



## MESSAGE

**From the Director of Medical Services, Ministry of Health, Singapore**

Congratulations to the Academy of Medicine on this special occasion of its Golden Jubilee. The Academy has come a long way since the 1950s when it was first set up, and against the odds it has grown with strength from year to year to become an institution for those who wish to further the cause of medicine, especially in the areas of continuing professional development, postgraduate medical education, research, ethics and professionalism. Its comprehensive colleges and chapters, and their bountiful membership of specialists lay testimony to this very fact. Our path ahead runs smoother only because it is being built on the excellent work of our predecessors; and we owe much to their toil and dedication. This year makes a good milestone, an excellent vantage point from which to see how far we have come, and just how much more we have to travel.

The medical profession has become more complicated – responding to the increasing complexity of medicine, the burgeoning cost of medical technology, and efforts to coax health systems performance towards greater efficiency to make the best use of finite healthcare resources. There is a dire need for new leaders to rise to the novel challenges of today; for new blood to infuse dedication into the work of the Academy. Members must take the lead and map the next lap for the medical profession, and there is no better way to do this than through a continuous process of pro-active engagement and innovation.

Even as we embrace our past, we must avoid resting on our laurels. We must approach the future with diligence and caution. The onus lies on our generation of specialists to lead the medical profession to new heights of excellence. Membership should not be a privilege but an entrusted duty – a service that carries with it not only a great responsibility towards fellow members, but also to the public at large, to whom we are accountable.

Perhaps it is timely to revisit the Academy's motto – *recta sapere*. Literally translated, it means "right truth"; in essence it exhorts members of the academy to "seek and savor the truth at all times", reinforcing the importance of the ethical foundations upon which the Academy was instituted. Without this virtue built into its very constitution, all of the Academy's accomplishments so far would have been meaningless. The challenge then for the Academy today is not to reinvent the wheel; it is to continue its pursuit of academic and ethical distinction as it has always done, but adapting itself to confront present-day issues with a renewed sense of vigor and urgency. Only then will it rightfully uphold the public's trust, and continue to maintain its pioneering reputation amongst members of the medical profession.

In this spirit I wish nothing but a bright and illustrious future for the Academy, and may its many worthy accomplishments be a foretaste of greater things to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Satku', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Prof K. Satku**  
*Director of Medical Services*