

Dean of St George's Medical School visits the College

Renewing Links

Professor Sean Hilton – Dean and Professor of General Practice of the St George's Medical School in London – visited the College on Saturday, 18 January 2003. Prof Hilton's visit has renewed the links between his medical school and the College.



PROFESSOR SEAN HILTON, DEAN AND PROFESSOR OF GENERAL PRACTICE OF ST. GEORGE'S MEDICAL SCHOOL

A guest of St George's Medical School fifteen years ago, Prof Goh Lee Gan visited both Prof Hilton and his predecessor Prof Paul Freeling in 1988. Prof Freeling was subsequently the HMDP Expert in Family Medicine and visited Singapore in 1992. During his stint here, he taught in the FMTP session at the College premises.

British general practice education compared

Prof Hilton shared with the College leadership the changes that have taken place in their undergraduate MBBS programme. He noted a great similarity between the undergraduate programme in his medical school and that in NUS. Both medical schools have implemented the recommendations of the GMC document "Tomorrow's Doctors". The document called for the promotion of the problem-solving method as the way of teaching medical science. It also advocates that more time should be devoted to communication skills and to the teaching of general practice and preventive care. The content and teaching methods of both medical schools are similar if not identical, with the only difference being that under the system of most medical schools in the UK, family medicine posting

is taught over a 10-week period (during which students also studied other subjects), whereas the posting in NUS is taught over a dedicated block of 4 weeks.



A GROUP PHOTO OF SOME OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS WITH OUR GUEST AT THE COLLEGE'S CONFERENCE ROOM. FROM LEFT: A/P GOH LEE GAN, PROF SEAN HILTON, DR ARTHUR TAN, DR LEE KHENG HOCK AND CFPS PRESIDENT A/P CHEONG PAK YEAN.

British vocational training compared

Prof Hilton said that the system for vocational training is still very much a two-year period in hospital posting and a one-year period in the practice. This is the system that we have for the MMed (FM) Programme A, i.e. the MOH stream. The British vocational training has a summative assessment programme made up of a video-recording of 10 cases, an audit project, satisfactory completion of the vocational training attachments and the MRCP examination. The endpoint for this stage of training is the MRCP diploma. There is a route for MRCP by assessment for veteran GPs. There is also the Fellowship by Assessment programme run by the Royal College of General Practitioners.

The world is a global village. With the renewal of links, there will be opportunities for the College and St George's School of Medicine to collaborate on teaching and research.