



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

2ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2nd Annual General Meeting of the Chapter of General Surgeons was held on Wednesday, 7 May 2008 at 6.30pm at Boardroom (Level 3), Gleneagles Hospital, 6A Napier Road, Singapore 258500.

CHAPTER SPECIALTY BOARD

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

Chairman:	Dr Swaminathan Ikshuvanam
Vice-Chairman:	Dr Cheah Wei Keat
Honorary Secretary:	Dr Chia Kok Hoong
Board Members:	Dr Chan Hsiang Sui
	Dr Hoe Nan Yuh, Michael
	Dr Lim Teck Hock, Dennis
	Dr So Bok Yan, Jimmy
	Dr Leong Peng Kheong, Adrian Francis (Co-opted)
	Dr Cheng Kui Sing, Anton (Co-opted)
	Dr Chow Kah Hoe, Pierce (Co-opted)

At the time of writing the Annual Report, the 2008-2009 Chapter Board had met four 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 General Surgeons now stands at 153 Fellows comprising of 145 Local Fellows and 8 Overseas Fellows.

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION (CME)

CME Calendar

The Chapter Board has consolidated the CME activities of the Dept of General Surgery from both public and private hospitals and compiled into a CME calendar for ease of reference for the Chapter Members. The CME calendar maybe accessed at the College of Surgeons' website at www.css.edu.sg under *CME Activities – General Surgery*.

Chapter Newsletter – Chapter Connection

Chapter Connection is a newsletter conceptualised and produced by the Board of the Chapter of General Surgeons with the objective of using the newsletter as a communication tool to connect its Chapter Members. The Chapter has launched its inaugural issue in January 2008. The *Chapter Connection* is widely distributed to the Chapter Members, as well as, to the Fellows and Trainees in the general surgery community at various public hospitals at no charge.

Exit Examination Preparatory Course 2008 for Advanced Surgical Trainees in General Surgery

The Chapter of General Surgeons has organized an exit examination preparatory course for the Advanced Surgical Trainees (ASTs) in General Surgery to aid the ASTs to better prepare their exit examination in August 2008. The preparatory course was conducted over 3½ days from 25-28 June 2008 at National University Hospital, Singapore General Hospital and Tan Tock Seng Hospital. The course was designed to comprise of tutorials, clinical case discussions and a mock VIVA session of similar format as the real exit examinations, and covered core modules such as Breast, Endocrine, Upper Gastrointestinal, Vascular, Trauma, Colorectal, Hepato-pancreato-biliary, General Surgery, Head & Neck and Emergency Surgery & Critical Care. The mock VIVA session conducted by the 5 appointed examiners for 3 hours on 28 June 2008 was well-received by the ASTs participated in this course. The ASTs have feedback that the debrief session on their strengths and weaknesses of their respective VIVA was of great help to them for their examination preparation.

An informal networking dinner – “Surgeons cum Trainees Night” was also organized on 27 June 2008 at Copthorne King’s Hotel where members of the Chapter of General Surgeons, the appointed lecturers, clinical tutors and examiners for the preparatory course and the ASTs mingled and interacted. The Chapter was privileged to have A/Prof Fock Kwong Ming, Master of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore and Dr Chan Heng Thye, President of the College of Surgeons, Singapore to grace the occasion at the informal dinner. Tokens of appreciation were given to the Organising Committee and the appointed lecturers, clinical tutors and examiners of this preparatory course, followed by a sumptuous Penang buffet dinner. The Course Convener was A/Prof Cheah Wei Keat and the hospital conveners were A/Prof Cheah Wei Keat, A/Prof Pierce Chow and A/Prof Chia Kok Hoong representing National University Hospital, Singapore General Hospital and Tan Tock Seng Hospital respectively.

Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma: Pathways & Precursors

By invitation of the Chapter of Pathologists of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore (AMS), the Chapter of General Surgeons was invited to be one of the co-organisers for the CME Talk on *Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma: Pathways & Precursors* by Dr Jennifer L. Hunt on Monday, 23 June 2008 at Pathology Lecture Theatre of Singapore General Hospital.

ENDORSEMENT OF EVENTS

The Chapter has endorsed the following events in 2008:

1. Lecture Series by the Ministry of Health (MOH) Health Manpower Development Plan (HMDP) Visiting Expert in Colon and Rectal Surgery, Dr Jeffrey W. Milsom, held from 3-7 March 2008 that was jointly organized by Alexandra Hospital, Changi General Hospital, National University Hospital, Singapore General Hospital and Tan Tock Seng Hospital.
2. 1st Singapore-Malaysia Combined Breast Surgeon Conference 2008 of the Novartis Oncology held from 24-25 May 2008 at Prince Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

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 26 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 General Surgery. The Chapter has also reviewed the TOSP returns from MOH in October 2008 and has submitted its feedback to MOH. The Chapter will continue to assist MOH in finalising the TOSPs.

Guidelines on Exposure-Prone Procedures

By the invitation from MOH to AMS in October 2008 seeking the assistance of AMS to draw up guidelines on which procedures within each Specialty would be considered as Exposure-Prone Procedures (EPPs), General Surgery was one of the Chapters under the College of Surgeons, Singapore being invited to provide inputs to the guidelines. The Chapter has reviewed procedures of general surgery and will be submitting its reply in January 2009 to MOH through AMS.

ACTIVITIES IN THE PIPELINE

Chapter Newsletter

The Chapter will continue to publish its quarterly newsletter – *Chapter Connection* as a communication tool between the Chapter and its Chapter Members, as well as, with all Fellows and Trainees in General Surgery. Any interesting or worthy articles and news are most welcome from Chapter Members to contribute to the newsletter.

Exit Examination Preparatory Course 2009 for Advanced Specialist Trainees (ASTs)

With the positive feedback and encouragement received from the 1st batch of ASTs who have participated in the Exit Examination Preparatory Course 2008 held from 25-28 June 2008, the Chapter shall pursue on to organise the preparatory course 2009 from 1-4 July 2009. The Organising Committee aims to improve on the quality of lectures to make them more interactive and will continue to include clinical case discussions as well as the mock VIVA. The Chapter is pleased to receive continuous support from the Joint Committee on Specialist Training for the preparatory course 2009 and the Specialist Training Committee of General Surgery has also been informed of this preparatory course 2009 to be organised by the Chapter. In congruence with the same format as the last preparatory course 2008, an informal dinner will also be organised to serve as a networking opportunity for the practising general surgeons and the trainees. Course information will be disseminated when nearer the date.

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 General Surgeons plans to organise a pre-Congress workshop and will also be participating at one of the symposia in the main programme of this Congress. Further information will be announced when nearer the date.

Update Seminar for Practising General Surgeons

Feedback was received from few Chapter Members at the 2nd Annual General Meeting of the Chapter on 7 May 2008 for the Chapter Board to consider organising a refresher seminar for practising general surgeons to provide updates on the recent development of the skill and technology in General Surgery. After discussion at the Board Meetings, the Chapter Board will plan to organise an update seminar on 29 August 2009 mainly for Chapter Members. Event information will be disseminated when finalised.

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
A/Prof Chia Kok Hoong
Honorary Secretary
On behalf of 2008-2009 Board, Chapter of General Surgeons