



Chapter of General Surgeons College of Surgeons, Singapore Annual Report 2009

3RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 3rd Annual General Meeting of the Chapter of General Surgeons was held on Wednesday, 21 April 2009 at 6.15pm at Boardroom (Level 3), Gleneagles Hospital, 6A Napier Road, Singapore 258500.

CHAPTER SPECIALTY BOARD

The following Chapter Specialty Board Members have served their office from 2009-2010:

Chairman:	Dr Swaminathan Ikshuvanam
Vice-Chairman:	Dr Cheah Wei Keat
Honorary Secretary:	Dr Chia Kok Hoong
Board Members:	Dr Chan Hsiang Sui
	Dr Chow Kah Hoe, Pierce
	Dr So Bok Yan, Jimmy
	Dr Vijayan Appasamy (Co-opted)
	Dr Chen Chung Ming (Co-opted)
	Dr Tan Kok Yang (Co-opted)

At the time of writing the Annual Report, the 2009-2010 Chapter Board had met one time to conduct the business and affairs of the Chapter for year 2009.

MEMBERSHIP

The total membership as of 31 December 2009 under the Chapter of General Surgeons now stands at 167 Fellows comprising of 158 Local Fellows and 9 Overseas Fellows.

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION (CME)

Combined Surgical Meeting Calendar for 2010

The Chapter had received the schedule for the monthly combined surgical meeting for the year 2010 and had uploaded it on the College of Surgeons' website at www.css.edu.sg under *CME Activities – General Surgery* for reference purpose. Monthly combined surgical meetings are conducted in the restructured institutions on a rotation basis.

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 and this newsletter is now 2 years old! 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, with the partial funding support from the College of Surgeons, Singapore (CSS).

New Strategies in the Nutritional Management of Postoperative Patients Dinner Symposium

In a move to provide an in-depth view on the sub-specialty of Nutritional Management, an area which is not usually being taken up by many general surgeons to study it in great degree, the Chapter had organised a symposium on *New Strategies in the Nutritional Management of Postoperative Patients* where an expert in this field, Prof Robert Martindale from the Oregon Health & Science University, was invited to speak on *New Strategies in Enteral and Parenteral Nutrition for the Management of Postoperative Patients with Organ Failure*. Together with Prof Martindale, a local surgeon who is well-versed in this area, Dr Asim Shabbir from the National University Hospital was also invited to speak on *Enteral Nutrition for Surgical Patients in Singapore – A Discussion*. The differing views and approach in managing Nutritional Management for postoperative patients had triggered a keen interest from the participants at present comprising mainly the members of the Chapter of General Surgeons as well as the members of the College of Anaesthesiologists. This symposium was held on Friday, 27 March 2009 at the Marina Mandarin Hotel. The Organising Chairperson was Dr Swaminathan I.

Exit Examination Preparatory Course 2009 for Advanced Surgical Trainees in General Surgery

In pursuit of the encouraging feedback received from the preparatory course 2008, the Chapter of General Surgeons had organized the 2nd exit examination preparatory course for the Advanced Surgical Trainees (ASTs) in General Surgery to aid the ASTs to better prepare their exit examinations for August 2009. The preparatory course was conducted over 4 days from 30 June to 4 July 2009 (Tuesday-Saturday) at Alexandra Hospital, National University Hospital, Singapore General Hospital and Tan Tock Seng Hospital. The course was designed to comprise of interactive lectures, clinical discussions and mock VIVA 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, Minimally-Invasive Surgery and Emergency Surgery & Critical Care. The mock VIVA conducted by the 5 appointed examiners on 4 July 2009 was the most popular segment (identical feedback received from last year's inaugural preparatory course) as feedback by the ASTs participated in this course.

An informal networking dinner – “Surgeons cum Trainees Night” was also organized on 3 July 2009 at Min Jiang, Goodwood Park Hotel where members of the Chapter of General Surgeons, appointed lecturers, clinical tutors and examiners for the preparatory course and the ASTs were invited to attend. The Chapter was privileged to have A/Prof Low Yin Peng, President of the CSS 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 the preparatory course. The Course Convener was A/Prof Pierce Chow and the hospital conveners were Dr Anton Cheng, A/Prof Cheah Wei Keat, A/Prof Pierce Chow and A/Prof Chia Kok Hoong representing Alexandra Hospital, National University Hospital, Singapore General Hospital and Tan Tock Seng Hospital respectively.

PARTICIPATION IN MINISTRY OF HEALTH'S INITIATIVES

Professional Opinion on Provision of Selected Clinical Services under the Health Services Development Programme

The Ministry of Health (MOH) through the Academy of Medicine, Singapore (AMS) had requested for professional opinion to be provided on the provision of selected clinical services under the Health Services Development Programme in January 2009. Independent reviewers were nominated from amongst the members of the Chapter of General Surgeons to review and provide feedback on specific issues related to the clinical services of the specialty.

Review of Levels of Medical Capability (LMC)

All Specialty Chapters under the College of Surgeons, Singapore were invited by MOH through the Academy of Medicine, Singapore (AMS) in June 2009 to participate in the Review of Levels of Medical Capability (LMC) to provide feedback on the existing LMC manual on the medical capabilities at level 1 and 2 that are currently performed at regional hospitals versus teaching hospitals. Review and feedback included the following:

1. Proposed additional of new services or removal of obsolete services
2. Proposed changes in terminology or description of services and/or changes in level of services
3. Identification of services which can only be performed under a tertiary setting
4. Identification of essential support services required for adequate provision of services

The Chapter of General Surgeons submitted its inputs to MOH through AMS in July 2009 and thereafter, assisted in the clarification of its inputs with MOH in October 2009.

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 2010 for Advanced Specialist Trainees (ASTs)

With the new residency training programme soon-to-be in place in 2010, the Chapter will be studying the structure and format of the new programme and devise a preparatory course in sync with the requirements of the new residency training system. Details will be announced in due course.

APPRECIATION

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

December 2009

Dr Chia Kok Hoong

Honorary Secretary

On behalf of 2009-2010 Board, Chapter of General Surgeons