

Family Practice Skills Courses

During the period September & October 2003, the College conducted the following courses:

- Hypertension Skills Course
- Hyperlipidemia Skills Course

These courses were made possible with an educational grant from Pfizer Pte Ltd.

Hypertension Skills Course was conducted on 6 & 7 September 2003 at LT30 located at the National University of Singapore. The objective of this skill course was to provide the participants with the theoretical basis of hypertension.

Hyperlipidemia Skills Course was conducted on 11 & 12 October 2003 at the auditorium of the Ministry of Health premises. Workshops were conducted along with the seminar sessions.



The skills course involves seminars, workshops and Q & A sessions

Look out for the following Family Practice Skills Courses.

**Pain Management
21 & 28 Feb 2004**

**Atherothrombosis
10 & 11 Apr 2004**

See pages 22 and 23.

WONCA Asia Pacific Regional Conference 2003

WONCA Asia Pacific Regional Conference 2003, organized by Chinese Society of General Practice and Chinese Medical Association, was held in Beijing from 4th November to 7th November 2003. Our College delegation, comprising members of the WONCA World Conference 2007 Host Organising Committee, was warmly received by Prof Wu Zhenglai, the President of the Chinese Society of General Practice and members of his committee.

Dr Tan See Leng, Chairman of the WONCA World Conference 2007 Host Organising Committee, gave an update on the preparations for the 2007 World Conference to the WONCA Asia Pacific Council Members. The

presentation stimulated a lot of interest in the upcoming event. Many Wonca Asia Pacific Region



Members of the Singapore delegation at Beijing (L-R) Dr Lawrence Ng, Dr Tan See Leng, Dr Matthew Ng, Dr Tan Chee Beng, Dr Arthur Tan, Dr Chng Woei, Dr Lim Fong Seng, Dr Lee Kheng Hock

Council members supported the appropriateness of the conference theme, "Genomics and its Impact on Primary Health Care". The general

feeling was that the conference theme is very specific and timely. This will be an important factor in attracting participants from all over the world.

A/Prof Goh Lee Gan who is the President of the WONCA Asia Pacific Region was very pleased with the success of the Beijing Conference. In particular, he commented on persistence of the Beijing Host Organising Committee to make the Conference a success.

"Besides the fruitful exchange of ideas and information, many old friendships are renewed. This will certainly contribute towards fostering greater co-operation in the work to advance family medicine in the Asia Pacific region," said A/Prof Goh.

The Global Family Doctor & Mr WONCA

Prof Wesley Fabb is no stranger to our College and he was back in Singapore in October as the external examiner for both the Masters of Medicine (Family Medicine) Examination as well as the Fellowship by Assessment Programme. Prof Fabb and Dr Richard Geeves were external examiners for our College's first MCGP examinations conducted in 1972. Since then he had been back as the external examination on three occasions for the MMed Examinations and twice for the Fellowship by Assessment Programme. Looking back, Prof Fabb had the following to say about our training programme.

"The (Singapore) College have developed in an extremely excellent way...the way they have first developed the Membership examination and then the

Fellowship by Assessment program...which I think all other Colleges should emulate because it really goes beyond the higher qualification, to identify leaders for the future."

"From the group that I have interviewed, they had all been trained to contribute to research, in teaching, in examination, in quality assurance and so on. It is very exciting and very encouraging. I think you've got some excellent people here and the College's future is assured."

Prof Fabb is also affectionately known as "Mr WONCA" for his long and passionate involvement with the World Organisation of Family Doctors, as its first Chief Executive Officer. Since his "retirement", Prof Fabb had, not surprisingly, become even more

busy than before. He is now the "doctor" of the WONCA website in www.globalfamilydoctor.com, the website of WONCA. He is the webmaster and spend his busy day reviewing articles and posting updates at the website. Thanks to his diligence, the website now has a very up to date archive of reviews of important publications that are relevant to family practice. One good way to keep up with the many developments in family medicine would be visit the website and read the updates.

