

The Training of the Family Physicians



by A/Prof Goh Lee Gan, President, 22nd Council,
College of Family Physicians Singapore

In this issue, the editors have decided to revisit the topic of training of the family physician, asking several family physicians to share their experiences in the training journey. Interesting to read what they have experienced.

In this President's Forum, I have added pointers in the numbers trained and the various programmes available in the training of the family physician.

(1) In Singapore, attention to the training of the family physician has come a long way. From the foundation of the College in 1971 to the establishment of the MMed(Family Medicine) postgraduate qualification in 1991, and the establishment of the Graduate Diploma in Family Medicine in 2000, we have today in 2010, 283 doctors with the MMed (Family Medicine) Postgraduate degree, and 434 doctors with the Graduate Diploma in Family Medicine (GDFM). These holders are eligible to be in the Family Physician Register (FPR).

(2) Beyond the vocational training in Family Medicine which is provided by the MMed, the College has two professional development programmes as finishing school for family

physicians. Here, the training emphasis is on reflective clinical practice, teaching skills, research skills, and leadership. These are the Membership by Assessment (MCFP) and Fellowship by Assessment (FCFP). To-date we have nine family physicians who have the MCFP by assessment and 64 family physicians who have the FCFP by assessment.

(3) For senior family doctors, Ministry of Health now has the accredited modular course (AMC) programme for them to complete four modules of the FMMC (as we understand) to be eligible to be in the Family Physician Register. The first of the accredited modular course will commence in August 2010.

With these training opportunities, the care of our patients will be enhanced. We will be in a better position to make diagnosis early, treat appropriately,

delay or prevent complications, and embark on primary prevention as well.

With the changing population landscape, we need to continue to hone our knowledge, application, and problem solving skills in the four areas of care highlighted by the Prime Minister in his National Day Rally speech in 2009: geriatric care; step-down care; integrated care; and preventive care. The latter will be the best way in the long run to help patients and nation reduce healthcare costs.

The College has ongoing efforts to make learning more user-friendly, more relevant, and more interesting. For these, we need to thank the many family physician trainers, as well as our specialist colleagues who have unstintingly provided the education and training to our family doctors, young and old. ■ **CM**

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Psychiatry Updates

Family Practice Skills Course #34 20-21 March 2010

The College of Family Physicians Singapore would like to thank Sanofi, Lundbeck and the Expert Panel for their contributions to the College on the Family Practice Skills Course held on 20-21 March 2010.

EXPERT PANEL:

Dr NG BENG YEONG, Head, Department of Psychiatry, Singapore General Hospital

Dr NELSON LEE, Medical Director, The Psychological Wellness Centre

Prof KUA EE HEOK, Senior Consultant Psychiatrist, NUHS

Dr CHIA BOON HOCK, Private Consultant Psychiatrist

A/Prof CHEONG PAK YEAN
Dr TAN YEW SENG
Dr WINSLOW MUNIDASA

CHAIRPERSONS:

Dr JASON YAP, **Dr WONG TIEN HUA**

Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine
Division of Graduate Medical Studies



2010/11 GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN GERIATRIC MEDICINE (GDGM)

The one year part time course which is organized by the Division of Graduate Medical Studies in collaboration with the Geriatric Society of Singapore is designed to provide primary care physicians with basic skills in caring for the elderly.

Applicants seeking admission to the course must be a Medical Officer (MO) or a General Practitioner (GP) who has a first medical degree with a minimum of 2 years clinical postgraduate experience. Applicants should have spent at least 6 months during the last 2 years looking after elderly patients on a regular basis. Experience gained could either be from local or overseas.

For other applicants such as overseas doctors from non-traditional sources, besides having the minimum 2 years postgraduate experience, they must also have an additional 1 year (minimum) of local experience in Geriatrics (i.e. 2 years of clinical postgraduate experience plus 1 year of geriatrics-related work experience in Singapore). A strong letter of support from the institution which they are working for is also required at the point of application.

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| Course Duration: | 14 August 2010 to August 2011 |
| Application Fee: | S\$40.00 (non-refundable) |
| Course Fee: | S\$4,660.00 (inclusive of exam fee and S\$53.50 registration fee) |
| Closing Date: | 30 June 2010 |

Course registration details and application form can be downloaded from www.med.nus.edu.sg/dgms. For further enquiries, please contact: Ms Eunice Chung or Ms Aw Yu Chen eunice_chung@nuhs.edu.sg or yu_chen_aw@nuhs.edu.sg

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Vaccinations 2010: What's Old What's New

Family Practice Skills Course #35 22-23 May 2010

The College of Family Physicians Singapore would like to thank GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) and the Expert Panel for their contributions to the College on the Family Practice Skills Course held on 22-23 May 2010.

EXPERT PANEL:

A/Prof GOH LEE GAN, Head, Division of Family Medicine, University Medicine Cluster, National University Health System

A/Prof ANNE GOH, Senior Consultant, Department of Paediatrics, KK Women's and Children's Hospital

Prof LEE BEE WAH, Adjunct Professor, Dept of Paediatrics, National University of Singapore



Dr WONG SIN YEW, Infectious diseases physician, Mount Elizabeth Hospital, Gleneagles Medical Centre

A/Prof HELEN OH, Senior Consultant, Department of Medicine, Changi General Hospital

CHAIRPERSONS:

Dr JONATHAN PANG, **A/Prof GOH LEE GAN**