

**ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR LIM SHIH HUI  
MASTER, ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, SINGAPORE  
Induction Comitia 2013 of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore  
23 August 2013, Friday, Grand Copthorne Waterfront**

**Our Guest of Honour, His Excellency, Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam,  
President of Singapore and Patron of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore;**

**Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Finance;**

**Dr Chang Keng Wee, Master, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia;**

**Dr Donald Li, President, Hong Kong Academy of Medicine;**

**Distinguished Guests;**

**Fellow Academicians;**

**Congress Delegates;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

A very good evening to all of you.

In the next 2 hours, we will be witnessing 2 most important events of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore this year: the Induction Comitia and the Gordon Arthur Ransome Oration.

56 years ago, the Academy was founded by Professor Gordon Arthur Ransome, with the main mission of advancing the art and science of medicine in Singapore, through training and education. From a pioneering group of 34 founding members with no College or Chapter in 1957, Academy has now evolved into the biggest medical specialist organization today with more than 2,700 fellows in 9 Colleges and 5 Chapters. Without Professor Ransome, former leaders of the Academy and many passionate Fellows over the past five decades, there will not be an Induction Comitia today.

A total of 92 new Fellows will be inducted this evening; the highest number since 2007. For the new inductees, please accept my heartiest Congratulations! You are part of us, helping the Academy to preserve and advance our medical profession!

Just last week, I was invited to attend 2 white coat ceremonies of our two medical schools, the Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School and the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine. On these occasions, medical students were “inducted” into the field of medicine, and the wearing the white coat symbolizes the beginning of their life long medical journey. Many years and decades ago when you and I were medical students, we wore these white coats even without going through formal white coat ceremonies. When we became doctors, we rarely wear them nor do we even own one.

Tonight, you and I are wearing a different “white coat”: an Academic gown. To many, wearing an academic gown at induction comitia is just another ceremonial event. However, whether it is a white coat ceremony or an induction comitia, we shall not forget the meaning of these white and colourful coats. They remind us that medicine is a special kind of profession, doctors have extraordinary obligations to our patients, and we need to remain academic in our life-long medical learning journey.

The Induction into our Academy is also to recognize your tireless effort, accomplishments and clinical maturity. You will be challenged to lead by your wisdom, your understanding of humanity and, increasingly, by your ability to innovate and to communicate, as you deliver the necessary care to your patients. The wearing of the academic gown will also remind us that we have a duty to nurture and inspire the next generation of specialists.

As specialists in your own field and Fellows of the Academy, I have no doubt that you will maintain your clinical competency by actively taking part in your continuing

professional development programme. What you need to pay particular attention is to continue to maintain a high standard of professional and ethical practice.

I am certain you are very familiar with basic ethical principles of Beneficence, i.e. “doing good”, Non-maleficence, i.e. “do no harm” and “autonomy”. There is a category of ethical principles which most of us might not be aware but being practiced all the times: “Justice and Fairness”. In the domain of medical care, fairness means those with a similar medical condition and in the same circumstances get the same treatment, i.e. those with equal need receive equal care. It is a fact inequality also exists in medicine, especially in developing countries. I am hearten to hear our Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong addressed last Sunday that healthcare delivery will be further enhanced to reduce any possible treatment gap in the years to come. In the Oration to follow, DPM Tharman will share with us his thoughts and perspective how we could exercise fairness and justice to our less privileged Singaporeans. At this juncture, I would like to thank many of you who have donated generously towards the Gordon Arthur Ransome Oration. I am very pleased to update that the fundraising drive, which started last year, has surpassed \$107,000.00.

Last but not least, I congratulate our 18 graduates of the Staff Registrar Scheme Diploma programmes. You should be proud of your achievement to have fulfilled the stringent requirement to obtain the SRS Diploma. You are now an important part of our healthcare system and I wish you all the best in your career.

Let me say in conclusion that this evening will not be complete without the presence of our Guest of Honour and our Patron President Tony Tan; our Gordon Arthur Ransome Orator, DPM Tharman Shangmugaratnam; and many of our guests here.

Thank you all for gracing this very special occasion.

Have an enjoyable evening.