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# Ending 2021 on a High Note!

by CI Asst Prof Low Sher Guan Luke, FCFP(S), Editor (Team C)

2021 is full of ups and down and is finally coming to a close. Looking back, we have indeed done a lot in the past 2 years in our fight against COVID-19! Many of us did what we could in persuading and advocating for our patients as well as our loved ones to be vaccinated and protected, and some of us who are involved in direct care of COVID-19 patients applaud the arrival of newer countermeasures that further protect our vulnerable patients against the deadly virus. Many PHPC clinics, polyclinics and CTFs have rallied to the call and joined in this national fight against COVID-19, and we look forward to an endemic state when our country is COVID-resilient! With higher vaccination rates and more VTLs opening up, it is a sign that we are on track to open up our country. We can also learn from those countries who have opened up before us and to take a cautious and calibrated middle road approach in our own country's reopening and keep the cost of human lives to a minimum.

Reading Prof Cheong's piece on Remembering Dr Richard Gieves led me to reflect deeply on the many contributions of this great man, not just in his own home country, but also of the impact it has in the family medicine scene in Singapore. This was truly a man who lived well, made pioneering contributions towards family medicine, and also fondly remembered by Prof Cheong, Prof Goh and many others who were fortunate enough to cross paths with him. His contributions and good work will endure for many years to come.

Many of us were personally affected by the passing of Dr Agnes Koong who was a dear friend to many of us and a good family physician in Singhealth Polyclinics. Many of us have fond memories of working alongside her and our fraternity have benefitted so much from her passion and hard work that

she has put in for our patients and family medicine. We truly believe she has fought the good fight and finished the race. Even when we mourn over her departure, we continue to pray for peace to be upon her family. Though her physical presence is no more, she continues to live in the hearts and minds of many of us.

Do allow me to end off 2021 on a happy note, as CM sends our heartiest congratulations to our fellowship graduands! We are also honoured to have interviewed two of them, Dr Jeremy Koh and Dr Wong Ann Mei, who shared about themselves, their passion for family medicine, the memories of the program, how it has impacted their work, and their dreams for family medicine in the future. We look forward to them in paying it forward and training future generations of aspiring family medicine physicians! The programme can also look forward to another renewal of leadership as we plan for the next succession of programme director and cohort programme directors, and all will be revealed in due time.

College also celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with Prime Minister Lee sending us a message that affirms what family physicians have been doing and recognising us as specialists in our own right. So College needs to continue to raise the standard of Family Medicine through postgraduate training, to keep ourselves up to date, and even to complete our training through our fellowship programme. Just like how other specialists complete their training, we as family physicians, should aspire to achieve that too, so that our patients can receive the care that they deserve. I hope that we can continue to give our support to our fellowship programme as this is our best hope of training fellows at the pinnacle of family medicine training!

■ CM