

ADDRESS BY DR LIM SHIH HUI
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At the Inauguration Ceremony of the
College of Emergency Physicians, Academy of Medicine, Singapore
20th November 2014, Wednesday
Suntec International Convention and Exhibition Centre

**Prof V Anantharaman, President, College of Emergency Physicians of the
Academy of Medicine, Singapore,
Fellows of the College and the Academy,
Friends, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen:**

A very good evening to all of you. I am glad to be here to witness the Inauguration Ceremony of the College of Emergency Physicians. Your College is now one of the 11 Colleges of the Academy.

From your planned activities earlier especially the photo taking session and the later dinner, you have set a high bench mark for Inauguration Ceremony. How I wish your College was inaugurated before many other Colleges.

For those of you who are senior, you probably remembered our Academy underwent a major change 10 years ago, with creation of 6 Specialty-Colleges in 2004. From 2008 to today, another 5 Colleges were, and is being formed. The main intention of transforming Chapters into Colleges was to help each specialty within the Academy to further develop professionally. Bigger Chapters such as Chapter of Physicians and Chapter of Surgeons, further created 10 to 14 Chapters

when they became Colleges. Many of these Chapters of the Colleges are flourishing. In fact one of the Chapter of the College of Surgeons, the Chapter of Ophthalmologists, became the College of Ophthalmologists.

As of now, there are a total of 35 medical specialties and 5 sub-specialties under the Specialists Accreditation Board (SAB). It is very unlikely that more specialties and subspecialties will be created, unless certain subspecialties are of national importance, similar to Intensive Care Medicine, Palliative Medicine and Neonatology. Therefore, subspecialties of Emergency Medicine such as Emergency Cardiac Care, Trauma Emergency, Emergency Pre-Hospital Care, Disaster Medicine, Pediatric Emergency and Emergency Toxicology are not likely to become sub-specialties in Singapore. As such, please develop important sub-specialties within your College.

Some of you might choose to “sub-specialize” like the rest of specialties in Singapore, or you are more gear towards education, research or administration, please keep your general skills in Emergency Medicine “intact”. As long as you are on “duty”, you will never know what types of patients you are going to encounter. As such you have to maintain your clinical competency in evaluating, managing and treating almost all types of emergencies, including 14 specialties related to Internal Medicine, 11 specialties related to surgery, O&G, Pediatrics, and even psychiatry.

I understand that your chapter, now college, has already taking the lead in Continuing Development Programme for Emergency Physicians in Singapore. What you need now is to spear head the Maintenance of Competency Programme that is coming our way next year. In addition, pay particular

attention to maintain a high standard of professional and ethical practice which is expected of you by our Academy, your College and our profession.

Thank you all. Have an enjoyable Inaugural Ceremony.