



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
SINGAPORE

**SPEECH BY MRS TAN CHING YEE
PERMANENT SECRETARY FOR HEALTH,
INDUCTION COMITIA 2014, ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, SINGAPORE
25 OCTOBER 2014, 2.20 P.M.,
AUDITORIUM, HEALTH PROMOTION BOARD**

Professor Lim Shih Hui, Master, Academy of Medicine, Singapore

Council Members of the Academy

Distinguished Guests

Fellows

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good afternoon

1. I am happy to be here this afternoon, at the Induction Comitia of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore, and among friends to witness the induction of the Academy's Fellows and Associates. I wish to congratulate all of those who will be formally inducted today as members of the Academy in your respective Colleges or Chapters.

NEED FOR MORE HEALTH AND AGED CARE PROFESSIONALS

2. Between now and 2030 which is around 15 years from now, the proportion of our population aged 65 and above will double to 20 per cent. Signs of the greying of Singapore can be seen all around us, from the number of people using mobility aids to the



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number of older patients in our clinics and hospitals. New healthcare and aged care facilities are being built. Correspondingly, many new jobs will be created in health and aged care, including for our doctors and specialists.

POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL TRAINING

3. The specialist training system underwent a major change in 2010 which has helped MOH, and the restructured hospitals and polyclinics to produce more specialists and family physicians in future. The structured residency programme that has been put in place ensured that training had a process which includes accreditation, providing protected time for training, and faculty training and development. The establishment of the office of the Designated Institutional Official, or DIO, enabled institutional responsibility for training. The DIO's office is staffed by full-time institutional co-ordinators and programme co-ordinators to manage the training with their Programme Directors and core clinical faculty.

4. More doctors have entered postgraduate medical training since the implementation of residency and this will help us to start the new polyclinics, hospitals, intermediate and long-term care facilities and Family Medicine Centres. The number of doctors entering such postgraduate medical training yearly has now doubled to around 400 annually.



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THE ACADEMY'S ROLE IN POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION & HOLISTIC CARE

5. MOH is pleased to note the Academy's efforts in postgraduate training and education. The Academy indeed has shown its desire to excel academically through its publications, educational activities and other events it organises. The Academy also administers the annual in-training examinations for the formative training of residents. The Academy developed a successful staff registrar training programme to supplement the services in our public sector hospitals. MOH appreciates the continual partnership with the Academy in the training of doctors.

6. I note that the Chapter of Family Physicians was recently formed this year to recognise Family Physicians with higher Family Medicine qualifications. MOH values the holistic care provided by our Family Physicians whose practice is defined by its breadth and patient-centricity. I am happy to learn that there are already about 50 Family Physicians in the Chapter. I look forward to the Chapter developing Family Physicians together with the College of Family Physicians, Singapore.

7. The formation of the Chapter within the Academy is timely. As we look at our future needs, we need many more Family Physicians. Current capacity for training FPs is limited. There is scope for our specialists to work with the Family Physician educators to train Family Medicine residents. Many Family Medicine residents will come to your hospital departments for training exposure. Please train them well and devote time to



them even for the short time they are posted there. Who knows, your family members may see one of them in the future and they will practise what you taught.

8. It is also timely for me to signal another important move in postgraduate training. This is in the types of specialities we see being important and in high demand going forward. We will need more specialists who can manage multiple co-morbidities, without having to subject the patients to multiple specialist appointments and tests. Care fragmentation is not only costly but also provides less satisfactory outcomes to patients and their families. This form of practise is really not radical but a return to our roots in holistic medical care exemplified in many of our past master clinicians like Professor Gordon Arthur Ransome and Professor Seah Cheng Seang. I look forward to training more Internal Medicine specialists to staff General Medicine services and enhance holistic care.

9. I am sure that our Director of Medical Services, A/Prof Benjamin Ong, and MOH colleagues, will continue to engage with the Academy and our specialists, so that we enhance care integration and set the right direction for training specialists for the future.

MENTORING

10. For the Fellows being inducted today, I am sure you all have one or more mentors who have nurtured you, looked out for you, or have even been very demanding. Through these, they have passed on skills, and more importantly, imparted the ethos, character and principles that shape your life and professional conduct. As academicians I believe you will have many opportunities to encourage and nurture the next generation of doctors. It



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must be a proud moment for all of us, to be remembered as a mentor and role model, by our fellow professionals.

11. On this note, may I congratulate the newly inducted Fellows for your achievements and the doctors who will be receiving their certificates for the Staff Registrar Diplomas. I note that there are some here who will be given awards for their academic contributions in the Academy. I wish you continued success and satisfaction in your academic and professional pursuits.

Thank you.



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