

## F R O M   T H E   E D I T O R ' S   D E S K

2002! Now we are seriously into the new millennium. The novelty of writing 20 instead of 19 had worn off. The millennium doomsday prophets had kept their placards, gone back to workaday reality only to find the economy is no longer what it was at the turn of the century. Fortunately when it comes to family medicine, it is not all doom and gloom. At least not on the academic front, that is.

This year will see the graduation of the first batch of the GDFM (Graduate Diploma in Family Medicine) trainees. The trainees are feverishly preparing for the examinations. Many had forgotten the ecstasy and the agony of such a past time since they last did the MBBS thing many years ago.

At the other end of the stick, things are not nice and peachy either. The Censors Board and advisors had been busy preparing the gauntlet. A delegation will be flying to Australia to study the OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Examination, acronym pronounced as "AussKie") technique of examining candidates. This is used increasingly in professional medical examinations. It is used in the FRACGP examinations and will be used in the GDFM examinations.

This year will also see a flurry of CME activities as everyone is geared up to prepare for 2003 when CME becomes compulsory.

2002 certainly looks set to be an eventful year for family physicians.

Dr Lee Kheng Hock  
Honorary Secretary