

2001 Graduate Diploma Presentation Ceremony

A ceremony to mark the awards of various Graduate Diplomas to 60 doctors and healthcare professionals (see below) was held on 27 September 2001 at the CRC Auditorium, NUS. The Graduate Diploma in Basic Ultrasonography, developed by the Graduate School of Medical Studies (GSMS) with the College of Family Physicians, was being awarded for the first time this year.

Professor Lee Eng Hin, Director of GSMS, welcomed and congratulated the gathering of diplomates and the teaching faculties of the various Diploma courses. Professor Lee noted that despite the heavy professional and other commitments of the diplomates, they have successfully completed the course and examinations. He informed the audience that continuing medical education would be made mandatory in the near future, and encouraged all doctors to keep up with developments in their various speciality interests.

The Guest-of-Honour for the ceremony, Associate Professor Cheong Pak Yean, President of the College of Family Physicians, thanked Professor Lee for the close collaboration between the Graduate School and the College in post-graduate medical education. He congratulated the diplomates, many of whom are practising family physicians, on their attainments and noted that some are already enrolled in the programmes leading to Graduate Diploma in Family Medicine (GDFM), the part-time Masters in Family Medicine and the College Fellowship programmes. He encouraged more to continue in their formal post-

graduate training to achieve higher standards in the breadth of Family Medicine. Further, one of the Diplomas awarded by the GSMS, the Diploma in Geriatric Medicine is now a mandatory requirement for the new College Fellowship Programme in Aged Care, which is now recognised as Consultant Level training for community hospitals.

Families and friends of the diplomates were also there to share in the joy. Associate Professor Phillip Choo, Consultant Geriatrician at Tan Tock Seng Hospital was there with his 11-year-old daughter to see mummy, Dr Chong Ee Mei Vivien who practises in a corporate town practice, receive her Diploma in Family Practice Dermatology. Dr Calvin Fones, Consultant Psychiatrist in NUH, was there when his wife, Dr Lim Yueh Ling who runs her own HDB family practice, received the Diploma in Basic Ultrasonography. There were also some specialists who took diplomas to hone their skills. Dr Lee Cheng, a psychiatrist in Woodbridge Hospital, took a Diploma in Psychotherapy (cognitive) to augment his psychotherapy skills.

Mr Jonathan Siew, Principal Administrative Officer of GSMS said that with greater interests shown in the various Diplomas, a handbook giving details of all the Diplomas and Family Medicine courses would be published early next year in association with the College of Family Physicians. This would include information on the MMed (Family Med) training programmes (Traineeship and Private Practitioners streams), the various Graduate

Diploma programmes and the Fellowship training programme of the College.

The following is a list of recipients of the various Diplomas:

Graduate Diploma in Family Practice Dermatology: Aw Lee Fhoon Lily; Chee Yew Wen; Chong Ee Mei Vivien; Crawford William; Gunawan David Djajapranata; Lee Ying Ling; Ma Swe Swe Min; Ng Mustika; Myint Myint Kyi; Ngeow Colin; Ng Siew Weng; Ow Chien Koon; Siew Wei Fong; Sim Kok Ping; Soh Lea Sar; Tan Joanna; Tharmalingam a/l Palanivelu; Toh Ee Wan; Widjaja Sry Suryani; Yong May Yuen Jane.

Graduate Diploma in Occupational Medicine: Andijani Maria Ratna; Aw Tuan Kiat; Rakeshwar Goorah; Lee Chung Seng; Seah Sheng Heang Geoffrey; Tan Say Kee; Tan Teck Jack; Wu Ming Jark Basil; Tong Jia Jong Stephen; Choe Inn Chuan Raymond.

Graduate Diploma in Psychotherapy: Ayengar Krishnasamy Shashu; Chen Yu Helen; Chen Zen; Cheng Eng Teck Samuel; Fernandez George Joseph; Goh Chay Giam; Goh Wee Kheng; Kua Hai Kiat Joshua; Lee Cheng; Lee May Eng; Mok Yee Ming; Ng Yeow Ling; Png Peck Cheong Robin; Sim Kang; Soh Bee Leng; Tan Hao Yang; Tan Tong Nam; Lein Theresa; Thong Jiunn Yew; Woo Siew Choo Bernardine; Yeo Lock Peow Peter.

Graduate Diploma in Basic Ultrasonography: Cheong Kwok Keong; Lim Ka Pheck Angela; Lim Yueh Ling; Ng Siau Peng; Pang Sze Kang Jonathan; Tan Heng Kwang; Wong Lai Lin; Wu Dah Wei David; Yap Fui Chin Rosalind. ■

Launch of Structured CME

Professor Low Cheng Hock officiated at the launch of the Structured Quarterly CME programme on 6 October 2001 at the Tan Tock Seng Hospital. He commended the standing room audience for giving up their Saturday afternoon for CME and alluded to the October SMA News article "Prata, Kaya Toast or CME" written by a young doctor. It is about the difficult choices to be made whether to spend precious time away from work for family, hobbies or continuing education. His view was that by carefully attending only good CME, the decisions would not be so difficult and he even pledged to provide roti prata for tea if essential. Wearing different hats as Chairman of the TTSH

CME Committee that co-organised the present series with the College, Associate Dean in NUS Faculty of Medicine and President of the Singapore Medical Association, he inspired the audience and teaching faculty alike. On compulsory CME to be introduced in 2003, he said that it is like looking out of the window to chart the path ahead. One can be dismayed when looking down at the quagmire of mud on the ground and whining about how to traverse it. Or else, one can admire the bright blue skies above with their myriad of stars at night and be so enthused.

The official launch was followed by the start of the first event - the over-subscribed workshop on musculo-skeletal procedures. After an overview given by

Dr Humeira Badsha, she was joined by other rheumatologists for hands-on small group teaching on models provided by the College.

There would be 3 more workshops in October to teach psycho-motor skills, followed by 4 patient-based workshops in November to teach cognitive skills in diagnosis and management and then 4 updates in December to augment knowledge on the module's theme. The next College module in the 1st quarter of 2002 would be co-organised with Singhealth and would focus on women's health, neurology ear and nose. The CME Quarterly Newsletter with details would be sent in early December 2001 with the SMA mailbag. ■