

Academy News

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

Chapter of Dental Surgeons

- 11.12.97 Jointly organised with the Association of Orthodontics (Singapore) and the Society of Periodontology (Singapore)
An Update of Orthodontics- Periodontal Interactions
Dr Horn-Lay Wang
Chairman Dr Chong Kong Mun

Chapter of Pathologists

- 11.11.97 Jointly organised with the Singapore Society of Pathology
Update on HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus)
Mr John L Baird
Chairperson Dr Ling Ai Ee

Chapter of Physicians

- 11.11.97 Jointly organised with the Neuroscience Institute
Cervical Myelopathy—Surgical Management of Spondylitis
Dr Don Martin Long
Chairman Dr Tan Kheng Kooi
- 13.11.97 Jointly organised with the Neuroscience Institute
Cranial Nerve Preservation in CP Angle
Dr Don Martin Long
Chairman Dr Chumpon Chan
- 17.11.97 Jointly organised with the Neuroscience Institute
Epidemiology of Alzheimer's Disease
Dr Claudia Helen Kawas
Chairman Dr Christopher Chen
- 18.11.97 Jointly organised with the Neuroscience Institute
New Modalities in the Treatment of Parkinson's Disease
Dr David C Marsden
Chairperson Dr Helen Tjia
- 20.11.97 Jointly organised with the Neuroscience Institute
Treatment of Alzheimer's Disease
Dr Claudia Helen Kawas
Chairman Dr Kua Ee Heok
- 21.11.97 Jointly organised with the Singapore Society of Immunology, Allergy & Rheumatology and the Rheumatoid Arthritis Society (Singapore)
Recent Advances in the Management of Rheu-

matic Diseases

Prof Peter Brooks

Chairman Dr Koh Wei Howe

Chapter of Radiologists

- 11.11.97 Jointly organised with the Singapore Radiological Society and the Department of Diagnostic Radiology, Singapore General Hospital
Educational Symposium on Mammography
Prof László Tabár
Chairman Dr Ng Fook Cheong
- 13.11.97 Jointly organised with the Singapore Radiological Society
Pathophysiology and Prevention
Dr Lau Te Neng
Chairman Dr Khoo Teng Kew
- Management and Update on Resuscitation Techniques
Dr Ong Biauwei Chi
Chairman Dr Khoo Teng Kew

Chapter of Surgeons

- Jointly organised with the Department of Colorectal Surgery, Singapore General Hospital-All lectures by Prof Jeffrey Milsom
- 1.11.97 *Outcomes of Traditional Surgical vs Laparoscopic Care Management in Sigmoid Diverticulitis*
Chairman Dr Seow Choen
- 3.11.97 *The Role of Laparoscopic Techniques in Colorectal Surgery*
Chairman Dr Goh Hak Su
- 4.11.97 *Use of Endoluminal Ultrasound in Colorectal Surgery*
Chairman Dr Adrian Leong
- 6.11.97 *Ileal Pouch Anal Anastomosis Surgery for Ulcerative Colitis*
Chairman Dr Denis Nyam
- 7.11.97 *Does Laparoscopic vs Conventional Surgery Increase Exfoliation of Malignant Cells into the Peritoneal Cavity during Resection of Colorectal Cancer?*
Chairman Dr Teoh Tiong Ann
- 10.11.97 *Strictureplasty in the Treatment of Small Intestinal Crohn's Disease*
Chairman Dr Ho Yik Hong

MONTHLY COMBINED CLINICAL MEETING

Chapter of Surgeons

18.10.97 *Laparoscopic Adrenalectomy: Experience with Transabdominal and Retroperitoneal Approach*

Dr Christopher Cheng

Dept of Urology, SGH

Sacral Nerve Stimulation in Chronic Voiding Dysfunction

Dr Sam Peh Oon Hui

Dept of Surgery, NCH

Chairman Dr Li Man Kay

CONGRESSES AND SYMPOSIA

UICC Workshop on Nasopharyngeal Cancer (11 – 14 February 1998)

The Singapore Cancer Society will be organising a UICC Workshop on Nasopharyngeal Cancer in Singapore from 11 to 14 February 1998. The theme of the workshop is "Issues and Challenges 1998". Besides an update, the workshop also aims to tackle some controversial issues and to achieve a needed consensus amongst physicians, in terms of staging, treatment and care of patients. Thirty-nine leading experts in the field are invited to share their expertise.

For further information, please contact: The Secretariat, UICC Workshop on NPC, c/o Singapore Cancer Society, 15 Enggor Street, #04-01/04 Realty Centre, Singapore 079716. Tel: t65 221-9577; Fax: t65 222-7424; e-mail: fightcnr@pacific.net.sg.

7th Annual Scientific Meeting (14 – 15 February 1998)

Jointly organised by the Chapter of Radiologists and the Singapore Radiological Society, the theme of the 7th Annual Scientific Meeting is "Head and Neck Imaging". The Organising Committee has formulated a three pronged approach to benefit each attending delegate. Firstly, there will be a comprehensive series of "How I Do It" talks, emphasising the radiographic aspects of the latest imaging. Secondly, the Scientific Paper Presentation will be structured to reflect a complete coverage of the radiological spectrum. Another highlight is the refresher course, with ORL imaging as its theme. The faculty will include 2 internationally renowned head and neck radiologists, Drs Lawrence Ginsberg and Suresh Mukherji.

The programme also includes the Young Radiologist's Award, which is open to all radiologists below the age of 35 years (as at 1 Jan 1998) who are members of the Singapore Radiological Society. For further information, please contact the Academy's Secretariat*.

9th Annual International Colorectal Disease Symposium (19 – 21 February 1998)

The Cleveland Clinic Florida will be sponsoring this postgraduate course entitled "Colorectal Disease in 1997: An International Exchange of Medical and Surgical Concepts", to be held from 19 to 21 February 1998 in Fort Lauderdale.

Popular areas such as laparoscopy, colorectal carcinoma screening and genetics, inflammatory bowel disease, and pouch surgery form the cornerstones of this year's programme. In addition, video techniques will be liberally shown throughout the programme to assist in acquiring "hands-on" knowledge. For further information, please contact:

Cleveland Clinic Florida
Department of Education
2950 West Cypress Creek Road
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309-1743, USA
Tel: (954) 9785056 Fax: (954) 9785539
e-mail: jagels@cesmtp.ccf.org

23rd World Congress of Medical Technology (28 June – 3 July 1998)

The Singapore Association for Medical Laboratory Sciences, under the auspices of the International Association of Medical Laboratory Technologists, is organising the Congress from 28 June to 3 July 1998. The theme of the Congress is "Medical Laboratory Technology – The Next Centennial". Topics include Forensic DNA Science Technology, Tumour Markers, Legal Aspects of Blood Banking, AIDS and Related Diseases, and Paradigm Shift in Clinical Laboratory. For more information, please contact the Academy's Secretariat*.

9th ASEAN Paediatric Federation Conference (9 – 12 July 1998)

Held in conjunction with the Joint Scientific Meeting of the Chapter of Paediatricians and the Singapore Paediatric Society, the Conference's theme will be on "New Frontiers in Child Health—An ASEAN Perspective".

Conference highlights include the Inaugural Chapter of Paediatricians Lecture, Country Reports on dengue haemorrhagic fever, and a Special Plenary Session by the pioneers of paediatrics in ASEAN. There will also be pre-Conference workshops on asthma and a course on Advanced Paediatric Life Support. For further information, please contact the Academy's Secretariat*.

University Surgeons of Asia-3rd Scientific Congress (5 – 7 August 1998)

The theme of the 3rd Scientific Congress is on "Evidence-based Medicine" and will cover topics such as the training of surgeons in Asia, recent advances in gastrointestinal cancers, recent advances in hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgery, and research in

surgical departments. There is a free paper session, a poster session, two pre-Congress workshops on basic surgical skill and laser surgery as well as a post-Congress workshop on gastric cancer.

For further information, please contact:

The Secretariat
Department of Surgery
National University Hospital
5 Lower Kent Ridge
Singapore 119074
Tel: t65 772-4240 / 5266 Fax: t65 777-8427

32nd Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Medicine (13 – 16 August 1998)

The theme for the Congress in 1998 is "An Integrated Approach Towards Medicine". In addition to updating participants on the latest advances in specialist care, the Congress aims to highlight the importance of an integrated approach in patient management. Topics to be addressed at the Congress include Impact Advances in Clinical Care, such as endocrine and hormone replacement therapies, Geriatric Care Medicine, Adolescent Health issues, Cancer and Transplantation among others.

Other highlights include the 14th Gordon Arthur Ransome Oration, the 1998 Runme Shaw Memorial Lecture, the 9th Chapter of Surgeons Lecture, the 8th Seah Cheng Siang Memorial Lecture, the 3rd Yahya Cohen Lecture and the Young Investigator's Award. Pre- and Post-Workshops include an Advanced Trauma Life Support Course, an Endoscopy Workshop and a Live Surgery Workshop. For further information, please contact the Academy's Secretariat*.

1st Asian Conference on Emergency Medicine (22 – 25 October 1998)

The Scientific Committee is planning a comprehensive programme that covers areas of interest to the emergency medical care provider. The proposed scientific programme includes a Keynote Address on "Evolution of Trauma Care Systems" and workshops on Focused Ultrasound for the Emergency Physician Advanced Airway Management and Local Anaesthesia Techniques. This Conference will also see the official launch of the Asian Society of Emergency Medicine. For further information, please contact the Academy's Secretariat*.

Hong Kong Academy of Medicine First International Congress (26 – 29 November 1998)

The main theme of the First International Congress is "Challenges to Specialists in the 21st Century". Eminent speakers will be invited to give plenary lectures on this main theme while the 15 constituent Colleges of the Academy will organise symposia during the Congress. There will also be a "Best Papers Competition" for young investigators. The deadline for submission of abstracts is 31 May 1998. For more information, please contact:

The Congress Secretariat
Hong Kong Academy of Medicine
First International Congress
9/F, Multicentre Block A,
Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital,
3 Lok Man Road, Chai Wan, Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 2515 5755 Fax: (852) 2505 3149

APASL Commemorative International Congress on Viral Hepatitis, Prevention and Control (16 – 20 February 2000)

The Asian Pacific Association for the Study of Liver and the Academy of Medicine, Singapore are organising the Year 2000-APASL Commemorative International Congress on Viral Hepatitis, Prevention and Control from 16 to 20 February 2000, which will be held in Singapore.

This special meeting will review, among others, the global programmes on the epidemiology, the basic molecular sciences of hepatitis viruses, new viruses, vaccines (old and new), etc. Post-graduate teaching sessions on liver transplantation, liver cancer and portal hypertension, and oesophageal/gastric varices are also planned. For more information, please contact the Academy's Secretariat*.

* Academy of Medicine, Singapore
16 College Road
#01-01 College of Medicine Building
Singapore 169854
Tel: (65) 223 8968
Fax: (65) 225 5155
e-mail: monicaw@pacific.net.sg

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir:

Re: Vocal cord dysfunction: Two case reports

I read with interest the article by Tan et al¹ on the entity of vocal cord dysfunction (VCD). Visualisation of the vocal cords during an attack is stated as essential for diagnosis, with laryngoscopy often being normal in the asymptomatic patients. As patients present with dyspnoea and wheezing, and there is frequently occurrence of co-existing asthma, the introduction of a laryngoscope may sometimes be difficult or impossible. We previously reported our experiences with ultrasonography for the assessment of vocal paralysis and palsy, and found that while B-mode real-time ultrasound was not always accurate, colour doppler imaging was as accurate as laryngoscopy in determining vocal cord palsy or paresis.^{2,3} The use of this non-invasive technique for assessment of vocal cord function may thus be beneficial in patients with VCD, some of whom may be associated with underlying psychiatric or emotional disorders.^{1,4}

L L P J Ooi,*FAMS, FRCS (Edin & Glas)*
Department of Surgery
Singapore General Hospital

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