



## FOREWORD

### From the Master, Academy of Medicine, Singapore

The Academy of Medicine, Singapore celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, or Golden Jubilee, this year in 2007. This is OUR very own Academy. Many medical and dental specialists in Singapore may also be Fellows of esteemed Sister Colleges and Academies in other parts of the world concurrently. They are venerable institutions with hundreds of years of glorious history and tradition behind them and they have withstood the test of time. Our Academy has a relatively short history of 50 years. However, considering that we just celebrated 100 years of medical education in Singapore in 2005, our Academy has come a long way since its inception.

This commemorative publication of the *Annals, Academy of Medicine, Singapore* documents the unique and triumphant journey and milestones of our Academy, founded in 1957 through the initiative and foresight of 34 founding members, led by its first Master, the late Professor Sir Gordon Arthur Ransome. Before the foundation of the Academy, there were only a handful of local specialists and they had to be trained overseas. They also had little role to play in policy making and even the more able and dedicated had little opportunity for self-fulfillment. Today, the Academy has a membership of more than 2000 specialists and corporate Colleges in 6 major medical specialties. It becomes obvious how rapidly our Academy has grown over the years, and we must match quality with its growth and development.

We would like to pay tribute to the leading role of the senior academicians whose passion and pioneering spirit have brought the Academy to what it is today. The challenge is for the current and future generations of academicians to work even harder towards realising the vision of the Academy and to protect its dignity. Our Academy is for us to cherish, to nurture, and to serve with a sense of mission for the profession.

Our founding fellows have set very high and noble objectives for the Academy. It has to be so, as our profession has to distinguish itself eminently from the other professions and set even higher standards of professionalism and ethics in our practice and behaviour. Some of the main objectives of the Academy are:

- a. to advance the art and science of medicine;
- b. to promote study and research into medical and scientific problems;
- c. to sustain and foster postgraduate education; to conduct higher professional examinations and to award diplomas;
- d. to grant specialist certification to persons who have fulfilled the criteria laid down;
- e. to maintain and promote the highest standards of professional practice;
- f. to maintain a high code of ethical conduct amongst its members;
- g. to represent, express and give effect to the views and opinions of its members;
- h. to enter into any arrangements with any Government or other authority that may seem conducive to the Company's objects, or any of them; and to obtain from any such Government or authority any rights, privileges, and concessions which the Company may think it desirable to obtain, and to carry out, exercise, and comply with any such arrangements, rights, privileges and concessions.

With these main objectives in mind, we should critically examine our current stance in our quest for professional excellence in order to bring our Academy to a new height. Much has been achieved, but even more has yet to be fulfilled. There were setbacks amidst many occasions of jubilation. The test of the character and resilience of the institution, and the devotion and tenacity of its people, is its ability to overcome adversities and obstacles.

There are 3 major thrusts the Academy must play a critical role in moving forward: postgraduate medical education, continuing professional development and maintenance of competency, as well as the generation and dissemination of knowledge to provide expert advice to society on matters of health. These are realistic and achievable goals and we stand to be judged in the next 5 to 10 years by how much we have moved forward.

The core values necessary to accomplish the above mission are competence and integrity. The medical specialists must redouble their commitment to professionalism. They must strive to ensure that their patients, Singaporeans or foreigners, will continue to have full confidence in entrusting their well-being and even their very lives to them.

Today, we do need leadership that will help to steer our profession to keep its rightful role in society. We need leaders who could stand tall and be men and women of the highest professional and personal integrity and honesty, trusted and respected by the profession and the public alike. All our fellows must not only remain within the fold of the Academy, but also be engaged in its activities. Build up the stature and reputation of the Academy in society with the same standing as our Sister Colleges and Academies.

Happy Anniversary, Academy of Medicine, Singapore, and many happy returns.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ho Lai Yun', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

**Prof. Ho Lai Yun**  
*Master, 2006-2008*