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the continuum of a person's life cycle. Structured Family Medicine training is key to equip doctors with broad-based knowledge and skills at the postgraduate level to take on these challenging roles in various primary and community care settings.

In recent years, we have seen an encouraging increase in the number of doctors who take up Family Medicine training and achieve accreditation as Family Physicians. With our ageing population and evolving healthcare landscape, we will need even more doctors to acquire higher-level knowledge and skills to manage increasingly complex patients within the primary and community care settings. The Ministry is working with the College as well as our healthcare clusters to further expand our national Family Medicine training capacity across various programmes, including the Family Medicine residency and Graduate Diploma in Family Medicine (GDFM) programmes.

Even as we increase the number of Family Physicians, we will need to look at how they can be trained and recognised at a higher level of professional competencies, to manage a growing number of patients with increasing disease complexities in the community, including those whose care is shifted from the hospitals. Family Physicians will also increasingly lead team-based care, participate in inter-professional collaboration, and coordinate cross-setting care for their patients. There will also be growing involvement of Family Physicians in key areas such as child health, geriatrics and mental health.

The way care is delivered will also continue to evolve and mature. For the individual Family Physician, this may mean choices in scopes and settings of practice in future, than that dictated by tradition. For example, more Family Physicians may be involved in cross-setting practice, such as across primary care and home care or community hospitals. Beyond shifts in the settings of practice, Family Physicians will also play greater roles in emerging models of care, such as providing tele-care and facilitating self-care by the patient and their support circle.

In anticipation of these changes, we will continue to study how we can further broaden and deepen the competencies of doctors in primary and community care, encourage them to do so through Family Medicine training, and recognise those with such higher levels of competency.

In closing, I commend the College for their outstanding leadership in shaping and developing the Family Medicine community in Singapore over the last 47 years. I would also like to extend my deep appreciation to all family doctors for your dedication and commitment in providing person-centred care. We look forward to your continued partnership with us in various programmes to raise the standards of Family Medicine, strengthen primary and community care, and deliver better care for our patients.

Thank you.

CM



Arts and Humanity of Family Medicine

*Speech delivered by Adj Asst Prof Tan Tze Lee,
President, 26th Council, College of Family Physicians Singapore
at the World Family Doctor Day Dinner on 25th May 2019*

Associate Professor Benjamin Ong, Director of Medical Services, Ministry of Health
Past presidents
Council
Distinguished guests
Ladies and gentlemen

Thank you very much for joining us as we celebrate World Family Doctor Day. Every year we take this opportunity to commemorate the many achievements and contributions our family doctors have made to our communities in Singapore.

Our history with WONCA goes back a long way. From the early days in the 1970s, through to 2001 when the College hosted the WONCA World Secretariat in some of its rooms at COMB (College of Medicine Building) Singapore, to 2007 when Singapore hosted the WORLD WONCA Conference, our relationship with WONCA has always been very strong and we continue to have an active role in the Asia Pacific Region. Through the many contributions of our past presidents like A/Prof Goh Lee Gan, A/Prof Cheong Pak Yean and Dr Alfred Loh, our College has left an indelible and very positive mark on WONCA.

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Our team has just returned from the 2019 WONCA Asia Pacific Region (APR) meeting in Kyoto. I have good news; the College was successful in our bid to host the WONCA APR meeting in 2023! Our Theme for 2023, "Arts and Humanity of Family Medicine" was very well received. I cannot emphasize enough the stellar performance and massive effort by the organising committee and presentation team, led by Dr Low Lian Leng, Dr Xu Bang Yu, Dr Suraj Kumar and backed up by our manager Ms Jennifer Lau! It was their careful & meticulous preparation, and excellent delivery that won the day.

Now that we and our FP community have been given the opportunity of working together on the conference in 2023, "Arts and Humanity in Family Medicine", I am confident that this will help to draw our fraternity even closer together. With one common purpose, unified in spirit, we can achieve much to raise our fraternity to the highest levels! Unity is strength, and with unity and a singularity of purpose, the sky is the limit!

You will have been given a copy of the new book that the College just published: "Being Human: Stories from Family Medicine". This is a collection of the artistic impressions of medicine by Year 3 medical students at the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (YLLSOM); the editors A/Prof Cheong Pak Yean and Dr Ong Chooi Peng added to this cauldron of young ideas the wisdom and experience of our family physicians, who wrote their reflections.

The result is a magnificent book that tugs at the heartstrings; the pictures and stories touch the heart and humanity of all who read it. In fact, "Being Human" was so well received at the WONCA APR Council where we gave them out to the country representatives that we already have requests to send more copies to them!



I would also like to give a special mention for the book designer, Ms Liw Yi Ling, who did the fantastic artwork for this book. A Bachelor of Fine Arts from NTU, she did this marvellous design and layout in her spare time, free of charge to the College! We are very grateful indeed for her generosity, and wish her every success in her future pursuits.

The College council feels that this book will be a very good resource for our medical students, and we have decided to present a copy, free of charge, to every first year medical student starting medical school in Singapore in 2019. We

hope that this will help to enrich the learning journey of our medical students, who are our doctors of the future.

On this island we call our home, our family doctors are found in all manner of settings. We work in heartland clinics, town clinics, polyclinics, community hospitals, ILTCs, homecare, palliative care, sports medicine, the list goes on. The distinguishing mark of a family doctor is that he or she is truly dedicated to providing generalist medical care. Our mission is very simple: and that is to provide the best healthcare we can for our patients and their *kampung*. Very often, we know our patients over many years; with each encounter we add to that priceless doctor-patient relationship built up over the years.

The College started training GPs in 1971. Since then, our courses have evolved, and we now run courses in the GDFM, the College MMed (FM) course, and the Fellowship course.

We have done well; our College training programmes have been very successful. However we cannot simply rest on our laurels and rely on the same formula for the coming generations.

As Singapore's demographics change, so do our programmes evolve to address future needs. Our Graduate Diploma in Family Medicine is one such example, and this was recently enhanced last year, with extra focus on mental health, chronic disease and geriatrics.

We have also identified the need for more in-depth training in medical ethics in family medicine, and we are working hard to introduce more such components into our programmes.



As medical education evolves around the world, we in Singapore must evolve along with it. Last year, the College sent a delegation to GPTEC 2018, a GP training

conference held in Adelaide, Australia. We were well received by our hosts, and learnt much about the Australian training methods. We also examined systems being piloted by MOH, and also systems from Ireland, carefully assessing the various options to determine which would be the best fit for our requirements. After careful deliberation, our College has signed a memorandum of understanding with iHeed from Ireland, and will be running a pilot of their learning management system for our Masters programme in the coming academic intake. The pilot will see the introduction of EPAs [Entrustable Professional



COLLEGE OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS
SINGAPORE

**FAMILY MEDICINE
COMMENCEMENT
CEREMONY 2019**

COLLEGE
48TH AGM

27 July 2019 (Saturday)
2.00pm
SGH Academia (Auditorium)
20 College Rd
Singapore 169856

**Family Medicine
Commencement Ceremony 2019**
2.00 - 3.30pm ♦ Auditorium

Tea Reception
3.30 - 4.00pm ♦ Foyer

College 48th AGM
4.00 - 6.00pm ♦ Auditorium

Activities] and programmatic assessment into our training programmes. All this is work in progress; our ultimate aim is to unify our training programmes along a single training track.

You can see that our academic teams have worked tirelessly towards improving standards, making our courses and qualifications more relevant to our primary care community. Their energy and altruistic commitment is simply amazing, and for this we are truly thankful! Well done, team!

Whether we work in the private or public sector, our aims for our healthcare system are the same, and that is to provide affordable, high quality healthcare for all. As the

public private divide becomes increasingly blurred, it is my hope that Singapore's healthcare system will finally evolve to become truly integrated, whether you are primary, secondary or tertiary care, public or private, providing care that is seamlessly integrated, where clinicians across the healthcare spectrum will be able to work together for the benefit of our patients.

The goal of "One Family Doctor for every Singaporean" is finally within reach!

Let us make it a reality!

Thank you.

■ CM

FAMILY PRACTICE SKILLS COURSE

Chronic Disease Management

The College of Family Physicians Singapore would like to thank the Expert Panel for their contribution to the Family Practice Skills Course #78 on "Chronic Disease Management", held on 9 & 10 March 2019.

Expert Panel:

A/Prof Goh Lee Gan
Dr Tan Hwee Huan
Dr Benjamin Lam Chih Chiang
Dr Anita Lim Yee Nah
Dr Desmond Wai Chun Tao
Dr Rohit Khurana

Chairperson:

Dr Cheah Ming Hann

Geriatric Care

The College of Family Physicians Singapore would like to thank the Expert Panel for their contribution to the Family Practice Skills Course #79 on "Geriatric Care", held on 4 & 5 May 2019.

Expert Panel:

Dr Vanessa Mok
Adj Assoc Prof Aaron Ang
Dr Ng Beng Yong
Dr Joanne Kua
Dr Shermyn Neo
Dr Geoffrey Sithamparapillai

Chairperson:

Dr Gabriel Yee

Life-course Immunisation – Vaccinate for Life Series

The College of Family Physicians Singapore would like to thank the Expert Panel for their contribution to the Family Practice Skills Course #80 on "Life-course Immunisation – Vaccinate for Life Series", held on 18 May 2019.

Expert Panel:

Dr Leong Choon Kit
A/Prof Adj Hsu Li Yang
Dr Brenda Ang

Chairperson:

Dr Lawrence Ng