



ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, SINGAPORE

PATRON: PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

2012 - 2013

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Dr Cuthbert Teo Eng Swee
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EX-OFFICIO

Dr Tan Kok Chai
Immediate Past Master

Dr Tan Eng King
Editor, Annals

Message from the Master

15 August 2012

Dear Fellow Academicians

As one of the key priorities of the Academy Council is to improve communications with Fellows, I am pleased to bring you another update on several of our scientific events, academic activities, and educational programmes.

1. 46th Malaysia-Singapore Congress of Medicine

The [46th Malaysia-Singapore Congress of Medicine](#), organised by the Academy of Medicine of Malaysia, was held in Kuala Lumpur on 12-14 July 2012. Our Fellow, Dr Loke Kah Yin, delivered an outstanding plenary lecture on "Early Life Influences on Childhood Obesity – Implications for Adult Metabolic Disease".

I am pleased to report that the 3 Academies (Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore) met over the Joint Council meeting, where we had active dialogues on specialist manpower, training and education. In a separate forum, representatives from the Royal Colleges of Physicians (London), Royal College of Pathologists and the American College of Surgeons gave a candid report on "Performance Measurement in Healthcare". Inextricably, standards of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and roadmaps to Maintenance of Competence (MOC) were extensively discussed and keenly debated. The network forged through these engagements will serve as valuable resources to help the Academy develop a better and rigorous CPD programmes for our Fellows.

2. 2nd AMM-AMS-HKAM Tripartite Congress and 47th Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Medicine

With the conclusion of the Congress in Kuala Lumpur, the Academy is now poised to host the **2nd AMM-AMS-HKAM Tripartite Congress and 47th Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Medicine** in Singapore on **23-24 August 2013** at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront. Please block the dates in your calendar and join us next year.

Dr Wong Kok Seng, Chairman of the Organising Committee, had already started apace putting together an exciting and engaging scientific programme to embrace the theme "[The New Reality in Medicine – Caring for Patients with Multiple Co-Morbidities](#)".

As you are aware, the **Gordon Arthur Ransome Oration** and **Rumne Shaw Memorial Lecture** are key highlights of our biennial Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Medicine. [Call for Nominations](#) for both lectures have already been announced to all Fellows in mid-July. Therefore, I urge you to nominate luminary speakers whose expertise and insights you think will serve to enlighten and benefit our medical community. Please note that nomination closes on 31 August.

3. The Appreciation Dinner of the Annals of the Academy of Medicine

The Annals held its 2012 Appreciation Dinner at the Mandarin Oriental on 24 July 2012. I had the pleasure of meeting dedicated individuals who have contributed to the high standings of the Annals in 2011. Appreciation and recognition were given to the [Gold Awards](#) reviewers and authors of [Best Publication Awards](#). I hope their excellent and exemplary work will inspire others to support the Annals.

4. College of Surgeons' Dinner Lectures & Medal

The [College of Surgeons, Singapore](#) (CSS) held its 7th Annual Dinner on 3 August 2012 at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront. The Dinner was graced by the Guest-of-Honour, Mr Gan Kim Yong, Minister for Health, Singapore, who also declared the Annual Combined Surgical Meeting open (vide infra).

a) 7th College of Surgeons Lecture

The 7th College of Surgeons Lecture was delivered by Dr Saw Huat Seong, on "[The Making of a Surgeon: From Good to Great](#)". His lecture offered a frank and soul searching perspective of what it takes to make a good surgeon; the core values, ethics and professionalism, all embodied in the Hippocrates Oath we had sworn to uphold. I would encourage all to visit our CSS website to go through his lecture.

b) 17th Yahya Cohen Memorial Lecture

The Yahya Cohen Memorial Lecture, in recognition of the outstanding contributions to the development of surgery in Singapore by Dr Yahya Cohen, is presented annually by a Fellow of the College of Surgeons who has published material of academic excellence. This year, the Lectureship was delivered by Dr Edmund Chiong, from the Department of Urology, National University Health System, for his outstanding work on "[NRAMP1 and hGPX1 gene polymorphism and response to bacillus Calmette-Guérin therapy for bladder cancer](#)".

c) College of Surgeons Gold Medal

For this year, the [College of Surgeons Gold Medal](#) is awarded to the best performing ASTs who were nominated by their respective Residency Advisory Committee:

- Dr Han Hong Juan (Otorhinolaryngology)
- Dr Antony Garder (Orthopaedic Surgery)
- Dr Koh PuayTheng Tina (Cardiothoracic Surgery)

5. Annual Combined Surgical Meeting

Congratulations to the Chapter of General Surgeons, [College of Surgeons, Singapore \(CSS\)](#), for having successfully rekindled the [Annual Combined Surgical Meeting](#) on 4 August 2012, at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront.

The last meeting was held in 2003 and I am glad the Annual Combined Surgical Meeting has been revived through the extraordinary effort of the Chapter of General Surgeons, CSS, under the leadership of Dr Wong Soon Kuan, and in partnership with the Society of Colorectal Surgeons (Singapore), Endoscopic and Laparoscopic Surgeons of Asia, and Obesity and Metabolic Surgery Society of Singapore. I was able to attend meeting in the afternoon and was really proud of our surgical Fellows for making this meeting a success. With the contributions of everyone in the surgical fraternity, I am certain that the Annual Combined Surgical Meeting will be one of the most important annual surgical conferences in Singapore.

The one-day scientific meeting included a keynote lecture, 14 symposia, a debate and 2 moderated poster presentations. I was updated that more than 130 participants attended the meeting, which comprised a good mix of surgeons from the public institutions, private sector, overseas, surgical residents and medical students.

Dr Raj Mohan Nambiar delivered the keynote lecture on "[Future Implications of Surgical Training – The Impact of Subspecialty Practice](#)". He described the four stages of a surgeon's training and highlighted the issues and challenges faced by trainees and trainers in an evolving training environment.

A total of [42 free papers](#) were presented, showcasing scientific works from Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Khoo Teck Puat Hospital, Singapore General Hospital, National University Health System, Alexandra Hospital, Changi General Hospital, private hospitals as well as overseas. In addition, several papers were contributed by medical students from the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine. Dr Winson Tan Jianhong won the award for Best Oral Presentation and Dr Aung Myint Oo delivered the Best Video Presentation.

I wish to highlight that the Debate session was very well attended by our surgical residents and medical students. Six teams of residents from the three Sponsoring Institutions (SingHealth, NUHS and NHG) debated on (a) Use of Simulators Enhances Surgical Training; (b) Minimally Invasive Surgery is Detrimental to Training Residents in the Fundamentals of Surgery; and (c) There is still a Role for the General Surgeons in Singapore. The debates were excellent and several debaters were awesome. NHG emerged victorious; credit goes to Dr Ngiam Juzheng, Dr Caroline Siew, Dr Ang Wei-Wen and Dr Serene Tang!

6. Induction Comitia, 23rd August 2012

The Academy's [Induction Comitia 2012](#) will take place on Thursday, 23 August 2012, at the Health Promotion Board Auditorium, starting at 5:30 pm. More than 150 guests and Fellows, joined by our Guest-of-Honour, Dr Amy Khor, Minister of State for Health, Singapore, will witness the induction of 77 new Fellows to the Academy. Please join us at this year's conferment and reception to welcome our new Fellows.

7. Medicine Review Course, 8-9 September 2012

Every year, the [College of Physicians, Singapore](#), will conduct the [Medicine Review Course](#) together with its specialty Chapters. This year, the course, scheduled for 8-9 September 2012, will be held at the Khoo Teck Puat Hospital Tower B Auditorium.

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The course covers a wide range of common and important topics in Internal Medicine where it aims to keep medical specialists abreast of the latest and important developments in specialties other than their own. Medical trainees, too, will find the course just as beneficial, as common gaps in Internal Medicine In-training Examination are also addressed in the programme. Please encourage your fellow colleagues and trainees to attend the course. I am confident they will learn and gain much from it.

As it is, there are much more initiatives and activities than I could possibly report here. Please frequent the Academy website to get more updates. I hope by reaching out to you regularly, it will spark your interest to participate in our programmes and also feedback how we can serve our Fellows better.

Best Wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shih Hui', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr Lim Shih Hui
Master
Academy of Medicine, Singapore

Email: master@ams.edu.sg