

GDFM Teachers' Award 2004

By Dr Wee Chee Chau, MCFP

Eighteen of the College members were awarded the GDFM Teacher's Award 2004 at this year's Commencement Ceremony.

These exemplary family physicians expend time and effort to selflessly share their knowledge with fellow doctors who took the GDFM course.

Their contribution to the Family Medicine community is recognized with the Award. It is hoped that like-minded members of the College will be inspired to do the same when duty calls.

The following are some words from two of the teachers, Dr Gerard Low & Dr Kwan Yew Seng.



Teachers' Awards 2004

- Dr Chow Mun Hong
- Dr Ee Guan Liang Adrian
- Dr Goh Choon Kee Shirley
- Dr Goh Khean Teik
- Dr Kwan Yew Seng
- Dr Leong Soh Sum
- Dr Lim Hui Ling
- Dr Loke Kam Weng
- Dr Low Mun Heng Gerard
- Dr Low Sze Sen
- Dr Shah Mitesh
- Dr Swah Teck Sin
- Dr Tan Kee Wang
- Dr Tan See Leng
- Dr Tan Yu Sing Lucienne
- Dr Tay Ee Guan
- Dr Thng Lip Mong Barry
- Dr Yung Charlotte

"It is indeed heartwarming that the College affirms and recognizes our contribution, though small, in helping our fellow colleagues in their continuing medical and professional development.

are getting better and that keeps me on my toes. Along with 2 other tutors, we managed an enlarged tutorial group. Finding the right time was always a problem but our persistence always paid off. The challenge for each tutorial is to make it directed and yet diverse, focused and yet expansive.

Now giving tutorials it is not so much teaching but sharing of knowledge, experience and wisdom. I remember A/Prof Goh Lee Gan once told us in class that all of us doing Family Medicine are travelling along the same path, some are more ahead while some have just started. What I wish to do by teaching is to smoothen this path for others to walk on. It certainly has not been on directional learning. Teaching makes me learn and has kept my mind stimulated.



Dr Low receiving award from A/Prof Cheong Pak Yean

Teaching is also a humbling experience as I have found out. One is continuously challenged to update and mend all gaps in knowledge and information. Still, there are many problems that do not have perfectly packaged answers, and this I have come to terms with.

My own knowledge and practice of medicine has changed for the better because of teaching. To those who are

I will continue to support the College in her teaching endeavours as I have always believed that when we teach others, we, too, teach ourselves. It is my hope that we continue to **learn** as we grow, and **grow** as we learn."

- Dr Gerard Low

I started off unsure of what to do and what to expect. I was even doubtful of my own teaching ability initially. I settled down quickly and served comfortably as a guide, a mentor. The interaction with the trainee doctors rejuvenated my academic fervour. Their enthusiasm was absolutely infectious, almost addictive. An important spin-off from these tutorials was the sharing with each other, our difficulties with our patients. This was not only insightful, but served as the perfect balm for our tired souls and bruised egos.

With each successive year, the trainees

"My teaching experience started out with giving tutorials to MMed trainees in the polyclinic. At that time it was more like passing on experience in the traineeship and helping them prepare for the exams. Later I became a tutor for GDFM trainees.



Dr Kwan Yew Seng

in a position to impart knowledge and are not doing so, I have this to say: Do it. It will require some time and effort, but it is worth every minute and you will be richer for the experience."

- Dr Kwan Yew Seng