

Citation on Dr Chew Chin Hin – 18th Gordon Arthur Ransome Orator*

Gilbert SC Chiang,¹*FAMS*

Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, Mr Lee Hsien Loong,
Mrs Lee,
Minister for Health, Mr Khaw Boon Wan,
Minister of State for Health, Mr Heng Chee How,
President of the Congress and Master, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia, Prof Dato' Khalid Kadir,
Master, Academy of Medicine, Singapore, Prof Ho Lai Yun,
President, Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, Prof Grace Tang,
Visiting Presidents of Overseas Colleges,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my privilege and honour to give the citation on Dr Chew Chin Hin, our 18th Gordon Arthur Ransome Orator. The invitation to deliver this lecture is given by the Academy to a distinguished member of the medical profession or a distinguished member of the public.

Dr Chew, 76 years old this year, is a most distinguished member and elder statesman of the medical fraternity in Singapore. His lifetime achievements would take a lesser man many lifetimes to achieve. His late father, Dr Benjamin Chew, was himself a distinguished physician.

He graduated from the University of Hong Kong in 1955 after completing his secondary education and in 1961, he passed the membership examination of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. He progressed rapidly through the ranks; and eventually became Deputy Director of Medical Services in 1981. He held that position till he retired in 1991 at the age of 60 years. For his outstanding services to the Nation, he was awarded the Public Administration Gold Medal in 1983.

Dr Chew's special interest was in chest diseases. Tuberculosis was a major health threat in Singapore in the 60s and 70s. We found him then battling this scourge. He became Chairman of the TB Research Committee which collaborated with the British Medical Research Council to publish landmark papers on short course anti-tuberculosis chemotherapy. These short course therapies are still used as standard therapy today.

Dr Chew with his tremendous drive and winsome personality also forged ahead to foster and build up strong relationships with postgraduate medical colleges in the United Kingdom, Australia, America and Hong Kong. Little wonder that he was awarded the College Gold Medal by the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, and the Australasian College of Physicians Medal, the first non-Australasian to receive the Medal. He is also a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and Honorary Fellow of the College of the Physicians of Hong Kong.

And lately he was the first physician to be conferred the Honorary Fellowship of the College of Physicians of Singapore in 2005.

He serves as an honorary Postgraduate Advisor and Adjunct Professor at the Division of Graduate Medical Studies at the National University of Singapore. He was a member of the Specialist Accreditation Board serving from 1988 to 2007. He was an MMed/MRCP examiner. He is also Emeritus Consultant at the Tan Tock Seng Hospital.

He was a member of the Singapore Medical Council for 21 years till 1993. He still continues to serve on the many Council committees. He chaired the National Ethnic Committee from 1994 till 2000. He also initiated the Advanced Medical Directives.

Dr Chew is a Past Master of the Academy. It was he who conferred the Honorary Fellowship of the Academy on the then Prime Minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, at this same august meeting in 1975. His wisdom, experience and insight of the medical world has made him a much sought after orator. He delivered the 1st Seah Cheng Siang Lecture in 1991, the 1st Tan Tock Seng Hospital Oration in 1997. He also gave the Singapore Medical Association Lecture in 1998.

Dr Chew continues to contribute much to the advancement of medicine in Singapore especially in postgraduate medical studies. He was appointed by the Academy early this year to chair a newly established Committee on Postgraduate Specialists Training and Examinations.

It is now my signal honour to present to you the 18th Gordon Arthur Ransome Orator, Dr Chew Chin Hin.

His topic is: *Some Milestones: Specialist Education, Training and Assessment in Singapore.*

¹ Censor in-Chief, Academy of Medicine, Singapore

* Delivered on 19 July 2007, at the opening of the 41st Singapore Malaysia Congress of Medicine in Celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore