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together with our counterparts from our sister academies from Malaysia and Hong Kong. I hope you will join us at this Tripartite Congress themed 'People-Centred Care: Towards Value-Based Innovations' which will be held on 6 – 8 December 2019 in Hong Kong.

The Academy of Medicine, Singapore has enjoyed a close and strong relationship with the College of Family Physicians Singapore. Together with the Singapore Medical Association, these three professional bodies often come together to discuss issues on professionalism and ethics, as well as upholding professional standards. We also actively engage the Ministry and regulatory bodies on a regular basis.

Before I end, I wish to emphasize that Family Medicine is not only an important field of medicine in Singapore but also an integral part of our healthcare system. As such, we look forward to have more Family Medicine Physicians in our Association, College and Academy families. Each Professional Body has an important role to play in the Singapore healthcare landscape.

Thank you.

■ CM

## CFPS wins WONCA Asia Pacific 2023 bid

by Dr Xu Bang Yu, FCFP(S), Hon. Treasurer, 27<sup>th</sup> Council, College of Family Physicians Singapore

### An introduction – What is WONCA?

To know the significance of winning such a bid, we must first know what WONCA is about. The World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA), as it is known, is a global non-profit professional organisation that represents Family Physicians from all regions of the world. But then, shouldn't the acronym be WOFD? The acronym WONCA was originally derived from the initials of the **W**orld **O**rganization of **N**ational **C**olleges, **A**cademies and **A**cademic Associations of General Practitioners/Family Physicians. The name WONCA is therefore the short form of that very long name. WONCA's mission is to improve the quality of life of people around the world through high standards of care in Family Medicine.

Presently, WONCA has seven regions: Africa, Asia Pacific (AP), Eastern Mediterranean, Europe, Iberoamericana-CIMF, North America and South Asia. Each region is represented by a Regional President and Regional Council. The Asia Pacific region is one of the largest regions of WONCA, comprising member organisations from Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Malaysia, Myanmar, Mongolia, Philippines, China, Fiji and Vietnam.

### Singapore bids for WONCA Asia Pacific 2023

The College of Family Physicians Singapore (CFPS) sent a team to WONCA Asia Pacific (AP) Conference 2019 in



Support from College Elders, (from left) Dr Alfred Loh (immediate past CEO WONCA); A/Prof Goh Lee Gan (Past Asia Pacific Wonca Regional President 2001-2007), Dr Ryuki Kassai (Scientific Chair, Kyoto Conference), A/Prof Cheong Pak Yean (Past President CFPS, 2001-2007).

Image courtesy of A/Prof Goh Lee Gan

Kyoto to bid for Singapore to host WONCAAP Conference 2023. The team comprised of CFPS President, Adjunct Assistant Professor Tan Tze Lee, Honorary Secretary Dr S Suraj Kumar, Honorary Editor Dr Low Lian Leng and Council Members Dr Wong Tien Hua and myself, with support from College Secretariat's Assistant General Manager Ms Jennifer Lau. CFPS's bid was also supported by the Singapore Tourism Board (STB), and they provided our team with a promotional video of Singapore which we incorporated into our bid presentation.

### A bid supported by College Elders

A/Prof Goh Lee Gan, A/Prof Cheong Pak Yean and Dr Alfred Loh attended the Kyoto 2019 conference with our CFPS delegation. College seniors might remember that A/Prof Goh was a past regional vice-president of WONCA Asia Pacific region and Dr Loh a past CEO of WONCA. Their presence no doubt lent weight to our bid. Besides going up to Kyoto for the bid, these seniors also gave our team valuable insights from their past experience. A/Prof Cheong Pak Yean lent his support by providing free copies of his new book "Being Human: Stories from Family Medicine". This book was very well received by various members of the WONCA Asia Pacific Council and many were left disappointed due to limited stock!

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← Catching up with old friends and also making new friends at the networking dinner.

### Strengthening CFPS through networking

CFPS arranged for a networking dinner with the various member organizations of the WONCA Asia Pacific region. The evening is filled with lots of catching up with old friends and also making new friends. The progression of Family Medicine, the challenges and new horizons for each member organisations were discussed over a traditional kaiseki dinner. Many new insights and ideas were gained, as this was one way to bond the leadership of Family Medicine across the Asia Pacific region.



### CFPS Singapore wins the bid

The bidding process was held on the 15th May 2019 during the WONCA Asia Pacific Council Meeting. Dr Low Lian Leng and I had spearheaded the bid, with strong support from College President and Council. Prior to the actual bid, both of us had done much preparatory work, from budgeting, to looking for conference venues to exploring various possible conference themes. And that of course included the all-important power point presentation for that bid day. We were so delighted to have hit the "bull's eye" with unanimous support from all members of the WONCA Asia Pacific Council. With the initial elation from CFPS's victorious bid, we soon realised that we have much work to do in preparation for WONCA Singapore 2023! And yes, College will put up a great show!

■ CM



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