

# Dean of the Faculty of Medicine NUS visits College

The new Dean of the Faculty of Medicine NUS, Prof John Wong, visited the College on the 22nd August 2003. He was received by members of the College Council and briefed on the various training programs of the College. The visit to the College was part of Prof Wong's series of meetings with the various professional bodies. He believes that the medical faculty must work closely with the professional bodies.

"Medical school is the beginning of a 50 year journey in the study of medicine. We need to make sure that the continuum is in line," said Prof John Wong.

He believes that professional bodies that

play a major role in continuing professional development of doctors should be linked

more closely with the medical school. Medical students should be made to understand that they are embarking on a life long learning process and the importance of the roles that the professional bodies play.

He feels that at the end of 5 years of medical school, all students should have a broad understanding of family medicine and develop a whole new set of skills that they would be able to use in their practice, especially if they should eventually enter the ranks of family physicians practicing in the community.

Prof Wong said that his faculty is committed to work with the College to improve the standard of family medicine in Singapore. He shares the vision that having highly trained primary care physicians will result in better health for Singaporeans and more cost-effective use of health care resources.

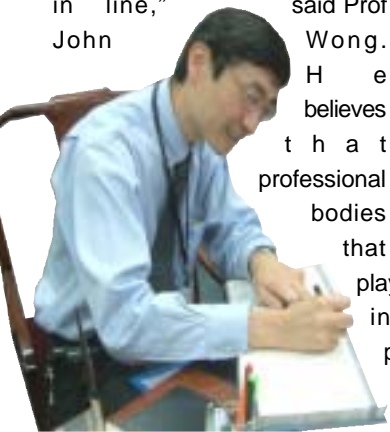
Presently the College is already working very closely with the Faculty of Medicine both in undergraduate and graduate family medicine training. As the

result of the meeting, many new initiatives are now on the drawing board.

In the coming months some of these should bear fruit. Students and doctors training to be better family physicians can look forward to better things to come.



From Left: Dr Matthew Ng Joo Ming, Dr Arthur Tan Chin Lock, A/Prof Cheong Pak Yean, A/Prof Goh Lee Gan, Prof John Wong, Dr Cheng Heng Lee, Dr Lee Kheng Hock, Dr Tan See Leng



Signing of College Guest Book

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He believes that cost can be controlled without compromising on the quality of clinical care if we can optimize the use of our resources. His vision for primary care in Singapore is to transform it into a modern and cost-effective component of the nation's health care delivery system.

The College Mirror interviewed some of the people who attended the meeting for their views.

*"The College shares the Minister's vision, especially the part on an enhanced role for the family physician. We look forward to playing our part in the effort to bring this vision to reality"* A/Prof Cheong Pak Yean, President CFPS.

*"I think the Minister's vision of a primary care initiative is very timely and important. We should all work together to achieve the goal of enabling family doctors to play a bigger role in the health care system."* A/Prof Goh Lee Gan, Head Division of Family Medicine NUS and Censor-in-Chief, CFPS.

*"We all feel very inspired. We know that the status quo in primary care is not tenable in the long run. Now that the Minister had set the vision and the direction, we should all work together to overcome some of the barriers."* Dr Lee Kheng Hock, Executive Director, College of Family Physicians Singapore.

*"I am very impressed by the clarity of the vision."* Dr Tan See Leng, COO BUPA Healthcare and Council Member CFPS.