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# Editorial

by Dr Low Sher Guan Luke, FCFP(S), Hon. Treasurer, Chief Editor, Team D Editor

November and December... it's that time of the year that people look at with mixed feelings. For most, it is a time to unwind for the year and bring their families out on a vacation. For some others who are not taking a break or a holiday, it can be especially dreaded because they need to cover colleagues who are otherwise away and the added stress can be daunting. So I often see December as a month of mixed feelings. The fact that it rains most days and we arrive to work with wet shoes and socks also does not help.

But the months of November and December is a period of celebration for College and for many of our trainees who passed their exams and celebrated during convocation (and most likely with a holiday thereafter as well)! This year, we saw another bumper crop harvest with many happy faces as they walked up on stage to receive their certificates. All their efforts and hard work have finally paid off! This year's convocation is also especially joyous for my side because both Bangyu and Ling Ling passed their fellowship, with Bangyu earning the distinguished Koh Eng Kheng gold medal as well! Well done!

This issue brings you the celebration photos of the convocation in case you missed out on that. Our guest of honor was Professor Benjamin Ong who is our current Director of Medical Services in Ministry of Health. He spoke of the importance of family medicine in our national healthcare vision and thrusts, and we have published his speech in this issue. FM as a specialty is something that we have always looked forward to, and we are fortunate to have Vincent revisit this topic with much fervor! Indeed we have exciting times coming up for family medicine. With the emphasis on

"Beyond hospital to community", well trained family physicians in primary care and community hospitals have a pivotal role to play in ensuring that patients returning from hospital back to their homes have a smooth transition and continues to be well cared for at home. The community resources and capabilities are being levelled up as well, with new initiatives such as community nursing and community network for seniors coming up. All these come into play for our seniors who are at risk of health complications, or who are just lonely, socially isolated and having no one to turn to. Once these capabilities are built up and care coordination is done well, we will be able to see that transformation in our nation's healthcare landscape that is much needed at the right time, to better manage the silver tsunami that is coming up.

Lastly, CM is happy to introduce our newest member, Dr Julia Yuen into our editorial team. Dr Julia is 1 of the up-and-coming family physician in Tampines polyclinic, and speaking to her reminds me of my own aspirations in my younger days! Indeed, the future of family medicine relies on grooming our future generations so that they too, can continue the race that our forefathers have started. If you wish to get to know her more, do read the articles that she has written. We made sure that she got a chance to express herself in writing in this issue!

So have a good holiday, and do not forget to pack this issue of CM into your travel bags so that we can be of reading pleasure when you are on the plane or coach! Bon voyage!

■ CM