

Congratulations to the First Batch of GDFM Holders 2002

Congratulations to the following doctors for successful completion and passing of the Graduate Diploma in Family Medicine Examination 2002.

About the GDFM Book Prize

In support of primary care doctors to practise Family Medicine at an enhanced level to meet the needs of the child, the adolescent, the adult and the elderly, the College of Family Physicians Singapore is pleased to institute the Graduate Diploma in Family Medicine Book Prize.

The award will be governed by the following condition:

* The GDFM Book Prize will be awarded to the best candidate in the Graduate Diploma in Family Medicine Examination. The candidate must be in the category of those who achieve 100% pass in the OSCE (without borderline passes) and be the top performer within this category for the theory papers in the GDFM examination.

GDFM Holders 2002:

Dr Anbumalar Ramiah
Dr Aw Lee Fhoon Lily
Dr Chay Wai Mun Jason
Dr Chong Tsung Wei
Dr Chia Hong Chye Vincent
Dr Chua Kok Keong
Dr Eng Soo Kiang
Dr Ho Chiuen Leey Victor
Dr Howe Wen Li
Dr Hui Seng Yin
Dr Iskandar Bin Idris
Dr Koh Sien Ming Michael
Dr Koh Thuan Wee
Dr Henry Kothagoda
Dr Lee Khai Weng Michael
Dr Lee Woon Lin
Dr Ler Teng Noh Diana
Dr Lim Heuk Yew
Dr Long Mei Ling
Dr Long Li Chern Iris
Dr Loo Choo Choon Andrew
Dr Masayu Zainab Bte Masagos Mohd
Dr Ng Delvin
Dr Ng Seo Peng Christine
Dr Ong Eu Jin Roy
Dr Ong Lan Fang Rebecca
Dr Radiah Binti Salim
Dr Sarani Bte Omar
Dr See Toh Kwok Yee
Dr Siew Chee Weng
Dr Soh Soon Beng
Dr Tan Li Mei Joanna
Dr Tan Peck Kiang Angela
Dr Teo Hui Ling
Dr Teo Yi Jin
Dr Tey Colin
Dr Tham Tat Yeap
Dr Wu Ming Jark Basil
Dr Yap Siong Yew Mark
Dr Yong Molly



GDFM BOOK PRIZE RECIPIENT:
DR ISKANDAR BIN IDRIS

An address delivered by Dr Iskandar Bin Idris at the 2002 Graduate Diploma Presentation Ceremony held at Clinical Research Centre, MD 11, Auditorium, National University of Singapore, on October 2, 2002, 5.30p.m. (Wednesday).

The Graduate Diploma course in Family Medicine was first launched in July 2000. When I first learnt of it, I decided to enrol myself as I know that it will provide an excellent opportunity for me to further develop my skills in the field of Family Medicine. I firmly believe that Family Medicine is a speciality in its own right. The wide variety of cases that a General

Practitioner encounters is but only one aspect of his practice.

In addition to that, he plays the important role of an orchestrator in the myriad of services and resources available in the community. He has to identify the nature of the problem and to decide the need for further specialist referral where necessary. The practice of medicine has evolved such that the various fields have become more and more specialized and access to them is readily available. Correspondingly, there now exists higher expectations of patients of us and their ever readiness to obtain specialist consult. In this respect we serve as an important gatekeeper in preventing the overflooding of the resources available in the tertiary institutions by differentiating cases which can be managed at a primary care level from those which genuinely require further care. Moreover this will also serve to keep health costs in check.

In order to perform this essential role, we will require good clinical acumen and judgement. Furthermore, it also involves risks taking, something which we have to be mindful of in this increasingly litigious climate which we are practicing in. Hence we do need to train and equip ourselves with the necessary skills and knowledge to enable us to fulfil this role in the most proficient and professional manner. Only when we are perceived to be in possession of such levels of competency will we gain the confidence and trust of the public, and our image and role

as a Family Physician will be strengthened. It is with this aim in mind, that I think my participation in the course was essential.

The GDFM course provided an excellent opportunity in keeping ourselves updated on the latest developments in various fields of medicine. The structure of the course which employed workshops and seminars inviting Consultants from the respective fields ensured that GPs receive up to date information and current practices in the tertiary institutions.

These sessions also enabled the exchange of ideas between GPs and our colleagues in these institutions for the benefit of overall patient care. In the same vein, it provided an arena for GPs to interact with one another and discuss various issues ranging from updates, to problems encountered in day-to-day management. This is especially true of us with heavy work schedules who would otherwise have had limited time for interaction.

Aside from the more familiar and well-established areas of medicine, the course incorporated topics which may have suffered less emphasis in the undergraduate curriculum, topics which nonetheless are of vital importance in everyday practice. We are all too familiar with the concept of the disease model of an illness which we were taught in medical school. Then, we may have been too pre-occupied with the acquisition of knowledge and facts of a disease that the skills required in an actual

interaction with patients were not given its due weightage. It is with the realization of this area of deficiency personally, that it is heartening to see that the early part of the course emphasized on the patient – doctor relationship, and the skills required to conduct a satisfactory medical consultation. Family Medicine is unique in that not all presenting complaints have an organic basis or be an accurate reflection of the true underlying problem. It is up to us then to decipher what the actual problem is, to elicit its true nature without missing and overlooking any real disease process. To this end, the relevant segment of the curriculum imparted skills, techniques and knowledge essential for the fulfilment of this important role.

Other useful topics covered include the administrative, logistic and medico-legal aspects of everyday practice. It also introduced to us resources available for future references and research relevant for everyday practice e.g. websites available on the net.

May I congratulate everyone of us upon our successful completion of the respective diploma courses. However, let not this be the end of our journey towards the acquisition of knowledge. Instead, we should see it as a milestone in the continuous process of lifelong learning.

Thank you.

Dr Iskandar Bin Idris