

The Hong Kong College Of General Practitioners

Hon. Secretary's Report

1983-1984

The events of the past year have marked the beginning of a new era for the College. Apart from our usual educational and social activities, the College had concentrated its efforts on conducting the First Fellowship Examination which was held in May 1984. The appointed external examiners were Prof. Hamish Barber of Glasgow University and Prof. Neil Carson of Monash University, Melbourne, both of whom had been here before as conductors of our first and second Refresher Courses in General Practice. The internal examiners were Dr. Henry K. Li and Dr. Peter C. Y. Lee, both heavily involved with the development and advancement of the College. Together with our keeper of standards, the Board of Censors, the examination produced the first batch of Fellows, the list of which will appear in our official journal, the Hong Kong Practitioner, in July 1984 issue.

The College Council also paid tribute to the staunch supporters of the College and those who worked for the College in its difficult early formative years by the creation of Foundation Fellows. The criteria for the election of Foundation Fellows were as follows:—

- a. has been in General Practice for at least 10 years or its equivalent;
- b. has been a College member before December 1979;
- c.
 - i) had gained 650 or more credit points as at December 1983; or,
 - ii) had been a member of the Interim Council; or,
 - iii) had been a member of the Council between 1977 and 1979; or,
 - iv) had rendered distinguished services directly or indirectly to the College during the first two years of its inception; and,
- d. has been a subscribing member of the College since 1979 or before.

The list of elected Foundation Fellows will also appear in the coming issue of the Hong Kong Practitioner.

The various activities and programmes of the year are detailed as follow:—

1. *Education Committee:* Chairman, Dr. Freddie Lau

The main activities of the Education Committee for 1983 was centred around the Refresher Course in General Practice. It was held towards the end of the year and was conducted by Professor Robin Catlin of University of Massachusetts Medical Centre in U.S.A. To say the least, it was well received by our members and each session was well attended by over 130 members. This no doubt reflected on the presentation and methodology of Prof. Catlin. The Education Committee would like to express our sincere appreciation to the organising committee, local speakers, moderators and sponsors and last but not least, our administrative staff for their contributions to the success of this annual event.

The whole programme of the Refresher Course is printed hereunder for members' reference.

DATE	TOPIC	LOCAL SPEAKER	SPONSOR
30/11/83	Acute Respiratory Infections with Special Reference to Paediatrics	Dr. Freddie Lau	Sandoz Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
1/12/83	Some Dermatology Problems	Dr. Kong On Tai	Schering Corporation U.S.A.
2/12/83	Venereology, including Herpes and AIDS	Dr. Fung Ho Wang	Upjohn Co. S.A.
5/12/83	Recognition and Treatment of Depression	Dr. Yeung Kai Kin	Astra Pharmaceutical AB
6/12/83	The Use and Abuse of Aspirin	Dr. Wong Pit See	United Trading Co.
8/12/83	Diarrhea	Dr. Cameron Tallach	Glaxo (HK) Ltd.
9/12/83	Anemias in General Practice	Dr. Cheung Chi Shat	—
12/12/83	Problems of Weight	Dr. Teng Chong Shing	Servier Far East Ltd.

Below is a summary of last year's functions and activities of the Education Committee:—

a. *Self-assessment programme*

There were 200 participants and 149 of these eventually received the Certificate of Postgraduate Studies (in 1982, the figures were 192 and 123 respectively).

The method of assessment was the same as that of last year's: each participant was sent a set of multiple choice questions (MCQs) together with a copy of our official journal, the Hong Kong Practitioner, each month. A maximum of 10 points was awarded for each complete set of MCQs. No member could however obtain more than 60 points from this programme alone.

b. *Seminars/Lectures*

Throughout the year 1983 and up till present, the Committee has organized a total of fourteen scientific meetings.

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER	SPONSOR
22/ 3/83	Chronic Obstructive Airway Disease	Dr. Ross J. Taylor	Astra Pharmaceutical AB
25/ 3/83	Polypharmacy and Elderly Patient Compliances in Drug Therapy	Dr. Ross J. Taylor	Servier (Far East) Ltd.
12/ 5/83	The Role of NIZORAL Ketoconazole in the management of fungal skin infections	Prof. Paul Jacobs & Dr. Wong Kwok On	Johnson & Johnson (HK) Ltd.
16/ 5/83	Communicable Diseases Control in Hong Kong	Dr. S. H. Lee	—
	Haemorrhagic Dengue Fever	Dr. P.J. Preston	—
18/ 5/83	Community Psychiatry	Dr. W.H. Lo	—
	An Introductory Course to Acupuncture	Mr. C.K. Butt	—
	Recent Advance in Acupuncture	Dr. Mable Yang	—
21/ 9/83	Common Arrhythmic Problems	Dr. Rebecca Wang	Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals Inc.
	New Antiarrhythmic Drugs	Dr. Lee Pui Kee	
17/10/83	Diagnostic Evaluation	Dr. Wong Shou Pang	ICI (China) Ltd.
	Therapeutic Trials and Strategy for Mild and Moderate Hypertension	&	
	Current Drugs and Side Effects	Dr. Kwok Hong Tai	
15/11/83	Hypertensive Crisis	Dr. Walter Chen	Squibbs (Far East) Ltd.
	Hypertension in Surgical Patients	&	
	Hypertension in Pregnancy	Dr. Joseph Chow	
16/ 1/84	General Practice — Its Scope and Place Today	Prof. Margot Jefferys	—
17/ 3/84	Chest Radiology	Dr. Chan Fu Luk	—
18/ 3/84	Evaluation and Interpretation of Barium Meal and Conventional Radiology, Ultrasound and CT Scan of the Hepato-Biliary System and Pancreas	Dr. Hung Chi Bun	—
19/ 5/84	Common Cardiac & ECG Problems in General Practice	Dr. Pau Wing Iu	ICI (China) Ltd.
20/ 5/84	Common Spinal Cord Problems in General Practice	Dr. Domimic Foo	Farmitalia Carlo Erba (HK) Ltd.
21/ 6/84	Prevention of Hepatitis B Virus Infection	Dr. R. Palmer Beasley	Abbott Laboratories Ltd.

The College has launched a new educational series designed to familiarize practising doctors, particularly general practitioners, with medical and paramedical facilities available in Hong Kong, Kowloon and the New Territories. The first in the series was a visit in May 1984 to the new teaching hospital (the Prince of Wales Hospital) of the Chinese University of Hong Kong in Shatin by kind arrangement with Professor Gerald Choa, the Dean of its Faculty of Medicine. Over 80 members participated. The visit was most successful and fruitful.

c. *Viewing Session:* Chairman, Dr. Kwan Yan Chi

The viewing sessions enjoyed an increasing popularity as the attendance sheet revealed. Twenty-two sessions were held at the Nursing School of Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The College would like to thank Roche Far East Limited for their supply of video-cassettes and Queen Elizabeth Hospital for providing us a convenient venue and carpark for these sessions.

The Education Committee would like to extend its gratitude to all participants who have contributed to the success of these events.

2. *Membership Committee:* Chairman, Dr. Wong Yat Wah

The various categories of membership up to August 1984 are as follows:—

	(Aug 1984) At Present	June 1983
Full member	282 (+ 9)	273
Associate member	62 (- 4)	66
Affiliate member	161 (+62)	99
Student member	271 (+75)	196
Visiting member	1 (- 4)	5
Overseas member	13 (0)	13
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	790 (138)	652

Note: The numbers in brackets are the actual increases. Such increases, especially in affiliate and student members reflect the awareness of the importance of general practice in the minds of the students while that of the former may reveal increasing association with 'specialist' colleagues.

3. *Vocational Training & Standards Committee:* Chairman, Dr. Natalis Yuen

Dr. Natalis Yuen has taken over the chairmanship upon resignation of Dr. Michael Y. K. Li

Board of Examinations: Chairman, Dr. Foo Kam So

After much preparation, the first fellowship examination for the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners was held between May 15 and 22, 1984. The two external examiners were Professor Neil Carson of Monash University in Melbourne and Professor Hamish Barber from Glasgow University (both professors in general practice), and the two internal examiners were Dr. Henry F.K. Li and Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee. This is the first of three annual examinations to be held from now till 1986 designed for the stalwarts of the profession who have been in general practice for ten years or more. The eligibility for such examination is limited to those who have acquired at least 400 credit points. This meant that eligible candidates must have been faithfully taking part in all educational programmes of the College for the past three years including the annual two-week intensive refresher courses.

I must thank Dr. Michael Lee, the former chairman, for laying down the groundwork in preparation for the examination. This exercise has resulted in the election of our first batch of Fellows. On behalf of the Board of Examinations, I would like to thank all those involved for the smooth and efficient running of the examination.

Epidemiology/Research Committee: Chairman, Dr. Paul Lam

In 1983, the Epidemiology Committee has published the following papers:—

	Title	Date of Publication
1.	General Practice in Hong Kong 1981—1982, Patterns of Management	March 1983.
2.	Morbidity in General Practice 1981—1982	June 1983.
3.	The Aminopyrines: Opinions and Experience among General Practitioners in Hong Kong	November 1983.

The Committee wishes to thank members and medical colleagues for responding to our request for data and hope that they will continue to do so in the future.

Public Relations Committee: Chairman, Dr. Wong Pit See

The Annual Dinner was combined with the Family Day. It was held at the Hong Lok Yuen Country Club on Sunday, February 26, 1984. Certificates of Postgraduate Studies 1983 and Certificates of Attendance at Refresher Course 1983 were presented on the occasion. Over 200 persons attended.

The President and Hon. Secretary accompanied Dr. Wes Fabb in his address to the Rotary Club of Hong Kong on the subject of "Cost Effectiveness of Public Funding for Training in General Practice" during his private visit here in November 1983. The Council also

had a working luncheon with Dr. the Hon. Harry Fang from UMELCO last November and an official luncheon with the Chinese Medical Association Delegation this May. Official dinners were also held and views exchanged with the Hon. Director of Medical and Health Services (in March 1984); the Dean and Professors of Faculty of Medicine of the H.K.U. (in April); and the Secretary of Health and Welfare and his colleagues (in June).

Besides these, the President also played host at his private residence with the Council in March 1984 on separate occasions for the Vice-Chancellor and Pro-Vice-Chancellors of the University of Hong Kong; the Vice-Chancellor, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor and the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of the Chinese University; and the President and Council Members of the Hong Kong Medical Association.

At present the Committee is arranging with the Hong Lok Yuen Country Club for the offering of annual group corporate memberships for our members.

The HKCGP Prize 1983 went to the project entitled 'A Study on the Referral Pattern in Hong Kong' done by a group of H.K.U. medical students and the prize was presented by Dr. P.J. Preston, on behalf of the College, on December 19, 1983.

7. *House Management Committee:* Chairman, Dr. Henry C.W. Wong

The office of the HKCGP on the 8th floor of the Duke of Windsor Social Service Building was expanded and renovated in September 1983 when part of the 8th floor was returned to us by the Hong Kong Family Welfare Society when its tenancy agreement expired. The administrative office was reorganized and newly furnished. A separate conference room was added.

The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation will extend its tenancy contract to the end of October 1984. After their tenancy expires the whole College premises will be renovated.

8. *Library Committee:* Chairman, Dr. Henry C.W. Wong

Agreement has been reached between the Library Committees of the College and the Hong Kong Medical Association to co-operate in forming a joint library which will be situated on the 5th floor in HKMA premises. The advantages are two-folded:—

- a. the books of the two libraries can be pooled in one central place, making it more convenient for our members to locate books; and,
- b. the opening hours of the HKMA library is longer than that of the College, thus enabling our members to use the library in the evening.

We wish to thank Dr. David Game, Dr. Richard Finch and Dr. Wes Fabb for their gifts to the library.

Formation of New Committees:—

9. *Steering Committee*: It was formed in November 1983 with the purpose of screening issues and topics prior to presentation to Council and would present to Council position papers on important issues to facilitate the running of the Council. Dr. Foo Kam So, our Vice-President, was appointed as Chairman and four other Council Members were appointed by the Chairman as members of the Committee.
10. *Host Organizing Committee* for the planning of WONCA Regional Conference and Joint Colleges Meeting in Hong Kong in 1987 was formed under the chairmanship of Dr. Chan Tat. The Hong Kong Tourist Association had been approached for information and liaison was also made with Prof. John Leong of the H.K.U., co-ordinator of the 100th Anniversary of Faculty of Medicine, concerning the possibility of joint functions.

Acknowledgements

As usual, we wish to thank the various societies and organisations for their continuing help in our attendance-record-keeping, and drug firms and other commercial firms for their patronage. Special thanks should go to our Censors, Dr. Peter Preston (Censor-in-Chief), Prof. David Todd, Prof. Stuart Donnan and Dr. Henry F.K. Li (who gave up the post of Censor when appointed internal examiner) for their efforts in their supervision of standards.

All of us would like to thank Miss Nancy Kam, our Administrative Secretary and her staff for their help in the past year. We thank Dr. Wai Heung Wah for serving the Council until his resignation in July, 1984. Last but not the least, we wish to thank our Hon. Adviser, Mr. Philip Yuen, for his help in the amendments of our Articles of Association and our Hon. Auditor Messrs. F.S. Li & Co.

In closing let us share a cartoon* which sums up succinctly our present-day position:—



"Of course, if you specialize in enough areas, you can be a family physician."

* Courtesy: Medical News-Tribune Ltd.
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