



COLLEGE OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS  
SINGAPORE

# THE College Mirror

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## Happy 50th Anniversary, CFPS!

by Dr Tan Wei Beng, Council Member, 28<sup>th</sup> Council, College of Family Physicians Singapore

### IN THIS ISSUE:

**Welcome to Wonca World Conference 2021**

**The Extended Consultation**

**THE COLLEGE:  
PRESENT DECADE  
AND FUTURE**

Pg 4

**Example  
of Bad UX**

**INTERVIEW WITH  
DR GYLES MORRISON**

Pg 14

**2021** is a memorable year for the College of Family Physicians Singapore as we celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Since its inauguration on 30 June 1971, our College has been renewing our vision and defining our roles as we developed Family Medicine to meet the challenges of the time.

Our College was started by a handful of dedicated men and women, who were driven by passion to upskill the family doctor to deliver quality patient care. Our forefathers envisioned the critical role of education and training to prepare our family doctors to provide care in diverse settings and keep abreast of developments in clinical practice. 50 years later, our trained and competent family physicians are highly sought after for their opinion and expertise in medical areas, education and healthcare policies. We witnessed

(continued on Page 3)



**COLLABORATION AND  
INNOVATION AS A  
COMMUNITY**

Pg 24

## CONTENTS

- 01** *Cover Story*  
HAPPY 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY, CFPS!
- 02** *Editor's Words*
- 04** *Reflections*  
THE COLLEGE: PRESENT DECADE AND FUTURE
- 11** *Interview*  
NEW MEMBER OF THE 28<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL:  
INTERVIEW WITH DR HU PEI LIN
- 12** *Interview*  
CHANGE OF CENSOR-IN-CHIEF
- 13** *President's Forum*
- 14** *Interview*  
INTERVIEW WITH DR GYLES MORRISON
- 17** *Essays*  
THE GP'S ROLE IN ACHIEVING HERD IMMUNITY  
AGAINST COVID-19
- 24** *Event*  
PCN GP ANNUAL GRAND CONFERENCE 2020  
AND GRAND CONFERENCE 2021:  
COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION AS A  
COMMUNITY
- 25** *Commentary*  
DIFFICULTIES AND ETHICAL ISSUES DURING  
COVID-19 PANDEMIC: A FP'S VIEW
- 30** *FPSC #96*  
UPDATES IN DM AND CKD MANAGEMENT:  
IS SGLT2i THE ANSWER?

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## FAMILY PRACTICE SKILLS COURSE

### What's New in Asthma Management

The College of Family Physicians Singapore would like to thank the Expert Panel for their contribution to the Family Practice Skills Course #95 on "What's New in Asthma Management", held on 17 July 2021.

#### Expert Panel:

Dr Chan Kwok Wai Adrian  
 Dr Akash Verma

#### Chairperson:

Adj Assoc Prof Tan Tze Lee

(continued from Cover Page: Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, CFPS!)

an increasing numbers of junior doctors who aspire to be family physicians and willing to pursue a demanding discipline that covers not only breath but depth.

To celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are grateful to SingPost for collaborating with us to release this inaugural stamp collection to commemorate the contributions of family doctors. The stamp design depicts the diverse roles and settings family doctors play in Singapore. They are broadly, but not exclusively, covering 6 areas: health promotion, acute medical services, chronic disease management, community hospital care, pandemic response, continuous medical education and research.

Many patients often remember their favourite family doctor in the community providing medical care in various setting and from the very young to advanced age groups. Family doctors are often the first point of contact for patients, providing comprehensive care throughout the continuum of a person's life cycle. More notably, during this COVID-19 Pandemic, many family doctors have been actively enrolled in fighting against this pandemic. Such an united workforce is truly heart-warming and this anniversary is timely to pay tribute to our family doctors who have put the duty of care above their own health and family concerns. To mark its special occasion, we secured the

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(continued from Page 3: Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, CFPS!)

limited edition of the first day cover of the stamp which was released to our College members. It will certainly add value to its collectability and become an envy to many collectors in the world.

This anniversary is a vital milestone for the College to reflect on past achievements, current progress and future plans to pivot family medicine to the next level. We believe that the trained family physician, backed by effective career development and professional support systems, will become an invaluable component of our healthcare system.

While we remember the proud moments of 50 years of Family Medicine, we acknowledge the dedication of our senior family doctors who have selflessly volunteered their time to “pay back” and mentor our juniors. As the veteran family physicians pass on the baton to the new generation, it is our hope that the Family Medicine fraternity humbly unite as one people and press on to pursue excellence in medical care, education and research to advance the course of Family Medicine.

■ CM

## The College: *Present Decade and Future*

*In conjunction with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of College, we invited the past presidents to share their well-wishes, experiences and the future they have for the College of Family Physicians Singapore.*

### DR LEE SUAN YEW

*President (1985-1989),  
College of Family Physicians Singapore*

May I congratulate our College of Family Physicians' President, Adj. Associate Prof Tan Tze Lee and his 28<sup>th</sup> Council Members for keeping up and even improving the high standard of our College's teaching and professional achievements and reputation.

We started humbly in 1971, 50 years ago, as a College of General Practitioners and we changed our College's name to College of Family Physicians to stress the medical care of Family ethos focused by our College members.

In the early years, the College used to arrange lectures in the evening. Who would believe that over the years the College arranges the lectures, training and examinations for post-graduate doctors who are planning to take different examinations for example:

GDFM, MMed(FM) and FCFP(S)

I must congratulate all the doctors who are helping the College in the planning, teaching and examining all our post-graduate candidates for the different examinations. Their dedication is outstanding.

We also have to thank the Academy of Medicine leaders for inviting the Fellows of our College to form a Chapter of Family Physicians in the Academy. Our current Academy leaders, led by Dr Teo Eng Kiong, are even supporting the Fellows of FP to be classified as specialists. Discussions are on going and it is our hope that the Ministry of Health and the Specialist Accreditation Board will accept the Fellows of Family Physicians as specialists. Apparently, the Hong Kong and Malaysian Ministries of Health have already done so. It is not the prestige that matters but it is the recognition that is important. This will attract more young doctors to undergo the FP post-graduate training and examinations and exit examinations. As our population gets older, we need more Family Physicians with specialist training to manage this important aspect.