

Citation on Professor Lim Pin – 16th Gordon Arthur Ransome Orator

Mr Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Health and Second Minister for Finance; Datuk Dr Yeoh Poh Hong, President of this 36th Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Medicine and Master, Academy of Medicine, Malaysia; Professor K Satku, Master, Academy of Medicine, Singapore; Visiting Presidents of Academies and Colleges; Distinguished Guests; Colleagues; Ladies and Gentlemen.

The Gordon Arthur Ransome Oration was inaugurated in 1971 in honour of Professor Sir Gordon Arthur Ransome, Founder Master of the Academy of Medicine of Singapore on the occasion of his retirement after 33 years of distinguished service to the University and the nation in the teaching and practice of medicine. The first orator was none other than our own Professor Seah Cheng Siang. He was followed by a list of extremely distinguished orators among whom were Dr Goh Keng Swee, Mr David Marshall, Professor Tommy Koh, YAB Dato Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Mrs Anson Chan.

This evening, it is indeed a privilege and honour for me to read the citation for our 16th Gordon Arthur Ransome Orator, University Professor Lim Pin.

Professor Lim Pin began his illustrious academic career as a Queen's scholar to Cambridge University where he studied Medicine in 1957. Following his graduation with distinction in 1963, he obtained an MA in 1964. He then secured a position in London's King's College Hospital and completed his MRCP in 1965. On his return to Singapore, he was appointed Lecturer in Medicine. In 1970, he was awarded the Commonwealth Medical Scholarship to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. He completed his thesis on "Observations on Magnesium Deficiency in Man" and was awarded an MD by Cambridge University. In 1974, he was promoted to Associate Professor and became Full Professor and Head of the Department of Medicine in 1978, succeeding Professor Khoo Oon Teik.

After serving only 3 years as Head of Medicine and 2 years as Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof Lim was appointed Vice-Chancellor in 1981 at the age of 45, the youngest ever to serve in this capacity. As Vice-Chancellor for almost two decades, Professor Lim has led NUS with distinction. Under his leadership, NUS has developed as a tertiary institution whose teaching, scholarship and quality of research command international respect. Since he stepped down as Vice Chancellor, Prof Lim has gone back to his first love, i.e. being a clinician and a teacher.

Professor Lim is an excellent and exemplary teacher and a firm believer in small group bedside clinical teaching. His tremendous wealth of knowledge and his infectious personality has endeared him to his peers, staff, students and patients. His clinical interest is in Endocrinology and his research interest has been in the areas of Magnesium and Calcium Metabolism. He has made significant contributions to the scientific literature on Calcium and Magnesium Metabolism as well as on Diabetes Mellitus and Thyroid Disease, producing a total of 130 papers.

Like Professor Ransome, Prof Lim is well respected as a clinician and academician nationally and internationally. He was made Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London in 1976, Fellow of the Royal Australian College of Physicians in 1978, Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh and Fellow of the American College of Physicians in 1981. In addition, he has numerous Honorary Fellowships from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and many others. In 1999, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Science by the University of Hull. Prof Lim was Master of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore from 1980 to 1982.

Prof Lim is currently serving on many important committees for the nation, the most prominent of which has been the National Wages Council and the National Bioethics Advisory Council. He also serves on the Board of Directors of many companies in the biotech industry.

With his vast experience in education and administration I believe he is eminently qualified to speak on his chosen topic "Navigating in the sea of science and technology".

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I present Prof Lim Pin.

Lee Eng Hin, *FAMS*