted for the benefit of the trainees. Lunch was followed after the lectures. This session was chaired by Dr Ooi Oon Cheong.

Cardiothoracic Surgery Update Session V

The Chapter organized its 5th Update Session on *Surgery of the Aorta* on Saturday, 11 October 2008 at National University Hospital where attendees consisting of Members of the Chapter of Cardiothoracic Surgeons, trainees and nurses received interesting lectures from the panel of speakers comprising of Dr Victor Chao on *Imaging of Aortic Disease & Percutaneous Aortic Valve Replacement*, Dr Kenny Sin on *Open Surgery of the Aorta & Organ Protection*, Prof Uwe Klima on *Elephant Trunks, Innovations & Complications in Aortic Surgery* and A/Prof Peter Robless on *Endovascular Solutions, Hybrids & the Future*. An interactive panel discussion was conducted after the lectures and followed by lunch. This session was chaired by Dr Christie Tan.

ENDORSEMENT OF EVENTS

The Chapter has endorsed the following events in 2008:

1. 16th Annual Meeting of the Asian Society for Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery held from 13-16 March 2008 at Raffles City Convention Centre, Singapore.
2. 1st Asia-Pacific Heart Rhythm Society Scientific Session in conjunction with 4th Asia-Pacific Atrial Fibrillation Symposium of the Singapore Cardiac Society from 27-29 November 2008 at Raffles City Convention Centre, Singapore.

STAFF REGISTRAR SCHEME (SRS)

With reference to the Ministry of Health's (MOH's) paper in early 2007 introducing the initiative of conducting a structured diploma programme with on-the-job training as previously proposed by the Academy of Medicine, Singapore (AMS) for foreign doctors whose specialist degrees are not recognised by the Singapore Accreditation Board and whose medical schools are not recognised by the Singapore Medical Council, the Chapter has rolled out its SRS Programme in April 2008. Amongst the three (3) candidates short-listed at the entry interview conducted on 29 May 2008, one (1) candidate from the National Heart Centre has accepted the offer to take on this training programme that takes the form of apprenticeship training. The SRS Programme will ultimately award a *Diploma in Cardiothoracic Surgery* conferred jointly by AMS and the College of Surgeons, Singapore.

PARTICIPATION IN MOH'S INITIATIVES

Study of National Medical Specialty Centres (NMSCs)

All Specialty Chapters under the College of Surgeons, Singapore were being invited by MOH through AMS in January 2008 to participate in the study of National Medical Specialty Centres (NMSCs), mainly to provide feedback on the feasibility of establishing a NMSC for the individual specialty, as well as, the Chapter's view on the mission and roles of a NMSC. The Committee on Strategy for National Medical Specialisation Centres of MOH was chaired by Prof Goh Chee Leok and the Chapter has submitted its reply to MOH on 22 February 2008.

Table of Surgical Procedures (TOSP) Review

In the Table of Surgical Procedures (TOSP) review exercise called by MOH in 2007, the Chapter has submitted its proposal to revise tables for some current codes, as well as, proposing the creation of new codes in congruence with the up-to-date development of surgical procedures of Cardiothoracic Surgery. The Chapter has also reviewed the TOSP returns from MOH in October 2008 and has submitted further recommendations to the tables, pending for the acceptance from MOH. The Chapter will continue to assist MOH in finalising the TOSPs.

ACTIVITIES IN THE PIPELINE

Cardiothoracic Surgery Update Sessions

The Chapter will be organising the Cardiothoracic Surgery Update Session VI – *Cardiothoracic Surgery Database Management* and Cardiothoracic Surgery Update Session VII – *Heart Failure* to be held in February 2009 and April/May 2009 respectively. All event information is subject to finalisation and will be disseminated when nearer the event date.

Fourth Dinner Lecture of the Chapter of Cardiothoracic Surgeons

The Chapter is organising the 4th dinner lecture in July 2009 and event information will be disseminated when finalise.

Participation in 43rd Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Medicine of AMS

AMS will be hosting the 43rd Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Medicine in Singapore from 6-8 August 2009 and pre-Congress workshops can be organised from 4-6 August 2009. The Chapter of Cardiothoracic Surgeons will be participating at one of the symposia in the main programme of this Congress. Further information will be announced when nearer the date.

APPRECIATION

The Chapter wishes to record its appreciation to all our Fellows for their support rendered in the past year and we look forward to your ongoing support for future projects.

December 2008

Dr Lim Chong Hee

Honorary Secretary

On behalf of 2008-2009 Board, Chapter of Cardiothoracic Surgeons