

# COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND OCCUPATIONAL PHYSICIANS

The College of Public Health and Occupational Physicians (CPHOP) was officially formed on 1 February 2013 under the umbrella of Academy of Medicine Singapore. Formerly, the Chapter of Public Health and Occupational Physicians was formed in 1980. Now as a College, it continues to provide professional leadership and continuing education in public health and occupational medicine. The College also provides recommendations to the Academy on specialist qualification and training, and Fellows of the College serve on national specialist training committees and academic programme committees of both specialties.

## Message from the President

### Dr Eugene Shum

“ In 2013, we achieved a new milestone with the conversion from a Chapter to College. The College continues to grow with eight Fellows being admitted. We signed a MOU with the UK Faculty of Public Health during our Inaugural General Meeting, and the 8th Public Health and Occupational Medicine Conference was a great success.

It will be another exciting year for us in 2014. We will continue to develop and strengthen partnerships with overseas public health and occupational medicine colleges. This will include linking up with the respective colleges in the United States, the UK and Hong Kong. We also plan to organise a behavioural change workshop as well as develop a modular course in foundations of research. Finally, the 9th Public Health and Occupational Medicine Conference will be held from 28 to 29 August 2014. ”



## The Interim 2013-2014 Council

President:	Dr Eugene Shum
Vice President:	Dr Benjamin Ng
Honorary Secretary:	Dr Jeremy Lim
Honorary Treasurer:	Dr Jeffery Cutter
Council Members:	Dr Kenneth Choy Dr Mona Toh Cheong Mui Dr Jason Yap
Co-Opted Members:	Dr Vernon Lee Dr Matthias Toh Dr Angela Chow



Seated (left to right): Dr Jeremy Lim (Honorary Secretary), Dr Eugene Shum (President), Dr Benjamin Ng (Vice President), Dr Jeffery Cutter (Honorary Treasurer)

Standing (left to right): Dr Matthias Toh (Co-Opted Member), Dr Kenneth Choy (Council Member), Dr Mona Toh (Council Member), Dr Vernon Lee (Co-Opted Member), Dr Jason Yap (Council Member)

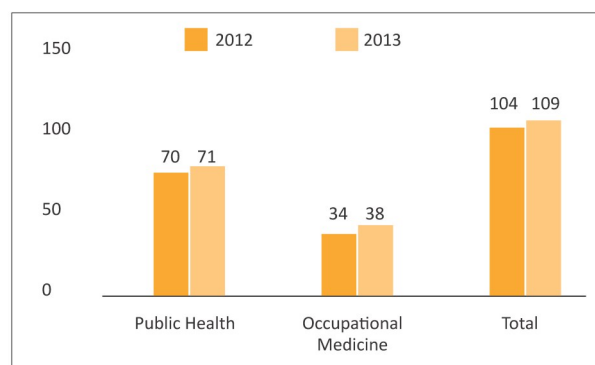
Not in Photo: Dr Angela Chow (Co-Opted Member)

## Membership

The membership of the College stood at 109 as of 31 December 2013, consisting of 104 Local Fellows, 4 Overseas Fellows and 1 Ordinary Member.

The following were admitted as Fellows of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore (CPHOP) in 2013:

- Dr Chen I-Cheng Mark
- Dr Angela Chow
- Dr Gan Wee Hoe
- Dr Ho Kai Wei
- Dr Daniel Lee
- Dr Ng Wee Tong
- Dr Judy Sng
- Dr Audrey Tan



There were two Fellows who had ceased to be members of the Academy due to subscription arrears of more than 2 years. The College wishes to express condolences to the family of the late Assoc Prof BG (ret) Dr Lim Meng Kin (1950-2013). He had passed away on 31 January 2013 and had contributed much as a military doctor. The College would like to acknowledge his contributions.

## Inaugural General Meeting

The Inaugural General Meeting (IGM) of the College was held on 1 February 2013. It was attended by some 30 Fellows to mark the establishment of the College. Master, the Guest-of-Honour, had graced the occasion that evening. The Interim Council for the term 2013-2014 was formed.



## Continuing Medical Education

The College had co-organised the following lectures with the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, National University of Singapore in 2013.

- **Effects of Nutrition, Lifestyle and Genetic Factors on Metabolic Abnormalities among Chinese**  
Date: 7 March 2013  
Speaker: Prof Lin Xu, Professor and Assistant Director, Institute of Nutritional Sciences, Shanghai, PRC; Director, Key Laboratory of Nutrition and Metabolism, Chinese Academy of Sciences, PRC
- **Models of Daily Life and Travel: Usage for Public Health**  
Date: 26 March 2013  
Speaker: Prof Kay W Axhausen, Staff Member, Institute for Transport Planning and Systems (IVT), Switzerland
- **Potentials of Scientifically Founded Design for Health – Research for Real People**  
Date: 23 April 2013  
Speaker: A/Prof Ruzica Bozovic Stamenovic, Faculty Fellow of Center for Health Systems and Design, Texas A&M University, US; Executive Committee Member of the UIA-Public Health Group; Member of GUPHA Global University Programs in Healthcare Architecture; Advisory Council Member RED Center-American Art Resources, US
- **Air Pollution and Risk of Neurological Diseases**  
Date: 30 July 2013  
Speaker: Dr Natasha Palacios, Instructor in Medicine, Channing Division of Network Medicine, Harvard Medical School, US
- **Beyond Cost Per DALY: Evaluating The Broader Economic Impact of Vaccination**  
Date: 21 August 2013  
Speaker: Dr Mark Jit, Senior Lecturer, Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK
- **Pneumococcal Epidemiology and The Impact of New Vaccine Programmes**  
Date: 17 September 2013  
Speaker: Dr Stuart Clarke, Reader in Infectious Disease Epidemiology & Honorary Consultant in Health Protection, University of Southampton, UK  
Chairperson: Prof Richard Coker

- Next Generation Sequencing Technologies and Their Applications in the Clinical Settings**  
 Date: 26 September 2013  
 Speaker: Dr Ku Chee Seng, private practice, Singapore; Foreign Adjunct Faculty, Department of Medical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden; Adjunct Research Fellow, Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, National University of Singapore  
 Chairperson: A/Prof Chia Sin Eng
- Translating Built Environment Research into Action: The Western Australian Healthy Active by Design Project**  
 Date: 11 October 2013  
 Speaker: Prof Trevor Shilton, Director, Cardiovascular Health, National Lead - Active Living, National Heart Foundation Western Australia; Adjunct Associate Professor, University of Western Australia, School of Population Health, Australia  
 Chairperson: Asst Prof Mueller-Riemenschneider Falk
- Getting Vaccines to Where They are Needed in Low Income Countries**  
 Date: 31 October 2013  
 Speaker: Prof David Heymann, Courage Fund Visiting Professor, Chair of the Health Protection Agency UK; Head of the Centre on Global Health Security, Chatham House, London, UK; Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK  
 Chairperson: Prof Chia Kee Seng
- Forced Innovation: Correction of the US Healthcare Failures and Wider Lessons for Other Countries Undergoing Reform**  
 Date: 14 November 2013  
 Speaker: Dr James Bonnette, Chief Medical Officer, Oliver Wyman Group, US  
 Chairperson: Dr Jeremy Lim
- The Complex Genetics of Myopia and Refractive Error**  
 Date: 21 November 2013  
 Speaker: Dr Robert Wojciechowski, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Ophthalmology & Co-Principal Director, Eye and Vision Genomics Training Program, John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health & John Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute, Baltimore, US  
 Chairperson: Prof Saw Seang Mei

## 8<sup>th</sup> Singapore Public Health & Occupational Medicine Conference

The 8th Public Health and Occupational Medicine (PHOM) conference was held on 29-30 August 2013 with about 300 participants in attendance. Permanent Secretary for Health, Mrs Tan Ching Yee, graced the opening ceremony. In her opening speech, she acknowledged the important role of public health and occupational professionals in health policies, as exemplified in managing the recent haze crisis. Her speech focused on the challenges presented to the Singapore healthcare system within the changing demographics, epidemiologic and lifestyle landscape. She felt that more could be done to improve population health, through public health professionals' active roles in public health administration and surveillance, and their collaborative relationship with policymakers and frontline operations staff to ensure smooth and effective implementation of public health policies.



*The Organising Committee together with Mrs Tan Ching Yee, the Permanent Secretary for Health (fifth from the left), Prof John Ashton (UK FPH President) (sixth from the left), Dr Eugene Shum (third from the right) and Prof Goh Kee Tai (on the extreme right), the Achievement Award recipient.*



*Prof John Ashton at the plenary session.*

Prof John R Ashton, President, UK Faculty of Public Health, one of two invited plenary speakers, spoke on 'Twenty First Century Public Health – Living up to the Challenge'. He was also a panellist for the panel discussion on the health impact of the Singapore population White Paper. Both sessions were very well received and the lively question and answer session at the panel discussion indicated participants' interest on the subjects.

The conference theme of 'Advancing the Health of Populations' chosen by the organising committee led by Dr Mona Toh and Dr Matthias Toh is the English translation of our newly formed College's motto, 'Populi Salus Summa'. The four tracks in the conference focused on issues facing the four population groups, namely the 'ageing population', the 'adult population', 'youth and children', and the 'communities most at need'. The diverse background of the speakers enabled the common needs and challenges of each population group to be discussed in greater depth during the sessions.

The two-day conference gave participants ample time to interact and network with fellow public health and occupational health professionals. The College also hosted a Fellows' lunch attended by some 30 Fellows who congratulated Prof Goh Kee Tai for receiving the 2013 Achievement Award. Prof Goh had given a moving testimony of his rich work experience at the lunch.



The Organising Committee of the 8<sup>th</sup> PHOM.



Panel discussion with Dr Wong Chiang Yin (on the extreme left) as the Moderator.

## National Preventive Medicine Grand Rounds

The College funded refreshments for the National Preventive Medicine Grand Rounds which were conducted by the National Preventive Medicine Residency Programme.

<p><b>Diabetes Mellitus</b> Date: 24 January 2013 Speakers: Dr Jake Goh, Dr Adelina Young, Dr Hanley Ho, Dr Gary Ang Chairpersons: A/Prof Tai E-Shyong, A/Prof Rob van Dam</p>	<p><b>Hepatitis</b> Date: 24 January 2013 Speakers: Dr Olivia Teo, Dr Alvin Koh, Dr Andrew Tay, Dr Chua Ying Xian Chairperson: Prof Goh Kee Tai</p>	<p><b>Occupational Lung Diseases</b> Date: 21 March 2013 Speakers: Dr Joseph Lim, Dr Raymond Lim, Dr Joshua Wong, Dr Lucy Leong Chairpersons: Dr Ho Sweet Far, Dr Fong Yuke Tien</p>
<p><b>Primary Health and Intermediate Long-term Care</b> Date: 11 April 2013 Speakers: Dr Tan Wei Ming, Dr Jeff Hwang, Dr Winston Chin, Dr Clive Tan Chairpersons: Dr Matthias Toh, Dr Wee Shiou Liang</p>	<p><b>Cancer Epidemiology</b> Date: 6 June 2013 Speakers: Dr Melvin Seng, Dr Andrew Tay, Dr Chua Ying Xian, Dr Ler Teck Siang Chairperson: Prof Lee Hin Peng</p>	<p><b>Travel Health</b> Date: 11 July 2013 Speakers: Dr Tan Aidan, Dr Shermin Tan, Dr Joseph Lim, Dr Todd On Chairperson: A/Prof Vernon Lee</p>
<p><b>Review of Taiwan Health System by Preventive Medicine Residents</b> Date: 22 August 2013 Speakers: NUHS Preventive Medicine Residents Faculty: Dr Benjamin Ng Facilitator: Dr Winston Chin</p>	<p><b>Workplace Assessment</b> Date: 10 October 2013 Speakers: Dr Melvin Seng, Dr Aidan Tan, Dr Andrew Tay, Dr Joseph Lim Faculty: Dr Ho Sweet Far Facilitator: Dr Lim See Ming</p>	<p><b>Sexually Transmitted Infections</b> Date: 5 December 2013 Speakers: Dr Mittal Chikul, Dr Andrew Green, Dr Matthew Lee Faculty: A/Prof Wong Mee Lian Facilitators: Dr Hanley Ho, Dr Ler Teck Siang</p>

## Collaboration with the UK Faculty of Public Health

Following the President, Dr Eugene Shum's visits to the UK Faculty of Public Health (UKFPH) in London on 12 October 2012, CPHOP had signed an MOU with UKFPH during the Inaugural General Meeting. Prof Lindsey Davies, then President of UKFPH, had come to Singapore to give talks on public health systems and had signed the MOU with CPHOP.

## Get-Together Session

Some 20 College Fellows came together in a get-together session on 29 November 2013 at the Shangri-La Hotel. The social event presented many of them the opportunity to network and interact with their peers and colleagues.

## Newsletter

The College published two issues of the College of Public Health and Occupational Physicians newsletter in June 2013 and December 2013.



*Dr Eugene Shum (left) and Prof Lindsey Davies endorse the MOU between the CPHOP and UKFPH as Master of the Academy, Prof Lim Shih Hui looks on.*



*Fellows at the get-together networking session.*