

**ADDRESS BY A/PROF ALAN NG WEI KEONG, MASTER OF THE ACADEMY OF
MEDICINE, SINGAPORE, AT THE INDUCTION COMITIA OF THE ACADEMY OF
MEDICINE, SINGAPORE ON 7 OCTOBER 2023, 2PM, GRAND COPTHORNE
WATERFRONT HOTEL**

Guest of Honour, Dr Tan See Leng, Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for
Trade and Industry;

Past Masters, Council Members of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore;

Fellow Academicians;

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

INTRODUCTION

1. Good afternoon. On behalf of the Council, it is my pleasure to welcome you to
the Induction Comitia of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore.

2. We are privileged to have our Guest-of-Honour, Dr Tan See Leng, Minister for
Manpower and Second Minister for Trade and Industry here with us today. Thank you,
Minister, for setting aside time from your busy schedule to grace this special occasion.

FELLOWS OF ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, SINGAPORE

3. This afternoon, we will be witnessing the induction of new Fellows into the
Academy. To our new Fellow Academicians, my heartiest congratulations and a warm
welcome to all of you.

4. You are now part of the Academy of Medicine, the largest professional body of medical and dental specialists in Singapore. We shall work together, as members of the Academy, to protect and advance the high standards of the medical profession amid the changing healthcare landscape.

5. As doctors, we are reminded that our work is a special calling into a noble and highly respected profession and a lifetime dedicated to service. We should always be mindful of the words of Sir William Osler that ***“the practice of medicine is an art, not a trade; a calling, not a business; a calling in which your heart will be exercised equally with your head.”***

6. The Inductees’ Pledge serves to remind us of our professional duties and commitments, that we should lead our lives and practice our art in uprightness and honour.

7. As new fellows of the Academy, I urge you to participate and be involved in the activities of the Academy, Colleges, and Chapters to which you belong. With the membership spanning the entire range of specialties, there will be numerous opportunities for inter-disciplinary and specialty interaction and collaboration which can enhance our practice.

ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, SINGAPORE

8. The Academy of Medicine Singapore was established in 1957. There were 34 members at the time of its formation; today the Academy has grown to over 4200 Fellows distributed across the spectrum of medical and dental specialties.

9. This 65-year journey of the Academy marks many important achievements and valuable contributions by Fellow Academicians – past and present. Notable among these are: the active participation in the consultation sessions organised by the government agencies, covering proposed changes or introduction of important healthcare policies and legislation such as the Healthcare Services Act, the National Electronic Health Record system and Healthier SG, as well as the Fee Benchmark review for hospital and professional fees. We salute all for having served and represented the AMS tirelessly with dedication, commitment, passion, and honour.

10. The Academy remains committed to the three strategic priorities we have adopted: 1) Strengthening advocacy to shape and influence healthcare policies; 2) Advancing professionalism and upholding competency standards; and 3) Enhancing self-governance and self-regulation. The Academy is devoted to advancing the art and science of medicine in Singapore through postgraduate training, maintenance of high standards of competency and ethical integrity through continuous professional development as well as dissemination of information and knowledge. I hope all Academicians will join us in our endeavour.

11. As advances in medical science, knowledge and technology confront the medical profession, the healthcare landscape and healthcare practices are likely to change and be transformed. Fellows of the Academy must come together to seize the opportunity to serve as catalysts to influence positive changes for the profession, patients, and society.

12. The dynamic diversity among Fellows of the Academy presents great opportunities for synergistic interaction as each of you, with your extensive and diverse experiences, are housed under one organisation, the AMS.

13. The Academy is able to fulfil its objectives because it embraces all specialties and combines different perspectives and capabilities. Together, we are well-positioned to bring important and relevant healthcare topics and issues to attention, allowing them to be addressed collectively, appropriately, and responsibly.

IMPORTANCE OF BEING A PART OF A PROFESSIONAL BODY

14. As a professional body, the AMS is held in high regard and respect because of the high standards of practice and integrity which members hold themselves to, thus maintaining public confidence in the profession. It is important to maintain this trust so that we retain the privilege of self-regulation.

15. The high regard accorded to the Academy places it in a position to be a voice and advocate for members, and a body whose views and opinions are sought after for various health related and medical matters.

SINGAPORE-MAASTRICHT MASTER OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION PROGRAMME

16. This afternoon, we will also be witnessing graduates from our Singapore-Maastricht Master of Health Professions Education Programme receive their certificates.

17. This Master's programme was launched by the College of Clinician Educators in collaboration with the University of Maastricht, and to-date 35 graduates have completed this programme.

18. To our graduates here today, I have no doubt that the knowledge that you have gained will equip you with the ability and skills to educate, train and mentor healthcare professionals.

19. We look forward to you contributing more to our healthcare system in the area of education, training, and mentoring. I wish you success and fulfilment as you continue in your role as educators and trainers.

ANNALS REVIEWER AWARDS 2022

20. Today, the Academy will also be presenting the Annals Reviewers Award 2022 as recognition to reviewers for contributing high-quality reviews. Congratulations and thank you for the excellent work in furthering the exchange of scientific knowledge and information.

21. In the recently announced Clarivate Journals Citations Reports 2023, the Annals recorded an impact factor of 5.2 for the year 2022. We remained in the first quartile in the competitive category of Medicine (General and Internal) and the Annals is ranked second among medical journals in Asia.

22. I would like to record my appreciation to our Annals Editorial Board and reviewers for their time, hard work, commitment, and dedication to make this

achievement possible. I would also like to encourage all Fellow Academicians to continue supporting the Annals by contributing as reviewers and submitting your scientific work and articles to be considered for publication.

CONCLUSION

23. Looking ahead, we can expect the pace of transformation in healthcare to stay unrelenting as well as demanding, but we must remain steadfast in our commitment to uphold our honourable profession and high standards. I hope we will all remain true to our calling, and continue to practice medicine with dedication, passion and from our hearts.

24. With that, I thank you.