

\* Dr. N. C. L. Yuen Hon. Secretary

# The Annual Report of H.K.C.G.P.

# 1979

The past year witnessed the most significant event in the history of medical practice in Hong Kong, namely, the inauguration of the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners in March 1979. The Inaugural Ceremony was officiated by the Director of Medical and Health Department, Dr. the Hon. K. L. Thong, who also installed Dr. Peter C. Y. Lee as the first President of the College. This was followed by Mrs. Thong presenting for the first time, certificates of continuing postgraduate students to 101 members of the College. The Inauguration Ceremony was attended by a large number of distinguished overseas guests and local dignitaries. Overseas guests included Dr. David Games, Secretary/Treasurer of WONCA and personal representative of the President of WONCA; Dr. Romeo Montes, Regional Vice-President of WONCA; Dr. William Jackson, President of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners; Dr. T. K. Williams, President, Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners; Dr. Primitivo Chua, President of the Philippine Academy of Family Physicians; Dr. Wong Heck Sing, Past President of Singapore College of General Practitioners and, Lt. Col. A. O. Billingham, Representative of the Royal College of the College of General Practitioners of U.K. Local Dignitaries included Dr. the Hon. Rayson Huang Vice-Chancellor of Hong Kong University; Professor Ma Lin, Vice-Chancellor of The Chinese University of Hong Kong; Professor M. J. Colbourne, Dean of Faculty of Medicine, University of Hong Kong, ( and Censor-in-chief of our College ) Professor G. H. Choa, Dean of Faculty of Medicine, Chinese University of Hong Kong; Dr. Henry F. K. Li, chairman of Interim Council, ( and Censor of our College ) Professor D. Todd, Professor of Medicine, ( and Censor of our College ) Dr. George Choa, President of Hong Kong Medical Association; Dr. L. Mullins, President of British Medical Association ( Hong Kong Branch ); and, the Presidents and Officials of a large number of Specialist Medical Societies as well as para-medical Organisations.

This simple but solemn Ceremony, marks the official birth of the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners, which henceforth can take its rightful place in the ranks of the international fraternity of Colleges of General Practitioners around the world.

## Education Committee

*" This is in keeping with the desire and interest in improving standards of general practice by continuing education and which ultimately will benefit not only those in the profession, but also the general public in the provision of a better service " .....* excerpt from the message by Dr. the Hon. K. L. Thong at the Inauguration.

Since the provision of continuing education to our members is the most important factor in the establishment of a G. P. College, we in the Education Committee are very conscious of our heavy responsibilities and take this opportunity of expressing our sincere thanks and gratitude for the help, encouragement and guidance of our specialist colleagues and their respective societies.

We have to report with regret, that Dr. Mak Hing Kwok, the hard-working and capable Chairman of the Education Committee, resigned in July, and that Dr. Chiu Hin Kwong our Vice-President, a highly efficient and most conscientious organiser, was appointed as Acting Chairman. At present, five working groups have been formed, each headed by their respective executives to initiate and facilitate the policies and functions of the Education Committee.

In keeping with the established policy of the College, programmes of continuing education during the past year are noted under the following headings :-

- (1) Self Assessment Programmes - published monthly in our journal, " The Hong Kong Practitioner ", each issue contains relevant topics. Participants in this programme are provided with M. C. Q. papers and later, with model answers. Members are encouraged to write in expressing their opinions and/or comments on the model answers provided. As a service to the medical profession as a whole, these self-assessment materials are posted to all registered practitioners in the belief that they might be of interest to all doctors, but MCQs and their respective answers are only sent to members of the College who were registered with the Credit Point Scheme. During 1979, the following articles were published under this series :-

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Jan, '79	Common Skin Eruptions I - Eczema	K. O. Wong	Vol 2, No. 1
Feb, '79	Common Skin Eruptions II - Fungal Infections. Diabetes Mellitus I - General Review	K. O. Wong Prof. Rose T. T. Young	
Mar, '79	Common Skin Eruptions III - Warts Acne Vulgaris Scabies Diabetes Mellitus II - Special Problems	K. O. Wong  Prof. Rose T. T. Young	
Apr, '79	Abdominal Pain in Children	James H. Hutchison	
May, '79	Low Back Pain	Prof. Arthur C.M.C. Yau	
Jun, '79	1. Anxiety	Prof. K. Singer	
Jul, '79	2. Pyrexia of Undetermined Origin	Prof. David Todd	
Aug, '79	1. Geriatric Health Care 2. Management Of The Dying Patient	Chan Sik M. L. Ng	Vol 1, No. 11
Sep, '79	1. Infantile Diarrhoea (1) A Global View 2. Common Child Psychiatric Problems in the School Setting	Dr. Peter J. Preston  Dr. S. K. Law	Vol 1, No. 12
Oct, '79	1. Anaemias 2. Psychiatric Symposium	Dr. T. K. Chan Prof. K. Singer., Dr. S. L. Luk., Dr. S. Y. Chung.	Vol 1, No. 13
Nov, '79	1. Haemoptysis 2. Chronic Obstructive Airway Diseases.	Dr. P. Nandi Dr. Donald Y. C. Yu	Vol 1, No. 14
Dec, '79	1. Your Patient and Flying 2. Insomnia 3. Unconscious Patient	Dr. Peter J. Preston Dr. G. Ou Dr. S. C. So	Vol 1, No. 15

(2) Symposia/Workshops

- a. The first official Symposium was held during the week preceding the Inauguration Ceremony with the theme of "Psychiatric Problems in General Practice." The Symposium lasted three days from 8th to 10th March 1979 with a total of 12 speakers from the University of Hong Kong, the Government, and the private sector taking part.
- b. The Workshop on "Community Nursing Service" chaired by Dr. Ngai Fan Lap gave a most informative review on Community Nursing in Hong Kong.
- c. The Workshop on "Hypertension" held at the Sheraton Hotel on 14th October, was attended by 153 doctors and gave a comprehensive review of the management of hypertension. The speakers included Dr. Peter C. Y. Wong, Dr. W. I. Pau, Dr. S. P. Wong, Dr. Victor Yan and Dr. Raymond Wu. Raymond Wu.

3. Seminars/Lecturers/Talks

- a. A lecture on "Aspects of Human Sexuality" was delivered by Professor Norman Morris. This lecture was co-sponsored by the Department of Community Medicine, HKU.
- b. A Seminar on the training of GP's in the Armed Forces was organised by Lt. Col. A. O. Billingham and Squadron Leader Dr. I. A. McCoubrey, RAF, on 17th June at Sekong. The Seminar consisted of three lectures given by our colleagues in the Armed Forces on topics relating to GP in the Armed Forces, sociological factors related to the Gurkhas, and problems concerning air rescue operations.
- c. On the occasion of the visit to Hong Kong by a group of Australian Doctors, the College arranged series of interesting talks for them on 26th September on the subject of "Western Doctor/Eastern Patient". Since many migrants to

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Australia are of ethnic Chinese origin, our Australian colleagues were most appreciative of the talks.

- (4) Group Luncheon Discussion - The College encourages doctors to organise their own discussion groups. So far, three lunch-time group-discussions have been held at the Nathan Restaurant. They were . -

Urinary Tract Infection in Adult Women on 26th June, 1979.

Management of Rheumatism on 22nd Aug., 1979.

Management of Ulcer Syndrome on 26th October, 1979.

Each discussion group was attended by about 20 members.

- (5) Viewing Sessions - In addition to the foregoing, the College also arranged, ( whenever possible, as an on-going programme ) Video-cassette Viewing Sessions. During the past year, there were 18 such sessions held from May to July and October to December at the Baptist Hospital. The attendance was good with an average of over 50 doctors per session.

## Future Trends

- (1) A gradual tightening-up of the Credit Point Scheme.
- (2) As from 1980, two sets of MCQs will be sent to all participants of the Credit Point Scheme, so that the participants may keep a record of their own answers. All MCQ answers will have to be returned to the College within one month of the date of issuance.
- (3) All educational articles in the College Journal, will be so designed as to enable them to be bound into volumes as textbooks.

## **Membership Committee**

Since its inauguration in March, the College has admitted 54 new members. The total membership now stands at 288. As the College and its activities become better known, the Membership Committee is confident that more colleagues will be interested in becoming members. The committee hopes that certain amendments concerning membership qualifications will be approved in the forthcoming AGM. These amendments, if approved, will allow visiting doctors ( of stays up to 24 months in Hong Kong ) to become Visiting Members and to enjoy facilities provided by the College. The Committee also feels that present regulations regarding Full Membership should be amended to admit doctors of three years ( instead of five ) of experience in general practice, of which only one year in Hong Kong is necessary ( See the proposed amendments of Articles of Association in the Agenda ). The reasons for these amendments are that the College would like to see a larger membership so that more colleagues can benefit from College activities and secondly since there are proposals for admission as Fellows of the College by examinations, the requirements for membership should be relaxed.

## **Vocational Training and Standards Committee**

Recent emphasis on primary health care and preventive medicine as the most - effective type of health service the world over finds acceptance here, particularly in the health delivering system in Hong Kong. The majority of medical graduates will become general practitioners and even specialists in other disciplines would be doing a certain amount of general practice in their private practice. Therefore it is imperative that general practice should be introduced and taught in the medical schools. For those who are interested in taking up primary health care as their chosen career, there should be programmes in postgraduate medical training including primary care experience. The College recognises that the training of the General Practitioner could not be undertaken by the College alone without the

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*Continued*

Government and Universities support. Fortunately they are very sympathetic towards these ideas even though we are all aware of the difficulties in implementing such programmes. The College is now formulating appropriate standards for teachers and to institute a programme for teacher training so that our clinical tutors would be trained in teaching methods. The College has accepted the invitation by the Department of Community Medicine to deliver five lectures to the third and fourth year students in the next academic year.

## **Examination**

The Examination Planning Committee Co-chaired by Dr. Robert Doo Ching Hoi and Dr. Poon Kwong Chiu has completed considerable research into how and when examinations might best be promulgated in so-far-as admission to Fellowship of the College is concerned. It was obvious through out this year that as most of the Colleges of General Practitioners and Academies of Family Physician around the World have gained recognition as post-graduate qualifications, the Hong Kong College will sooner or later have to design our own vocational training programmes and set our own standards and examinations. There are frequent debates, which was understandable, as to whether examinations were the best means of evaluating one's knowledge, abilities, skills and attitude, particularly the last one, which is so unique and relevant in general practice. But from the experiences of the other Colleges, it is apparent that our College will inevitably be compelled to set purpose-designed examinations which might usefully incorporate elements of our existing Credit Point Scheme.

## **Research**

The limitless field for research by general practitioners in Hong Kong is largely under the auspices of the Epidemiology Committee chaired by Dr. Paul Lam. The last twelve months have seen the launching of a survey on

general & elective skills pertaining to general practice in Hong Kong and there remains much study to be completed. It is to be hoped that additional support will be forthcoming in the ensuing year for the ultimate benefit of the community at large.

## **International Conference**

In September, the College was represented by Dr. Peter C. Y. Lee, Lt. Col. A. O. Billinghamurst, Dr. Natalis C. L. Yuen at the 4th Combined College Conference of Southeast Asia in Manila. Our College raised the point of a necessity for regional co-operation in vocational training and standards, which was well received by the other Colleges. It was resolved that Vocational Training and Standards will be the main theme for the 5th Combined College Conference in New Zealand in 1981.

## **Public Relations and Education**

Apart from the distinguished guests who came here for the celebration of our Inauguration early this year, the College was honoured by the visit of Dr. Eric Kuenssberg, the President of the Royal College of General Practitioners and Dr. John Fry, a founding father of RCGP and member of the GMC of U.K., Dr. Kuenssberg gave members of the College a most interesting talk on changes and progress in the U.K. of general practice over the last 40 years and the work done by the Royal College over the past 20 years. Dr. John Fry also gave sound and practical advice on the conduct of College aims and affairs; advice again from over 20 years of first hand experience in organisation of College Programmes. They were delighted with our College's efforts so far and wished us continued success.

This year the College has given two prizes for projects submitted by 4th year medical students in the field of general practice, on 1978 and 1979. Both Summer Projects involved students and general practitioners' research into many aspects of general practice and common illnesses.



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In November, the College was honoured through a visit by Prof. Barber of Glasgow, who came to Hong Kong as IUC visiting Professor, to advise the Universities and the Government in respect of setting up teaching units in general practice. Prof Barber was kind enough to spend almost all of his free time with our College Council to give us advice and practical guidance in all aspects of College activities, with particular emphasis in undergraduate teaching and vocational training.

Our first public education pamphlet entitled " Fever " was launched this year and was well received by our members and patients. It is conceivable that other pamphlets of equal educational value will be published in the near future.

## **Premises**

This year, the College initiated a Fund Raising Campaign for the acquisition of College premises. In an act of extreme generosity, our President, Dr. Peter C. Y. Lee, donated HK\$100,000 toward the intended purchase of half of the 8/f of the Duke of Windsor Building in Hennessy Road. We hope that many more members will be prompted by this example, to contribute to this most worthy cause.

## **Acknowledgement**

In a report of this nature, it is clearly impossible to fully enumerate the enormous assistance rendered by the many Societies, Organisations, Associations, Colleges and individuals. However, particular mention must be made in respect of Prof. M. J. Colbourne, Professor of Community Medicine, HKU, Dr. Peter Preston, Director of Postgraduate Studies HKU and Lt. Col. A. O. Billingham RAMC, Command Adviser in General Practice ( they are members of the Education Committee ) without whose tremendous help, our already difficult task would have been almost impossible. Our grateful thanks should also be directed to many of our specialist colleagues who have contributed much to the success of our educational programmes. To them we are truly indebted. Last but not least, we should express our sincere gratitude to the Federation of Medical Societies, and the Hong Kong Medical Association and their staff.