

CONJOINT ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS OF THE COLLEGE OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS & THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF HONG KONG @ HONG KONG CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE FROM 12-16 MAY 2008 @ HONG KONG

Trip Funded by:	College of Surgeons Travelling Fellowship Fund
Attended by:	Dr Chua Yeow Leng
Reported by:	Dr Chua Yeow Leng

Trip Report

The Conjoint Annual Scientific Congress by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) and The College of Surgeons Hong Kong (CSHK) was held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre from 12 – 16 may 2008. For the first time, the CSHK joined hands with the RACS to organize this congress. The theme of the congress was ACHIEVEMENT THROUGH COLLABORATION. Over 2100 surgeons including over 1000 from Australia attended the congress.

A Conjoint Award and Diploma Ceremony was held on 12th May 2008 at 1630 hours. I represented the College of Surgeons, Singapore in the Stage Party. The Combined Arthur Li and George Adington Syme Oration was delivered by the Chief Executive of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's republic of China, Mr Donald Tsang. After delivering the oration, Mr Donald Tsang had to take leave before end of ceremony to attend to urgent matters arising from the Sichuan earthquake (unknown to the audience then) which occurred at 1428 hours. Shortly after, the Vice-Minister of Health from China also left the Stage Party to attend to the matter as well.

There were 23 separate sub-specialty programs in the Congress. In addition, there was a long list of cross discipline plenary sessions and named lectures. The plenary sessions dealt with topics such as bed utilization, credentialling of surgeons and minimal invasive surgery.

The President's Lecture entitled "The China economic miracle: 1978 – 2008" was delivered by Sir Gordon Wu, who gave an insider look at the developments in China. He attributed the change to Mr Deng Xiao Peng's decision to open up China. He discussed in detail the role Minister Mentor, Mr Lee Kuan Yew played in his meeting with Deng in 1978 and how he may have help to convince Deng to open up China and stop exporting terrorism.

Presidential dinners were hosted by the CSHK and the RACS respectively. Presidents and representatives from 17 colleges were represented at the meetings. Different specialties also held dinners at other occasions.

A Presidential Roundtable Meeting was held from 0700 to 0900 on 14th may 2008. Agenda for the meeting is enclosed.

Besides the intercollegiate meetings and functions, I gave a talk on "Surgery for Atrial Fibrillation" at a Pre-Congress Workshop held at the Prince of Wales Hospital and Marriot Hotel. I also attended the Cardiothoracic Symposia and Specialty Dinner.

Usefulness of Event to Self & College of Surgeons, Singapore

This has been a very useful meeting for me. I am well acquainted with the cardiothoracic conveners from Australia and Hong Kong. Dr Robert Jones from Duke University and Dr Saw Huat Seong from Singapore were also keynote speakers for the cardiothoracic symposia. I renewed old ties and made new friends especially surgeons from Australia. I had the opportunity to visit the very well equipped Minimal Invasive Centre at the Prince of Wales Hospital. I also had the opportunity to meet both cardiac and other surgeons from mainland China.

There are many issues that the College is facing and likely to face in the future. In fact many of the issues such as continuing professional developments, credentialing and re-credentialing, training of surgeons and Colleges' relationship with health and governmental authorities are common to all Colleges. Many of the larger Colleges have more resources and some have already published guidelines on some of the issues. These are invaluable to our College. Strong links with other Colleges is essential for our long- term well-being and development. I feel strongly that our College will need to have a much bigger presence at such meetings. We should have at least 2 to 3 Council Members of different disciplines and we should also sponsor 5 to 10 surgeons at such meetings.