



# ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, SINGAPORE

PATRON: PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

**GUEST-OF-HONOUR ADDRESS BY DR AMY KHOR**

**MINISTER OF STATE, MINISTRY OF HEALTH, SINGAPORE**

**Induction Comitia 2012 of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore**

23 August 2012, Thursday, at 1800, HPB Auditorium Level 7, Health Promotion Board

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

Distinguished Guests;

Fellows of the Academy;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good Afternoon

- 1 It is a great honour for me to be here today, as part of a very significant event in the medical fraternity.

## **The Academy of Medicine, Singapore**

- 2 First, let me congratulate the Academy of Medicine, Singapore on achieving the milestone of its 55th anniversary this year.

- 3 Spearheaded by Professor Sir Gordon Arthur Ransome, the Academy was founded in 1957 with the primary mission of advancing the art and science of medicine in Singapore through training and education. From a pioneering group of only 34 members, the Academy has flourished. Just over five decades later, it has become a reputable specialist organisation of more than 2,400 fellows. Today, the Academy, together with its 8 Colleges and 4 Chapters, plays a crucial leadership role in maintaining the highest standards of clinical competence and ethical integrity for the medical professional in Singapore. It also plays an important role in promoting and ensuring that the highest standard of healthcare is delivered to patients.

## **Induction Comitia 2012**

4 Today, I am indeed privileged to witness the induction of 75 new members to this esteemed fellowship.

5 To the new Fellows, my heartiest congratulations! The induction ceremony is an important milestone in your career. It is the recognition of your hard work, professional dedication and clinical maturity. Abundant and valuable resources have been invested to train and nurture you to succeed as excellent specialists. As we are all aware, this is only a milestone to a lifelong career in which excellence must be maintained by continuing professional development, education and training.

6 Medicine, technology and lifestyles are evolving at an unprecedented pace. With a greying population, a rising trend of chronic diseases, increasing affluence and higher expectations by patients, doctors now have to engage actively in quality education and lifelong learning to provide the highest possible quality of medical care to patients. Beyond medical school, housemanship, postgraduate education and training, each doctor needs to remain competent and current in his or her chosen field. Patients and the society at large want the assurance that the doctors they consult are practicing up-to-date medicine and offer them good quality care. Hence, the Singapore Medical Council (SMC) has made CME compulsory for all doctors in Singapore since January 2003.

## **Continuing Medical Education (CME)**

7 The Ministry of Health is very cognizant of the fact that the Academy over the years has actively supported the SMC to ensure doctors stay abreast of medical advances and knowledge. The Academy is responsible for advising and recommending to the SMC the accreditation of CME programmes and activities for specialists to ensure the standard and quality of CME programmes for the 36 specialties and 4 subspecialties. This is important to maintain the credibility of the continuing medical education system of SMC. The Academy also supports its Fellows and the greater medical community to fulfil their CME requirements. The Academy, and its Colleges and Chapters, provide a wide range of high-quality, up-to-date and evidence-based CME programmes and activities, including annual scientific meetings, hands-on workshops, regular seminars, journal-based learning, online learning, and other appropriate formats.

## **Continuing Professional Development (CPD)**

8 I am very pleased to note that the Academy of Medicine, Singapore, has reaffirmed, in its strategic plans, its mission and priority to be the leader in providing continuing professional development (CPD) and the maintenance of professional standards for specialists. I understand the Academy will actively help its Fellows and all specialists in Singapore to maintain their clinical competencies by evaluating specialty-specific continuing professional development needs, and to develop and offer specialty-specific modules to enhance the core competencies of medical knowledge, patient care, practice-based learning and professionalism.

9 The Academy's CPD programmes for specialists will be delivered mostly through the internet and supplemented by case-based discussions.

Specialists participating in the CPD programme will have to demonstrate that they have achieved the learning objectives of each module by answering online the multiple choice questions to test knowledge and understanding of the educational modules. The Academy will manage the database of its Fellows' continuing professional development effectively and put in place a system to accredit its CPD programmes. I commend the Academy for this forward looking initiative and its high sense of duty towards its Fellows. I encourage all medical specialists to join the Academy to take advantage of its continuing professional development programmes.

### **Conclusion**

10 To the new Fellows who will be inducted today, you have the wonderful privilege of participating in the exciting learning journey of your chosen specialty that will transform the practice of medicine, and nurture the next generation of specialists for the future.

11 On this note, let me thank the Master and the Academy of Medicine, Singapore for giving me this honour to be a part of this occasion. The Ministry of Health and I look forward to the Academy's commitment to advancing the art and science of medicine in Singapore. I wish the Academy and all Fellows every success in your academic and professional endeavours.