



Chapter of General Surgeons College of Surgeons, Singapore Annual Report 2010

4TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 4th Annual General Meeting of the Chapter of General Surgeons was held on Tuesday, 27 April 2010 at 6.20pm at Boardroom (Level 3), Gleneagles Hospital, 6A Napier Road, Singapore 258500.

CHAPTER SPECIALTY BOARD

The following Chapter Specialty Board Members have completed their term of office from 2010-2011 by the date of the 5th Annual General Meeting of the Chapter:

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 Foo Chek Siang (Co-opted)
	Dr Tan Kok Yang (Co-opted)

At the time of writing the Annual Report, the 2010-2011 Chapter Board had met two times to conduct the business and affairs of the Chapter for year 2010.

MEMBERSHIP

The total membership as of 31 December 2010 under the Chapter of General Surgeons now stands at 168 Fellows comprising of 158 Local Fellows and 10 Overseas Fellows.

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION (CME)

Combined Surgical Meeting Calendar for 2011

The calendar for monthly combined surgical meetings for the year 2011 is available 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 newsletter is now 2 years old and the Chapter looks forward to the continuity of the newsletter as a relevant update tool for the General Surgery community. With effect from 2011, the *Chapter Connection* will be converted into an e-Newsletter for ease of distribution and to be eco-friendly.

Exit Examination Preparatory Course 2010 for Advanced Surgical Trainees (ASTs) in General Surgery

The Chapter of General Surgeons had organized its 3rd exit examination preparatory course from 29 June to 3 July 2010 for the Advanced Surgical Trainees (ASTs) in General Surgery to aid the ASTs to better prepare their exit examinations. The preparatory course was hosted by 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. This year, the course was further refined to define broad topics assigned to each host institution in preparation of the clinical cases for the clinical segment so as to offer a varied exposure to the ASTs during the clinical discussion. The course was also made more compact by integrating two more modules into the lecture series – Thoracic Surgery and Transplant Surgery. The mock VIVA conducted by the 5 appointed examiners on 3 July 2010 was still the most well received segment in the course where ASTs were able to have an interactive learning experience with the examiners.

An informal networking dinner – “Surgeons cum Trainees Night” was also organized on 2 July 2010 at Tan Tock Seng Hospital’s rooftop terrace. This was a unique venue available at the new Annex Building of Tan Tock Seng Hospital that offered the dinner event in alfresco style. Members of the teaching faculty as well as members of the Chapter of General Surgeons and the ASTs were invited to attend. The Chapter was privileged to have A/Prof Low Yin Peng, 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 teaching faculty members at the dinner. The Course Convener was Adj. Asst. Prof Vijayan Appasamy, who was also the hospital convener for Tan Tock Seng Hospital, and the rest of the hospital conveners were Dr Tan Kok Yang, A/Prof Jimmy So and A/Prof Pierce Chow representing Alexandra Hospital, National University Hospital, Singapore General Hospital respectively.

Based on the positive feedback received from the past three preparatory courses, the Chapter hoped to continue organising this event for the benefits of the ASTs, and not forgetting that the course needs to be finetuned progressively to suit the changes of training curriculum as necessary.

PARTICIPATION IN THE SINGAPORE TRAUMA CONFERENCE 2010

By invitation of the Trauma Centre of the Tan Tock Seng Hospital, the Chapter participated in the Singapore Trauma Conference 2010 held from 10 to 11 April 2010 at Tan Tock Seng Hospital. The Best Free Paper and Best Poster prizes were sponsored by the Chapter, and the Chapter Chairman, Dr Swaminathan, was invited to give out the prizes at the conference.

FORMATION OF SURGEONS-IN-TRAINING (SIT) COMMITTEE

The SIT Committee was formed and formalised at the 4th Annual General Meeting of the Chapter of General Surgeons on Tuesday, 27 April 2010 for the following core objectives:

- To allow a higher level of involvement of trainees who are non-FAMS to participate and contribute to Chapter activities.
- To act as a voice of feedback towards surgical training (current and new system of training).

Only junior surgeons who are currently in specialist training are eligible to be SIT Committee members. The present SIT Committee members are:

Chairman:	Dr Claramae Chia
Vice-Chairman:	Dr Terence Huey
Secretary:	Dr Sharon Koh
Members:	Dr Desmond Ooi, Dr Vishal Shelat, Dr Veronique Tan, Dr Tan Wee Boon, Dr Ramesh Wijaya and Dr Germaine Xu

The SIT Committee is formed under the Chapter of General Surgeons and is led by Advisor, Dr Vijayan Appasamy and co-Advisor, Dr Ranjiv Sivanandan.

PARTICIPATION IN MINISTRY OF HEALTH'S (MOH) INITIATIVES

All Specialty Chapters under the College of Surgeons, Singapore were invited by MOH through the Academy of Medicine, Singapore (AMS) to participate in the following:

Specific Licensing Conditions for Credentialling Medical Practitioners

The review exercise called in June 2010 was intended to gather feedback on the specific licensing conditions to determine whether the proposed licensing conditions were adequate to ensure patient safety, and whether there were any additional conditions to be included.

Review of Framework & Categorization of Screening Tests

The Screening Test Review Committee, formed by the Academy of Medicine and chaired by Prof Lee Hin Peng, was tasked to formulate a report on the recommendations and categorization of screening tests provided in Singapore. The objective was to develop a screening test framework and to make recommendations on the categorization of commercially available screening tests within the framework. Feedback was invited from all Specialty Chapters in June 2010 to assist in developing the screening test framework.

Feedback on Right Thyroidectomy as a Day Surgery Procedure

Expert opinion was sought by MOH on whether it is appropriate to carry out hemithyroidectomy as a day surgery operation in view that post-operative complications such as bleeding may be delayed. In response to this invitation for professional opinion in August 2010, the Chapter had submitted its reply to MOH through AMS in September 2010.

Feedback on the Usage of Colonic Irrigation/Colon Hydrotherapy

The Chapter of General Surgeons, in particular, general surgeons in the subspecialty of Colorectal Surgery, was invited by the Regulatory Compliance Division of MOH in November 2010 to provide feedback on the indications of colonic irrigation/colon hydrotherapy and whether colonic irrigation/colon hydrotherapy is one of the recommended treatments for constipation, irritable bowel syndrome, bloated abdomen, haemorrhoids and gas pains. The Chapter submitted its reply to MOH through AMS in December 2010.

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 2011 for Advanced Specialist Trainees (ASTs)

The Chapter will continue to pivot its role in training the ASTs by organising the preparatory course annually. This course will be part of the Chapter's highlights as long as the need for it remains. Course contents and format will also be looked into when planning for the subsequent course. 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 2010

Dr Chia Kok Hoong

Honorary Secretary

On behalf of 2010-2011 Board, Chapter of General Surgeons