

**SPEECH BY MR CHAN HENG KEE, PERMANENT SECRETARY,  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH, AT THE INDUCTION COMITIA OF  
THE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, SINGAPORE  
ON 6 JULY 2019 AT HEALTH PROMOTION BOARD AUDITORIUM**

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Dr Selan Sayampanathan, Master, Academy of Medicine, Singapore

Council Members

Fellows

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Good afternoon. I am honoured to join you on this occasion of the Induction Comitia of the Academy of Medicine.
2. Let me start by congratulating the 83 specialists who will be inducted as Fellows of the Academy in their respective Colleges and Chapters. My congratulations also to the graduates of the Master of Health Professions Education and Staff Registrar Scheme Diploma programmes as well as the Annals award winners.
3. Over the years, the Academy of Medicine has done excellent work and extended valuable support to the Ministry of Health. MOH engages, consults and works with the Academy on a wide range of matters. My senior colleagues and I also have regular dialogues and discussions, both formal or informal, with the Academy's Council. In all our interactions and collaborations, one aspect which my colleagues and I value dearly in the Academy is its 'Unity in Diversity'.
4. Today, the Academy has 13 Colleges and 4 Chapters, the latest being the Chapter of Pain Medicine Physicians formed earlier this year. By embracing all specialties, the Academy has the ability to draw on a diverse pool of expertise, experiences and strengths. At the same time, the Academy has been able to forge a collective view and speak with a unified voice on important matters. To me, this 'Unity in Diversity' is the core strength and essence of the Academy. One that is fundamental to the Academy's fulfilment of its mission.
5. I hope that the Academy, its Colleges and Chapters, can continue to put this "Unity in Diversity" to good use in contributing to the national healthcare agenda. Help Singapore move beyond delivering effective healthcare to bringing about good health. Make it possible for more Singaporeans to receive care in the community and closer

to their homes. Help nudge and support healthcare professionals, patients and caregivers in making better decisions.

6. Recent initiatives where the Academy had contributed to MOH include the adoption of new screening tests for diabetes and cervical cancer in national programmes; reviews of legislation, regulations and clinical practice guidelines to bring the care standards up to date while ensuring patient safety and welfare, and publication of fee benchmarks for surgical procedures. There are also ongoing work working with MOH, SMA and the College of Family Physicians to advance professional standards and ethical practices, providing valuable inputs in the review of the SMC disciplinary processes and development of informed consent standards.

7. There are many more possibilities going forward. One area for example where MOH can potentially benefit from the Academy's collaboration is on emerging technologies and scientific developments. Academy fellows and members are regularly scanning for or training in these. Sharing your earlier understanding with MOH can help us assess possible impact on regulatory frameworks, professional training standards and cost-effectiveness of these new technologies and services.

8. Fellows of the Academy play an important role in the Academy's endeavours. You are crucial to promoting high professional and competency standards among our nation's medical and dental specialists. Your voice also has the ability to influence healthcare policies and shape professional opinions. My colleagues and I hope to work with you to building a better healthcare system for Singapore which brings about better health, better care and a better life for all Singaporeans.

9. Let me close by once again congratulating our new Fellows, graduates and Annals award winners who are being recognised at today's event. I wish all of you a pleasant afternoon.

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