



Contributions and Influence of the Hong Kong College in the Development of Family Medicine in Hong Kong and Around the World during the past quarter century (1977-2002) as Seen through the Eyes of its Founding President, compiled and edited by Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee, March, 2003.

Preamble

I am deeply honoured and also greatly pleased to be asked to compile and edit a chronicle of major events and activities of the College during the past quarter century on the occasion of its Jubilee Celebrations. The narration gives me the opportunity of letting the younger generation of the College know that the founding fathers and senior members of our College did more than merely introducing and nurturing the discipline of family medicine and its development in Hong Kong, but that during the last 25 years the College had also exerted great influence in the development of family medicine in China and around the world. To tell the full story, I must begin before the College was “born” to review in brief some significant milestones in the founding of the Hong Kong College. In this respect, I can do no better than by paraphrasing hereunder the first few paragraphs of my Keynote Address delivered at the Commemorative Dinner celebrating the 15th Anniversary of the College on March 14, 1993 and which text was published in full in the Commemorative Brochure:-

“As the President of the Hong Kong Medical Association (1968-1970/1972-1976), and travelling around the world three times in as many years to canvass the world fraternity of medical associations to accept HKMA as a full member of the World Medical Association as a measure of international recognition, I came into contact with many members of the medical profession of different countries. In the process, I was exposed to the “Renaissance of General Practice” in Europe and around the world, and to the existence of Colleges or Royal Colleges and Academies of General Practitioners/Family Physicians in developed western countries.

“On returning to Hong Kong after the third round-the-world trip at the end of 1973, I reported to the HKMA Council, in my capacity as President, the experience I had around the world and proposed the establishment of a “Hong Kong College of General Practitioners” to introduce the new discipline of “general practice/family medicine” into the local medical profession as a means of improving the standards of medical practice in Hong Kong. HKMA Council took up the challenge and decided to write to all Colleges of General Practitioners in the world to seek information. In September 1974, the HKMA Council appointed Dr. Wong Chiu Lung to chair a “Feasibility Committee” to study the information so far collected and to look in depth at the feasibility of establishing such a College.

“In June 1975, the HKMA Council sent Dr. C.L. Wong to pay an official visit to the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners in Sydney to gather further information on the spot. Dr. C.L. Wong’s factual report, submitted on 31st July 1975, informed the HKMA Council that persons in authority in the Royal Australian College were very keen to help in the formation of the Hong Kong College, and even planned to send their President, Dr. David A. Game, their Secretary-General, Dr. F.M. Farrar, and the Chairman of their Family Medicine Programme, Dr. R. Harbison, to Hong Kong in early December for one week with all expenses paid by the Royal Australian College. This report was received with much enthusiasm, and the Council appointed Dr. Henry F.K. Li to head a “Working Party” to form the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners.

“Thus was the Hong Kong College conceived, and the rest was history. The final report of the “Working Party” was submitted on 6th November 1975, and an “Interim Council of the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners”, again chaired by Dr. Henry F.K. Li, was appointed. Due to circumstances beyond our control, the drafting of the constitution of the College with its associated Memorandum and Articles of Association took much longer than originally envisaged. However, during the intervening two years, quite a number of Hong Kong doctors (including Sr. Mary Aquinas, Dr. Poon Kwong Chiu, Dr. Emmanuel Chang, etc.) went to Australia on their own to see for themselves. The Hong Kong College held its first General Meeting on 13th October 1977, but deferred holding its official inauguration until Sunday, the 11th of March 1979”.

Through recalls from memory and personal communications as well as from College Journals, Annual Reports, etc., I shall endeavour to catalogue from here on in the third person the actual happenings of the College during the past 25 years in a chronological order in the form of :

Hong Kong College of General Practitioners/Family Physicians – A Chronicle of Major Events & Activities (1977 to 2002)

- 1977 • The Hong Kong College of General Practitioners, incorporated with limited liability, held its first Annual General Meeting on 13th October 1977, during which Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee was elected Founding-President.
- 1978 • Established the annual “HKCGP Prize” for the best research in General Practice by medical students of the two Universities – The University of Hong Kong and The Chinese University of Hong Kong.
- 1979 • The Inauguration Ceremony of the College was held on 11th March 1979 at the City Hall Theatre, and was officiated by the Director of Medical and Health Services, Dr. K.L. Thong, with a galaxy of local and foreign dignitaries in attendance. It was highlighted by the presentation by the President of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Dr. W.D. Jackson, to the newly-installed President of the Hong Kong College, Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee, a symbolic Insignia of Office – a Gavel.
 - Publication of the first issue of the College Journal, "The Hong Kong Practitioner".
 - The College paid around HK\$500,000 for a 75-year lease for half-a-floor (about 2,000 sq.ft.) on the 8th floor of the Duke of Windsor Social Services Building at 15 Hennessy Road, Wanchai, to serve as College Headquarters by means of a grant of HK\$600,000, which also paid in part for renovation and equipment. This generous donation was authorised by Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee as Trustee of the Chan Tat Chee Memorial Fund. In addition, the College also ran a series of fund-raising campaigns for the purpose. The College is proud to record that not only were we the first and, for over a decade, *the only post-graduate medical academic institution* in Hong Kong, but we were also *the only College* which owned its own premises since inception.
- 1980 • Developed a computerized register (utilizing WONCA's ICHPPC) for recording morbidity in general practice in Hong Kong.
- 1981 • The 1981 Refresher Course in General Practice was conducted by Prof. J.H. Barber, Professor and Head of the Department of General Practice, University of Glasgow of Scotland.
 - The Research Committee produced its first paper entitled “Morbidity in General Practice” by Dr. Paul Lam and Dr. Stephen Foo. This was published in the College Journal, the Hong Kong Practitioner.
- 1982 • The 1982 Refresher Course in General Practice was conducted by Prof. Neil Carson, Professor of Community Practice, Monash University of Australia.
 - The College donated \$100,000 to the University of Hong Kong to establish the “HKCGP Visiting Professor in General Practice” in the University of Hong Kong to demonstrate the commitment of the College to support academic excellence in the Discipline of General Practice/Family Medicine.
- 1983 • The 1983 Refresher Course in General Practice was conducted by Prof. J.O. Catlin, Professor of Family and Community Medicine of the University of Massachusetts Medical Centre of U.S.A.
 - Launched pilot vocational training schemes by inviting serving medical officers of Evangel Hospital and Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital to join the informal and voluntary programme, and making use of the Medical Consultants in these two hospitals to serve as mentors and teachers to provide teaching and training of skills.
 - The President, Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee, led a contingent of College members comprising Drs. Stephen K.S. Foo, Siu Leong Chow, Frank Chan, Wai Heung Wah, Henry Wong and Eddie Chan Tat to attend the 10th WONCA World Conference, hosted by the

College of General Practitioners, Singapore, with Dr. Alfred Loh (current WONCA Chief Executive Officer) as Chairman of the Host Organising Committee, held in the Exhibition Hall of the World Trade Centre in Singapore from 20th – 24th May 1983 to witness the handing over of the high office of WONCA Presidency by Dr. Arthur Hofmans of the Netherlands to Dr. David Game of Australia, who assumed office as WONCA President. At the same Conference, Dr. M.K. Rajakumar of Malaysia was elected WONCA President-Elect and Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee of Hong Kong was elected WONCA Regional Vice-President for the Asia-Pacific Region respectively. The most remarkable and unforgettable thing about the 1983 WONCA Conference in Singapore was that Dr. Goh Lee Gan, Singapore's Chairman of Publications Committee, and his colleagues (by working overtime, frequently without sleep) managed to publish complete proceedings of the Conference in book-form, including all scientific papers, and had the final product available for distribution to all delegates prior to their departure. No other College or Academy in the world had been able to duplicate the feat since.

- 1984
- Dr. Joseph Levenstein of the University of Cape Town of South Africa conducted the year's Refresher Course in General Practice in November/December 1984.
 - First of the three "Category III" Fellowship Examinations of the College held. These "Category III" Examinations were specially designed for the stalwarts of the profession who had been in general practice for ten years or more, and had acquired at least 400 credit points since the College's inception. This meant that eligible candidates must have faithfully taken part in all educational programmes of the College for three years or more, together with having participated in at least three annual two-week intensive refresher courses. Of a total of 29 eligible candidates in 1984, 15 satisfied the Examiners and the Board of Censors, and were elected Fellows of the College.
 - To give credence to the validity of these three Category III "Grandfather-type" of Fellowship Examinations, in addition to selecting well-respected and experienced senior local general practitioners to serve as "Internal Examiners", the College also invited two renowned professors of General Practice from abroad, Prof. Hamish Barber from the University of Glasgow of Scotland and Prof. Niel Carson from the Monash University of Australia, and an eminent general practitioner from Asia, Dr. M.K. Rajakumar, the President of the Malaysian College of General Practitioners, to be our "External Examiners" for the three examinations. At the same time, the College was fortunate to have the gracious consent of Prof. David Todd, Professor and Head of the Department of Medicine of the University of Hong Kong, to act as our Censor-in-Chief to supervise and adjudicate the overall standard of the Fellowship Examinations.
 - "A Handbook for Vocational Training in General Practice and Family Medicine" was published by the College – historically, the first of its kind in Hong Kong.
 - A "strong" Hong Kong delegation (totaling 15 delegates and accompanying persons) attended the WONCA Regional Conference in Melbourne to take part in the Scientific Meeting as well as to promote the forthcoming 1987 WONCA Regional Conference in Hong Kong to be hosted by our College.
 - The College donated \$100,000 to the Chinese University of Hong Kong to establish the "HKCGP Visiting Professor in General Practice" in the Chinese University of Hong Kong to demonstrate the commitment of the College to support academic excellence.
 - Dr. Natalis Yuen visited Prof. Welfred Palmar of the Department of Family and Community Medicine of the University of Toronto at the Eaton Wing of the Toronto General Hospital, which is the largest centre for teaching Family Medicine in Canada.
 - The College hosted a dinner for the President of WONCA, Dr. David Game, who spoke on the subject: "International Trends in General Practice".
 - The College was also visited by the President-Elect of WONCA, Dr. M.K. Rajakumar, who spoke on the subject: "Towards Excellence in General Practice".



- 1985
- The 1985 Refresher Course in General Practice was conducted by Dr. Donald Irvine, the Official Visitor from the Royal College of General Practitioners. (Dr. Irvine later became Sir. Donald Irvine and the Chairman of the General Medical Council of U.K., the first general practitioner in England to have achieved such distinction).
 - Second of "Category III" Fellowship Examination held.
 - Prof. Ross Webster of the University of Melbourne became the first "HKCGP Visiting Professor in General Practice" to the Chinese University of Hong Kong.
 - Prof. Hamish Barber of the University of Glasgow became the first "HKCGP Visiting Professor in General Practice" to the University of Hong Kong.
 - Formal Opening Ceremony of the College Premises on 18th May 1985 on the 8th Floor of Duke of Windsor Building was officiated by Dr. K.L. Thong, the Director of Medical and Health Services. The President of the Hong Kong Medical Association, Dean of the HKU Medical Faculty, and many local and foreign dignitaries including Dr. M.K. Rajakumar of Malaysia were also in attendance.
 - The College made use of the opportunity of the Opening Ceremony of the College premises and the College Journal to convey important messages to members of the profession as well as the general public regarding the urgency of establishing a "Hong Kong System"; and as such, to gain early international recognition of the overall professional status of all Hong Kong professions in response to the "One Country, Two Systems" concept of the Sino-British Joint Declaration on the future of Hong Kong, especially on the medical front.
- 1986
- Last of the three "Category III" Fellowship Examinations conducted. The College made use of this last examination to specially invite two senior officials of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Dr. Wesley Fabb and Dr. Lindsey Knight, to act as official observers to assess the quality of the examination process and the standards set by our Board of Examinations and Board of Censors so that they may advise the RACGP Council whether the examination criteria in Hong Kong would be appropriate for RACGP to join forces with HKCGP to conduct conjoint examinations, hopefully as from 1987. Concurrently, RACGP Chief Censor, Dr. Clarke Munro, extended invitations to Dr. Maxwell Tse, Dr. Paul Lam, Dr. Donald Li and Dr. Kitty Chan to go to Melbourne to attend the RACGP Examination Seminar for the purpose of gathering more information, and to have further exchanges of views concerning the proposed Conjoint HKCGP/RACGP Fellowship Examinations.
 - The 1986 annual Refresher Course in General Practice was conducted by Dr. John Murtagh, Senior Lecturer, Department of Community Medicine, Monash University, Victoria, Australia.
 - The "HKCGP visiting Professor in General Practice" for the Chinese University in 1986 was Prof. A.L.A. Reid of the University of Newcastle Australia, and that for the Hong Kong University was Prof. J.C. Murdoch of the University of Otago of New Zealand.
 - The Chinese Medical Association (CMA) invited the College to pay them an official visit in Beijing in March/April, 1986. The College sent a delegation of five led by our President, Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee. The other members were Dr. Foo Kam So, Dr. Paul Lam, Dr. Maxwell Tse and Dr. Frank Chan Hon Hoi. The delegation was warmly received by the Minister of Health, the late Prof. Chen Minzhang. The delegation took the opportunity to introduce the principles and concept of General Practice/Family Medicine to China as the most cost-effective method of Health Delivery. This was enthusiastically received.
 - Our President, Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee, Dr. Stephen Foo and many others attended the 11th WONCA World Conference in London in June 1986. At the Conference, Dr. M.K. Rajakumar of Malaysia took over as WONCA President (the first Asian to

achieve this distinction), Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee of Hong Kong was elected Chairman of WONCA Council, and Dr. David Game of Australia became the Immediate Past-President of WONCA.

- There were only five trainees in the training programme since the commencement of the Vocational Training Programme at the two accredited hospitals last year. However, there were more than 40 enquiries and applications, but they were all government medical officers whose applications had to be turned down because the government was not interested in training their medical officers in primary care.
- In late 1986, the Government appointed an authoritative body "The Working Party on Post-graduate Medical Education and Training", chaired by Dr. K.E. Halnan, to determine the future of specialist practices and specialist disciplines in Hong Kong.

1987

- It is pertinent to reproduce hereunder the first two paragraphs of the College Annual Report for the year 1986/1987 submitted by Dr. Maxwell Tse, the Hon. Secretary of the College:

"The year 1987 is an important milestone in the history of the medical profession in Hong Kong in general and the College in particular. It is the centenary year of the Medical Faculty of the University of Hong Kong. With the break of the British link in ten years' time, the medical profession now begins to realize the urgency of setting up a post-graduate institution for maintaining its own standard of medical practice before 1997, i.e. developing an independent Hong Kong system. In this respect, we are proud to say that until only recently we were the only college in Hong Kong working towards the establishment of a Hong Kong system. Over the years, we have set up our own vocational training programme, continuing medical education programme and examination. Time has proved that we are in the right direction. In the years ahead, we will continue to build on the foundation we have already laid.

"For the College, 1987 is the Tenth Anniversary Year. We are proud to celebrate it with two important and first-ever events, namely, the WONCA Regional Conference Asia Pacific Region and the first Conjoint HKCGP/RACGP Fellowship Examination. The former is the first international congress of Family Medicine/General Practice ever held in Hong Kong, while the latter signifies the beginning of international recognition of the standard of our College Fellowship Examination".

- The First Conjoint HKCGP/RACGP Examination was held in the premises of the General Practice Unit, University of Hong Kong, from 29th August to 31st August.
- The three special "Category III" Fellowship Examinations held between 1984 and 1986 made possible the election of a total of 61 local practising general practitioners to be the first batch of "Fellows of the College", but none of these Fellowships were formally conferred because the College had to select a really grand and majestic occasion to warrant the execution of such a solemn and dignified exercise. The hosting by the College of the prospective WONCA Asia-Pacific Regional Conference at the City Hall on 6th September 1987 with an expected attendance of about 500 people from 35 countries was just such an occasion. Fortuitously, the first Conjoint HKCGP/RACGP Fellowship Examination was held on 29th – 31st August. It was logical to join the two conferment ceremonies into one. Therefore, the First Fellowship Conferment Ceremony of the College was also the First (1st) Conjoint HKCGP/RACGP Fellowship Conferment Ceremony. This was held in conjunction with the WONCA Regional Conference, during which sixty-one College Fellowships (FHKCGPs) and five "Double Fellowships" (FHKCGPs/FRACGPs) were conferred. At the same time, six Honorary Fellowships of the College were conferred on Mr. Chan Tat Chee, Dr. the Hon. Chiu Hin Kwong, Prof. M.J. Colbourne, Dr. David A Game, Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee and Dr. Henry F.K. Li. It was quite a record! Only ten years after its inception, it was also quite a remarkable achievement.



- The College hosted the WONCA Asia-Pacific Regional Conference in the City Hall, Concert Hall, on 6th September 1987 with the Conference Theme: "Crossing the Frontier". The occasion was well attended by over 500 delegates from 35 countries in the presence of many local and foreign dignitaries, and earned the College tremendous praises and goodwill from the international fraternity of General Practice Colleges/Associations as well as placed the Hong Kong College firmly on the world map of Family Medicine. The Chairman of the Host Organising Committee was Dr. Eddie Chan Tat.
 - The "HKCGP Visiting Professor in General Practice" to the University of Hong Kong in 1987 was Prof. Charles Bridges-Webb, Professor of Family Medicine in the Sydney University, Australia.
 - The 1987 Refresher Course was conducted by Dr. Keith Thompson who is a pioneer among GPs in developing a special interest in the Care of the Elderly, and is one of the world-renowned authorities in Geriatrics. Ten years after our inception, the College Council decided that there were ample local expertise to handle our own Refresher Courses, and there was no longer any need to invite foreign experts to do so.
 - Due to government's indifference, our Vocational Training Programme's hospital-based centers remained the same, i.e. Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital and Evangel Hospital.
- 1988
- Change of Leadership in the College: Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee retired, and Dr. Natalis Yuen became President of the College.
 - Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee was invited to Taipei to deliver the Keynote Address at the Annual General Meeting of the Chinese-Taipei Association of Family Medicine in Taiwan in on 6th March, 1988. He spoke on the topic: "The Hong Kong College of General Practitioners in the advent of 1997".
 - Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee, as Chairman of WONCA Council, and Dr. M.K. Rajakumar as WONCA President, were jointly invited by the Chinese Medical Association and the P.R.C. Ministry of Health to visit Beijing for one week in May 1988, to discuss the Primary Care Services in China, and the prospect of the introduction of General Practice teaching and training in undergraduate and post-graduate curricula in medical schools throughout China. At a private meeting with Prof. Chen Minzhang, the Minister of Health, it was decided to recruit experts from abroad as a pilot-scheme to train a small nucleus of teachers in general practice. Arising out of this decision, a handsome donation of CAD25,000 (equivalent to HK\$125,000) was solicited from Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to finance Dr. Brian Cornelson of Toronto, followed by Dr. Meng-chih Lee of Taipei, to lecture in the Capital Institute of Medicine (the precursor of Capital University of Medical Sciences) for periods of 6 months and 3 months respectively. The tour of Dr. Meng-chih Lee was particularly significant because he spoke the same language and had additionally brought with him from Taiwan many textbooks in general practice in Chinese. This pilot scheme was most successful and was responsible for the Capital University of Medical Sciences in Beijing being recognised today as the prime centre for the teaching of general practice, and its academics like Prof. Gu Yuan and her colleagues becoming pioneers in general practice education in China.
 - The "HKCGP visiting Professor in General Practice" to HKU for the year 1988-1989 was Professor Walter Rosser from Canada, and that to CUHK for the year 1988/1989 was Prof. Nigel Stott.
 - The first batch of five vocational trainees completed and fulfilled all requirements of the vocational training programme as laid down by the College, and were eligible to take the Conjoint Fellowship Examination in the following year.

- The Halnan Report on Government's "Working Party on Post-graduate Medical Education and Training" was published in October 1988, but regrettably "The Hong Kong College of General Practitioners" failed to make the list of foundation colleges of the proposed "Academy".

1989

- The initial visit to Beijing by the College delegation in 1986 coupled with our continuing, active assistance and support to China to develop the Discipline of General Practice through their professional body, the Chinese Medical Association, led to the inauguration of the Beijing Society of General Practice on January 23, 1989. Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee, in his capacity as WONCA President-Elect, was invited to attend as Guest of Honour and Keynote Speaker. The Beijing Society of General Practice applied for Associate Membership of WONCA, and was so accepted.
- The College inaugurated and launched in 1989 a new series of Annual Lectures in honour of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the Founder of Modern China who was also a fellow general practitioner. The prestige of delivering the first lecture in this Lecture Series, appropriately named "Dr. Sun Yat-sen Oration", went to our Founding-President, Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee. The oration was given at the 2nd Conjoint HKCGP/RACGP Fellowship Conferment Ceremony held at the Sheraton Hotel on March 5, 1989, and the title of Dr. Lee's Oration was, "The Human Face of Medicine".
- The First Tripartite Meeting: At the initiation and instigation of the College, a first-ever historic tripartite meeting of the Beijing Society of General Practice, the Chinese-Taipei Association of Family Medicine and the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners was held in Hong Kong on April 1, 1989 in the form of a successful symposium "Health Delivery Systems in Asia", hosted by the College. The Guest speaker was Dr. S.H. Lee, the Director of Health of Hong Kong.
- After this particular first-of-a-kind Tripartite Meeting in Hong Kong, ten members from the Chinese-Taipei Association of Family Medicine visited Beijing and toured China for two weeks. This was by itself quite a historic event, because it was the first time that a touring group from Taiwan was allowed into China since 1949.
- At the 12th WONCA World Conference held in Israel in May 1989, the incumbent WONCA President, Dr. M.K. Rajakumar of Malaysia, handed the "reins of government" of the WONCA Presidency over to his successor, Dr. Donald Rae of Canada, who was installed as WONCA President, and Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee of Hong Kong was elected WONCA President-Elect. At the same Conference, Dr. Eddie Chan was elected to the powerful "Nominating Committee", and Dr. Chan Nang Fong chaired a symposium on "Cancer Detection in Women". It was also in this Conference that the College won its bid to host the 1995 WONCA World Conference in Hong Kong.
- Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee was appointed Honorary Professor in General Practice by the Capital Institute of Medicine (now the Capital University of Medical Sciences) in Beijing on 4th November 1989, and was invited to spend one week in the Institute to give a series of lectures and to conduct seminars, discussion groups, etc, for their academic staff and students.
- With the cooperation and backing of the Hong Kong College and WONCA, the Beijing Society of General Practice had the courage and confidence, only ten months after its inauguration, to hold its "First International Conference on General Practice" in the Chinese capital in November 1989. It was relevant to recall that the tragic "June 4 Incident" in Tian An Men Square did stir up an initial international attempt to boycott the Beijing Conference. This was squashed by the late Dr. Donald Rae of Canada, the then WONCA President, who decreed that WONCA, as an academic and professional body, should not play politics. That was why this International Conference in Beijing was well attended by all the Executive Members of WONCA and by members of many colleges around the world such as England, Australia,



Canada, New Zealand, and especially around the Asia-Pacific Region including Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and of course Hong Kong. Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee, in his capacity as WONCA President-Elect, was invited to be the Keynote Speaker. The Conference was a great success, and the credit should go to the late Dr. Donald Rae who made the wise and correct decision. Subsequently, the Beijing Society of General Practice applied for Associate Membership of WONCA, and was so accepted.

- Dr. Chan Nang Fong represented the College to attend a regional Workshop on Research in Family Medicine held in Singapore, organized by the College of Family Physicians of Canada with the theme: "Does the family medicine paradigm have relevance in developing countries?"
 - The Second Edition of the Handbook of Vocational Training was published under the leadership of the Chairman of the Board of Vocational Training and Standards, Dr. Chan Nang Fong.
 - The "HKCGP Visiting Professor in General Practice" for HKU in 1989 was Dr. Wes Fabb from Australia, and for CUHK was Prof. Lesley Southgate from England.
- 1990
- President-Elect of WONCA, Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee, was invited by the Philippines Academy of Family Physicians to their 29th Anniversary and Annual Convention in Manila in February 1990, and spoke on the theme: "Family Medicine – Moving towards the 21st Century".
 - The 3rd Conjoint HKCGP/RACGP Fellowship Conferment Ceremony was held in conjunction with the 1990 Annual Dinner on March 11, when Dr. Wes Fabb of Australia was conferred the Hon. Fellowship of our College. The 2nd Dr. Sun Yat-sen Oration was given by Prof. Sir David Todd, who spoke on the subject: "The Future of Medicine in Hong Kong".
 - The Preparatory Committee, appointed by the government in September 1989 under the chairmanship of Prof. David Todd to oversee the setting up of the "Hong Kong Academy of Medicine", reversed the decision of the Halnan Report when at its meeting in April 1990 decided to admit "The Hong Kong College of General Practitioners" as one of the foundation colleges of the future Academy, and to recognise "General Practice" as a Specialist Discipline.
 - The Fellowship of the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners – "FHKCGP" – was officially recognised by the Medical Council of Hong Kong on 6th June, 1990 to be a quotable qualification, making "FHKCGP" the first locally-granted post-graduate medical degree to be so recognised.
 - To inform the public of our achievements and to proclaim our hopes and aspirations for the future, the College held a press conference on September 14, 1990 with the following messages:
 1. "Weaning Hong Kong's medical profession off its total dependence on foreign colleges for postgraduate specialist status: For the first time, a higher medical qualification granted by a local postgraduate College is up to the standard required by the Medical Council of Hong Kong".
 2. "The Final Solution to the Medical Dilemma in Hong Kong: To strengthen the primary health care system by adequate government funding, and thus turning the whole health delivery system in Hong Kong to become a community-based rather than hospital-based one".
 - President-Elect of WONCA, Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee, was invited to address the Academic Conference to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Department of Hygiene of the Okayama Medical School in Japan in July 1990, and spoke on the theme: "International Cooperation Among Primary Care Physicians in the Asia-Pacific Region".

- Chief Editor of our College Journal, Dr. Cindy Lam, and her colleagues produced a pamphlet entitled: "What is a Family Physician?" in both English and Chinese. This pamphlet was made available to all doctors, and also additionally available to College members for distribution to their patients.
- Dr. John Chung, who chaired the Scientific Committee of the WONCA Regional Meeting in 1987, was given the job to chair the Host Organising Committee of the 14th WONCA World Conference, for which the College had won the bid in Jerusalem in 1989 to host the event in Hong Kong in 1995.
- At the request of the Department of Health, the Board of Education of the College planned and conducted an Orientation Course on "The Practice of Family Medicine" for the benefit of government doctors working in GOPDs (government out-patient departments).
- There was an increased interest in vocational training in general practice among young doctors. There were 14 trainees registered for the year 1990. The Nethersole Hospital had been accredited for the training of trainees since October 1990, increasing the number of hospital-based training centres of the programme to three.
- At the WONCA Asia Pacific Regional Conference held in Bali, hosted by the Indonesian College of General Practitioners, the College was well represented by a large delegation led by Dr. Natalis Yuen and Dr. Stephen Foo.
- President-Elect of WONCA, Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee, was invited by the Royal College of General Practitioners in U.K. to attend their Annual General Meeting in Newcastle, during which the "*Distinction and Award of an Honorary Fellow (FRCGP) was this day conferred on Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee*". The date was 17th November 1990.

1991

- At an Extraordinary General Meeting held on February 27, 1991, the College set up a new company "Hong Kong College of General Practitioners Education Limited" to handle all business and commercial activities of our College.
- At the 4th Conjoint HKCGP/RACGP Fellowship Conferment Ceremony held on March 23, 1991, the Hon. Fellowship of the College was conferred on Dr. Clarke Munro of Australia, and the 3rd Dr. Sun Yat-sen Oration was given by Dr. the Hon. Wang Gungwu, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong, who spoke on the subject "The Modern Chinese since Sun Yat-sen".
- The second "Tripartite" Meeting, held in Hong Kong on March 24, 1991, was again organised by the College, and attended by representatives from the Chinese Medical Association, the Chinese Taipei Association of Family Physicians, the Singapore College of General Practitioners and the Macau Association of General Practitioners. The theme of the Symposium was "The Training of General Practitioners/Family Physicians in Primary Health Care". The Keynote Speaker was Dr. S.H. Lee, Director of Health.
- The "general practice component" of the Vocational Training Programme of the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners was recognised by the Royal College of General Practitioners in England to contribute up to a maximum of six months towards the trainee year in the United Kingdom.
- "HKCGP Visiting Professor in General Practice" to HKU in 1990 was Prof. Anthony S. Dixon, and to CUHK was Prof. Brian K. Hennen.
- The long-awaited Report of the "Working Party on Primary Health Care" was finally released for public consultation in May 1991. The College appointed Dr. John Chung to chair an "Ad Hoc" Committee to study the Report.
- The Examination Handlook had been updated and re-written by Dr. John Marshall.



- 1992
- The Third Tripartite Meeting was organized by the Macau Association of General Practice on the theme “Quality Assurance”, and was held on 13th-15th March 1992. The Meeting was declared open by the WONCA President-Elect, Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee. The Keynote Address was given by Dr. Arma Perez, the Secretary for Health and Social Affairs of the Government of Macau. Other than those from China, Taiwan, Macau and Hong Kong, there were speakers from Thailand, Philippines, Singapore and Canada. The Main Speaker was Dr. John Marwick from New Zealand, who was the Convener of the WONCA “Working Party on Quality Assurance”. Speakers from Hong Kong included Drs. Cynthia Chan, Cindy Lam, Chan Nang Fong and Natalis Yuen. Drs. Stephen Foo, Gene Tsoi and Freddie Lau also attended.
 - The 5th Conjoint HKCGP/RACGP Fellowship Conferment Ceremony was held at the Marriott on March 22, 1992, during which an Honorary Fellowship was conferred on Prof. J.H. Barber of Glasgow. The 4th Dr. Sun Yat-sen Oration was delivered by Dr. Gerald Choa who spoke on the topic: “Hong Kong, Medicine and Dr. Sun Yat-sen”.
 - The “HKCGP Visiting Professor in General Practice” to HKU in 1991 was Prof. J.H. Barber, and to CUHK was Prof. James Knox.
 - Dr. Natalis C.L. Yuen was appointed Honorary Professor of Family Medicine in the Department of Community and Family Medicine of the Chinese University of Hong Kong in March 1992.
 - Dr. Natalis C.L. Yuen was appointed to be the Chairman of the Health and Medical Development Advisory Committee of the Hong Kong Government.
 - Dr. Natalis Yuen and Dr. Foo Kam So were appointed by the Government as Consultants in Primary Care.
 - Dr. Luke Tsang was appointed by the Department of Health as its “Consultant in Family Medicine”. This was the first time that such an appointment of “Consultant in Family Medicine” was ever made by a government department.
 - The 13th WONCA World Conference was held in Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre from 9th-14th May, 1992 with the theme “Family Medicine in the 21st Century”, and was hosted by the College of Family Physicians of Canada. WONCA '92 was the largest WONCA conference held to-date with more than 3,000 participants from 63 countries. During the Conference, Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee of Hong Kong, was installed as World President of WONCA, and his predecessor, Dr. Donald Rae of Canada, became the Immediate Past-President of WONCA. At the same Conference, Dr. Eddie Chan Tat of Hong Kong was elected as WONCA Regional Vice-President for Asia-Pacific Region.
 - During the Conference, the President of the Canadian College conferred on Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee the “Honorary Membership” of the Canadian College in recognition of “*his outstanding contribution to Family Medicine*” (MCFPC).
 - Amongst the thousands of delegates attending the 13th WONCA World Conference in Vancouver were three participants from China led by P.R.C.’s Director of Medical Education of the Ministry of Health, Dr. Huang Yongchang, who approached Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee, the new President of WONCA, with the request that WONCA send a team of experts to China to conduct an extensive on-the-spot investigation into the system of medical education in China, and to advise his Department on how to incorporate the concept of general practice/family medicine into the curricula for different grades of medical schools in China.

At its meeting in Whistler, British Columbia, Canada, from May 7-8, 1992, WONCA Council received Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee’s report on developments in China, and resolved:

“That WONCA promote not only the specialty of general practice/family medicine, but also the concept of general practice/family medicine as being applicable to all primary health care workers”.

“That a Task Force comprising a group of four experts go to China for a month to study the curriculum there, and produce curricula for the four levels of “doctor” which currently exist in China”.

and then voted the sum of US\$10,000 for the project.

- The Hong Kong Academy of Medicine Ordinance was enacted on June 25, 1992 and would come into effect on August 1, 1992 – henceforth, establishing the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine as an independent statutory body.
- The number of hospital-based training centers remained the same – Maryknoll, Evangel and Nethersole – and the number of trainees undergoing training remained low at 13 trainees for 1992; but on a brighter note, the practice locations accredited for community-based vocational training had grown to 13 in number. With the coming into being of the Academy of Medicine, our College must revise and modify our vocational training programme to be in conformity with the Academy’s guidelines for training, examination and registration. Details of the contents and structure of the modified training programme were being worked out for submission to the future Academy of Medicine for approval. These expanded programmes of training would obviously entail professional and administrative resource implications. It was hoped that with appropriate allocation of resources and our many years of experience in training trainees, the future vocational training programme would get into orbit without difficulty when the Academy is formed.
- Dr. Stephen K.S. Foo, Vice-President, was invited by Dr. Bang Bu Youn, Professor and Chairman, Department of Family Medicine, Yonsei University College of Medicine, Korea to attend “The Yonsei International Symposium on Family Medicine” in October 1991. Dr. Foo delivered a talk on “the Development of Family Medicine in Hong Kong”.
- The **WONCA Task Force** on “*Medical Education and the Development of General Practice/Family Medicine in China*” comprised four members – Dr. Giora Almagor and Dr. Martine Granek-Catarivas, both from Israel, Dr. Goh Lee Gan from Singapore and Dr. Chau Tang-Tat from Taiwan. The members were in China for about a month in late 1992 through early 1993, each member accompanied respectively by appropriate senior officials of the Chinese Medical Association and the Ministry of Health, separately toured remote rural villages in four different provinces, and submitted their report to the P.R.C. Ministry of Health and the WONCA Secretariat in March/April 1993. Their valuable and informative report was translated into Chinese and published in both English and Chinese in booklet form thanks to a generous donation from the Chan Tat Chee Memorial Fund, and was distributed by the Hong Kong College extensively in China and world-wide.

1993

- A second change of Leadership in the College: Dr. Natalis C.L. Yuen retired, and Dr. Stephen K.S. Foo became President of the College.
- The highlight of the year was the 15th Anniversary Celebrations of the College, which was commemorated with an Anniversary Dinner, up to and including the cutting of a three-tier birthday cake by our President, Dr. Foo Kam So, at the Marriott Hotel on March 14, 1993, held in conjunction with the 6th Conjoint HKCGP/RACGP Fellowship Conferment Ceremony, during which the Honorary Fellowship of the Hong Kong College was conferred on Prof. David Todd, and Prof. Chris Van Weel presented a plaque to the College on behalf of the Dutch College of General Practitioners. The main attraction of the occasion was the Keynote Address by the



Founding President, Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee, who traced the history of the College from the time it was only a “proposal” to the Hong Kong Medical Association Council in 1973 right up to the present 1993. The full text of the Address was published in the “15th Anniversary Celebration Commemorative” of the College.

- Under the leadership of Dr. John Chung, Chairman of the Host Organising Committee for the 14th WONCA World Conference, efforts to promote the Hong Kong event were actively pursued and two delegations were dispatched overseas to drum-up support for the World Conference in Hong Kong in 1995:-
 1. Drs. Stephen Foo, Eileen Tse, Eddie Chan, Ng Chun Bor and Cynthia Chan were members of the College delegation who attended the WONCA Asia-Pacific Regional Conference in February 1993 in Manila.
 2. Drs. John Chung, Eddie Chan, Cindy Lam, Kitty Chan, Luke Tsang and Simon Kwok were members of the College delegation who attended the WONCA European Regional Conference in June 1993 at the Hague.
- Held concurrently with the WONCA European Regional Conference in June 1993 at the Hague, the WONCA Executive Committee, under the chairmanship of the WONCA President, Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee, met in the Leeuwenhorst Conference Centre, the Hague, and approved the proposal to co-sponsor with the World Health Organisation (WHO) a *Strategic Action Forum* entitled, “*Making medical practice and education more relevant to people’s needs: the contribution of the family doctor*”, to be held in Canada in November 1994. It also decided that a *Conjoint WHO/WONCA preliminary planning group* be formed to meet in early 1994 in Hong Kong to explore and to ascertain the limits of the work involved.
- With the support and assistance of the Hong Kong College, the national Chinese Society of General Practice was established. WONCA President Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee was invited to co-officiate with Minister of Health at the Inauguration Ceremony held in Beijing on 1st November 1993. Concurrently, the “Second International Conference on General Practice” was also held, and Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee was invited to give the Keynote Address. Subsequently, the Chinese Society of General Practice applied for full membership of WONCA. Since membership of a “national” College must be approved by a WONCA Council Meeting, formal approval could only be granted at the forthcoming WONCA World Conference in Hong Kong in 1995 when the next WONCA Council would be convened.
- Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee, in his dual capacity as WONCA President as well as Trustee of the Chan Tat Chee Memorial Fund, initiated and financed the first-ever Chan Tat Chee Primary Care Centre in Beijing under the overall direction of Prof. Gu Yuan. This Primary Care Centre in the Capital University of Medical Sciences had been the main venue (*and at that time the only venue*) for the teaching of Family Medicine in China since 1993.
- Our vocational training programme was more or less static with only 17 vocational trainees in 1993, but the Board of Vocational Training and Standard did approve four new community-based training centers, whilst the number of training hospitals remained unchanged at three.
- The “HKCGP Visiting Professor in General Practice” for the University of Hong Kong for 1993 was Prof. Chris Van Weel from the Netherlands.
- The Inauguration Ceremony of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine was held at the brand-new Academy of Medicine Building in Wong Chuk Hang, Aberdeen, on December 9, 1993 with great fanfair and was attended by many big names in the international fraternity of medical specialists and high government officials,

including the Chief Executive Officer of HKSAR, Mr. Tung Chee-hua, who also acted as the officiating official for the occasion. The College took pride to record that 76 members of the College were conferred Foundation Fellows (Family Medicine) of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine during the ceremony.

- The 7th Conjoint HKCGP/RACGP Fellowship Conferment Ceremony was held at the Regal Hong Kong Hotel on December 12, 1993. It was held at an earlier date to coincide with the Inauguration Ceremony of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, since the guest list of the two were similar. The 5th Dr. Sun Yat-sen Oration was delivered by Dr. M.K. Rajakumar of Malaysia, who spoke on the topic: "Between Faith and Reason: The Quest of the Physician".

- 1994
- In pursuance of the decision made at the Hague in June 1993, 11 experts (from eight countries) comprising the *Conjoint WHO/WONCA preliminary planning group* arrived in Hong Kong to meet from January 4th to 8th 1994 in the Robert Black College of the University of Hong Kong. Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee, on behalf of the Chan Tat Chee Memorial Fund, financed the total cost of the planning group throughout their entire stay in Hong Kong, and took the opportunity of the presence in Hong Kong of so many international leaders in GP/FM to invite Council members of the Hong Kong College and senior academics from the two local medical schools to take part in the proceedings as observers. During the packed four days in Hong Kong, the planning group set parameters for the Forum and identified the many issues inherent in the title of the Forum.

- Long before WONCA was recognised as an international body ("World Organisation of Family Doctors"), general practice movements in Europe on both sides of the "Iron Curtain" had been flourishing under the umbrella of a loose organisation – the Societas Internationalis Medicinæ Generalis (SIMG) – which admitted individual general practitioners as members from both sides of the political divide. As WONCA expanded its influence into Europe, its activities came into direct conflict and competition with SIMG, since both targeted the same clientele. After long and protracted negotiations over a period of many years, SIMG finally agreed to merge with WONCA and invited the WONCA President and all members of WONCA Executive to the SIMG General Meeting in Estoril, Portugal, in May 1994 to finalised the concluding terms of the amalgamation. It was therefore at Estoril that the leaders of the two organisations, WONCA President Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee, and SIMG President Dr. Alfons J.B.I. Sips, met face-to-face to write the final terms of the merger, which was that SIMG would cease functioning and be succeeded by a new structure – WONCA Region Europe, the European Society of General Practice. Since such re-structuring would entail changes in WONCA Bye-laws, it was also decided that its implementation would not take place any earlier than the next WONCA World Council meeting in Hong Kong in 1995. This "**Declaration of Intent**" was signed by the two Presidents, Dr. Lee representing WONCA and Dr. Sips representing SIMG, surrounded by their respective supporters on a large stage in full view of thousands of SIMG and WONCA members in an enormous hall in Estoril on 27th May, 1994. The huge crowd greeted the signing with great joy and acclamation with "pops" of champagne bottles and shouting and clapping of hands both on the stage and in the audience. There is no doubt that this document represented a major triumph for WONCA in the realm of international medical diplomacy. At one stroke, WONCA became the legitimate **World Organisation**, and is the one and only voice to represent General Practitioners/Family Physicians and the Discipline of General Practice/Family Medicine in the World of Medicine. The Hong Kong College is proud that its Founding President played a pivotal role in the final scene of this exciting and historic drama.



- Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee was invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners in Sydney on 23rd August, 1994, during which he was admitted as a Honorary Fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (FRACGP).
 - 60 invited senior academics and experts (from 35 different countries) on General Practice/Family Medicine from all over the world were present when the *main Conjoint WHO/WONCA Strategic Action Forum* on: “*Making medical practice and education more relevant to people’s needs: the contribution of the family doctor*” was opened in London, Ontario, Canada on November 6, 1994. The principal speaker at the Opening Ceremony of the Forum was the President of WONCA, Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee, who stressed *inter alia* that “community-based training of medical undergraduates should form a substantial part of the clinical curriculum to be consistent with the increasing emphasis being placed on primary health care by WHO, by WONCA and by enlightened governments all around the world”. The *Strategic Action Forum* spent 2½ days of intensive deliberations in London, Ontario and then turned over the fruits of their labour to Dr. Marc Rivo (current Editor of WONCA News) and Dr. Jeff Heck for the arduous task of writing the Final Report.
 - “The HKCGP Visiting Professor in General Practice” for the University of Hong Kong in 1994 was Prof. Janet Christie-Seely, and that for the Chinese University of Hong Kong was Prof. Martin Bass.
- 1995
- The Final Report of the *WHO/WONCA Strategic Action Forum* was ready in early 1995 and the next step was for Dr. Michael Boland (current WONCA President), as WONCA Liason-Person to WHO, to present the Final Report to the 39-member Executive Board of the World Health Organisation in January 1995. The WHO Executive Board approved the Report and had it tabled at the 48th World Health Assembly of WHO in Geneva, which passed it in April 1995. Once approved by WHO, the Final Report was handed over to the WONCA Secretariat for circulation to all 55 member-organisations of WONCA for study and consideration. At the meeting of the World Council of WONCA held at the Gold Coast Hotel in the New Territories in Hong Kong ahead of the **14th WONCA World Conference** in the Hong Kong Convention Centre, the Report was thoroughly discussed by Council members and unanimously adopted. In this way, the Final Report became formally and officially a **Joint WHO/WONCA Working Paper** which was sent to all 189 member-governments of the World Health Organisation and to all 1,500 medical schools world-wide, as representing the conjoint views of WHO and WONCA on the subject. The Hong Kong College should be proud to have played such a significant role in this mammoth and important exercise.
 - At the 8th Conjoint HKCGP/RACGP Fellowship Conferment Ceremony held concurrently with the **14th WONCA World Conference** on June 10, 1995 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, Prof. Rosie Young of Hong Kong and Sir Donald Irvine of England were conferred Honorary Fellowships of the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners. The 6th Dr. Sun Yat-sen Oration was delivered by our Honorary Graduate Prof. Rosie Young, who spoke on the topic: “The Challenge for Doctors Today”.
 - The College hosted the **14th WONCA World Conference** from 10-14 June 1995 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. The Opening Ceremony of the **World Conference** was officiated by Mrs. Katherine Fok, the Secretary for Health and Welfare, and attended by over 2,500 delegates. During the Conference, Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee, the incumbent WONCA President, handed over the “reins of government” of the WONCA Presidency to his successor, Dr. Goran Sjonell of Sweden, and became the Immediate Past President of WONCA. The **World**

Conference was a great success with an attendance of over 3,100 delegates and accompanying persons from 68 countries.

- Academic excellence is the bulwark of any scholastic discipline, and the Discipline of General Practice/Family Medicine is no exception. That was why the College, in spite of our own severe financial constraints in the early 1980's, still made substantial donations to both our medical schools to establish "HKCGP Visiting Professorships in General Practice". The Chinese University of Hong Kong established the post of "Professor of Family Medicine" in 1992, but the University of Hong Kong had only a "Senior Lecturer" in General Practice in spite of repeated clamours for the University to upgrade the post to professorial status. In early 1995, with the knowledge that the **14th WONCA World Conference** would be held in Hong Kong in the summer, Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee, as Trustee of Chan Tat Chee Memorial Fund, offered considerable donations to the University of Hong Kong to "top-up" the difference between Senior Lecture and professorial salaries for three years. After much negotiations, the University Council approved the establishment of the "Dr. Sun Yat-sen Chair in General Practice". The Inauguration Ceremony of the "Dr. Sun Yat-sen Chair in General Practice" of the Department of Medicine in the Faculty of Medicine was scheduled for 12th June 1995 to coincide with the **14th WONCA World Conference** concurrently held in Hong Kong to enable international delegates attending the **WONCA Conference** to also witness the occasion. The Ceremony took place at the HKU Rayson Huang Theater and was officiated by Prof. Wang Gungwu, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong. Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee, as WONCA President, and as Trustee of the Donor, the Chan Tat Chee Memorial Fund, was the Principal Speaker. The Dean of the Medical Faculty, Prof. S.P. Chow, also addressed the gathering which included a large number of international delegates from the **WONCA Conference**. As a matter of interest, the cost of the up-grade was HK\$1.5 million.
 - Following the **14th WONCA World Conference** in Hong Kong (June 1995), the P.R.C. Ministry of Health and the Hong Kong College co-sponsored a Satellite Conference in Beijing on "The Interface Between Traditional Chinese Medicine and Family Medicine", which was very popular with foreign delegates, many of whom made the special side-trip to Beijing to attend the Satellite Conference as well as to spend time sight-seeing in the Chinese capital.
 - Our new 6-year Vocational Training Programme in Family Medicine was approved by the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine in early 1995, and details were fully published in College's Third Edition of the "Handbook on Vocational Training in Family Medicine".
 - The newly revamped "Higher Vocational Training in Family Medicine" was formally commenced at the beginning of 1995, and fifteen trainees had already enrolled in this higher vocational training programme. The basic training programme was, of course, still on-going and had at the present time 25 trainees. To cope with this rapid expansion of training activities, the College was happy to record that there were at present a total of eight hospitals providing hospital-based training, including the newly accredited United Christian Hospital, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Queen Mary Hospital, Caritas Medical Centre and Union Hospital, supported and augmented by a total of 13 community-based training centres.
- 1996
- The 9th Conjoint HKCGP/RACGP Fellowship Conferment Ceremony was held on 24th March, 1996 at the Furama Hotel, during which the Honorary Fellowship of the Hong Kong College was conferred on Dr. M.K. Rajakumar of Malaysia. The 7th Dr. Sun Yat-sen Oration was delivered by Prof. Wes Fabb, who spoke on the topic: "Descartes' Error".



- Founding President, Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee, was invited to St. James Palace on 3rd July, 1996 in London to receive from His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester the distinguished award and high honour of “Knight of St. John”. Fortuitously, another Hong Kong personality who received the same honour and award on the same day in St. James Palace from the Duke of Gloucester was the former Chairman of the Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation, Sir. William Purves.
 - A large public exhibition on “Family Medicine” was held on the weekend of 13th and 14th July with the theme on “Family Unity”. As a health promotion measure, the College released a new educational pamphlet in the Chinese language entitled “What is Family Medicine?”, and doctors were encouraged to distribute it for the information and education of patients.
 - The College recorded 20 trainees in the higher programme and 32 trainees in the basic programme, all of whom are supported by 9 accredited hospital-based training centres, including the newly accredited hospital – Ruttonjee Hospital.
 - The Board of Education had, as usual, given members a year fully loaded with lectures, seminars and workshops etc. In addition, the “Check” Programme was started in our Journal this year. The Annual Refresher Course continued to draw a full house and this year there would be a special seminar on the “Future of Primary Care in Hong Kong”.
 - The Quality Assurance and Accreditation Committee had secured reciprocal recognition with RACGP on CME and QA Programmes in the current triennium of 1996-98. Regulations for Continuing Medical Education (CME) for Fellows of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine had been finalized, and would commence in January, 1997.
 - The Research Committee had finished a number of projects and produced a number of papers, some of which would be presented at the Regional WONCA Conference in Seoul, 1997.
- 1997
- WONCA Bye-Laws Committee met in Robert Black College of the University of Hong Kong from 3rd - 6th January, 1997 – arranged by the Hong Kong College, and financed by Chan Tat Chee Memorial Fund. (**Explanatory Note:** *Subsequent to the signing of the “Declaration of Intent” between WONCA and SIMG in Estoril in 1994, and its implementation at the WONCA World Conference in Hong Kong in 1995, it was decided that the highly autonomous structure with considerable degree of financial independence accorded to the European Region should be similarly granted to all other Regions of WONCA, which necessitated the extensive revisions in and rewriting of WONCA Constitution and Bye-Laws – hence the Hong Kong meeting, which was financed by the Chan Tat Chee Memorial Fund.*)
 - After completing their higher training programme, the eleven trainees applied for End Point Assessment, which was conducted between February and March 1997 by the College for the first time. Eight trainees successfully passed all three segments of the assessment. The Chairman of the End Point Assessment Subcommittee was Dr. Cindy Lam, and our External Assessor was Prof. Robin Fraser from U.K.
 - The 10th Conjoint HKCGP/RACGP Fellowship Conferment Ceremony was held on 10th March, 1997 at Furama Hotel, and the 8th Dr. Sun Yat-sen Oration was delivered by Prof. Anthony Dixon, who spoke on the topic: “New Challenges in Medical Education”.
 - Dr. Donald K.T. Li, our Vice-President, was appointed by the Government as Consultant in Primary Care.
 - Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee was appointed Consultant in General Practice/Family Medicine jointly by WHO (World Health Organisation) and the Department of Science,

Technology and Education of the Ministry of Health of the People's Republic of China to tour and lecture in the Heilongjiang Province, particularly in Harbin, Jiamusi and Mutanjiang, between 24th April to 21st May 1997. At the end of the consultancy, Dr. Lee submitted a Mission Report to the Regional Office for the Western Pacific of the World Health Organisation in Manila with copy to the Ministry of Health, People's Republic of China, in which Dr. Lee strongly recommended that, for the health scene in China to improve, the solidly-entrenched hospital-based health delivery system must be transformed into and be replaced by a cost-effective community-based system. This could only be achieved if health-care providers (including doctors and nurses) in the four different tiers of clinics/infirmaries/hospitals in villages, townships, counties, and cities and administrative centres in the whole country were to be educated and trained in the concepts and principles of General Practice/Family Medicine.

- Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee was invited to the Jiamusi University in Heilongjiang on 9th May 1997 by the University President who appointed him as the first Visiting Professor in the new Jiamusi University. *(Incidentally, it was interesting to note that this President was one of the delegates from China who attended the WONCA World Conference in Hong Kong in 1995, and was one of Dr. Lee's dinner guests at his "Presidential Reception" for WONCA delegates in his house in Hong Lok Yuen during the conference).*
- A special resolution to change the name of the College from "The Hong Kong College of General Practitioners" to "The Hong Kong College of Family Physicians" was passed at the Extraordinary General Meeting of the College held on June 19, 1997, and the new name would become legally effective on July 4, 1997.
- July 1st 1997 – with the sovereignty reverted back to Mainland China, Hong Kong became the Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China.
- The Hospital Authority reversed its former policy towards Family Medicine by announcing in mid-year the allocation of some twenty posts for the training of the hospital-based component of Family Medicine, and assigned to the College the major role of training them in our vocational training programmes, and to allow them to take the College examinations after completion of training. *After twenty years of mighty efforts, struggle and toil, our work had finally borne fruit.*
- Our President, Dr. Stephen Foo, led a strong delegation to the Regional WONCA Conference in Seoul, Korea, in August.
- The Research Committee had published a number of articles and presented three papers for oral presentation and three for poster display at the recent WONCA Regional Conference in Seoul, Korea.
- A "Family Medicine Festival" – a series of public events to introduce the discipline of Family Medicine to the general public – organized to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the College – had its "Opening Ceremony" on 8th August 1997 at the Hong Kong Shangrila Hotel, and followed immediately by a medical forum "香港現今傳染病趨勢 — 家庭醫生的角色". In its wake was held at Times Square in Causeway Bay on 9th to 10th August a 2-day public exhibition (including panel exhibition, video viewing, health pamphlet distribution, game booths, health screenings, free medical consultations on site, etc), to be followed by the third part of the Festival comprising six public lectures spreading from August until October.
- The Board of Vocational Training and Standards was overburdened with work, catering for the increasing number of basic trainees as well as those who had enrolled for higher training programmes, but still managed to maintain our usual high standards in vocational training.
- The Quality Assurance and Accreditation Committee had updated its regulations in line with changing requirements. The Education Committee on Academy of Medicine Affairs served as a very important link between our College and the Academy in providing first hand knowledge of changes in education matters.



- “The Hong Kong Practitioner”, the official Journal of the Hong Kong College of Family Physicians, continued to remain one of the most popular medical journals in Hong Kong, and was now indexed in *EMBASE/Excerpta Medica*, making it one of only two family medicine journals indexed in an international database in the Asia-Pacific Region, and also one of the very few among Hong Kong medical journals which held this distinction. A recent reader survey also revealed that our readers were spending an average of over 60 minutes on each issue of *HK Pract* compared to 16-30 minutes in 1995.
 - Due to the marked increase in the number of doctors from HA hospitals joining our basic vocational training programme, the number of basic trainees had risen to 46 and the number of higher trainees to 21. Concurrently, the number of community-based training centres was increased to 19, and the hospital-based training centres to 13 hospitals – the newly accredited hospitals included Princess Margaret Hospital, Kwong Wah Hospital, Yan Chai Hospital and Tuen Mun Hospital.
- 1998
- A third change of Leadership in the College – Dr. Stephen Foo retired, and Dr. Donald K.T. Li became the College President.
 - The Hong Kong Academy of Medicine revised its regulation concerning nomination to its fellowship. After September 1998, all nominations require defined supervised training – thus rescinding Bye-law 16 of the Academy’s nomination procedure, which allows for an alternative route to Academy Fellowship. This rescission of Bye-law 16 was most detrimental to our Specialty since traditional Family Medicine never had any “structured supervised training”. The College was looking for ways and means to alleviate the situation.
 - The 11th Conjoint HKCFP/RACGP Fellowship Conferment Ceremony was held at the Hong Kong Renaissance Hotel on 26th April, 1998, and the 9th Dr. Sun Yat-sen Oration was delivered by Dr. David Fang, who spoke on the topic: “Family Medicine, the Academy and Healthcare Policy”.
 - The 15th WONCA World Conference was held from 12th to 14th June 1998 in Dublin, Ireland. A strong delegation from the Hong Kong College led by our President, Dr. Stephen K.S. Foo (including WONCA Past-President Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee), attended the Conference to witness the transfer of authority from Dr. Goran Sjonell of Sweden to Dr. Robert W. Higgins of the United States, who was installed as the new WONCA President, and our President, Dr. Stephen K.S. Foo, was elected to be a member of the all-powerful WONCA Nominating Committee.
 - The Second End Point Assessment for those who had completed their higher training programme was successfully held in February through March 1998. Our External Assessor in this exercise was Prof. Robin Fraser from the University of Leicester of the United Kingdom. This would be last of “End Point” assessments. From 1999, the “End Point Assessment” would be changed to “Exit Assessment”, and would be administered centrally by the Board of Examinations.
 - Our President, Dr. Stephen K.S. Foo, and WONCA Past-President, Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee, were invited by Dr. Dai Yu Wei, President of the Chinese Society of General Practice, to Beijing for a one-day visit on October 15th 1998 to discuss the prospects of China holding a WONCA World Conference. The consensus was that China should gain more experience before embarking on a world event, with the result that China made a successful bid to host the forthcoming WONCA Asia-Pacific Regional Conference in Beijing on 3rd – 9th November 2003. To give a helping hand, a number of College members consented to serve in China’s Host Organising Committee, which had already met once when a Hong Kong delegation was in Kumming in July 2002 for a “4-party Meeting” hosted by the Chinese Medical Association, and another one is scheduled to meet in Hong Kong on March 21, 2003 during our current Jubilee Celebrations.

- During the current year, the number of hospital-based training centres was increased to 14, and the community-based center to 24. Recently accredited hospitals included Pok Oi Hospital and Kowloon/Kwai Chung Hospital. There were 21 candidates in the higher training programme and 61 candidates in the basic training programme.
 - The last revision of our training Handbook was done in 1994. In view of rapid multifarious changes in the professional training scene, the College had found it necessary to completely revise the Handbook. The revision of the Handbook was made possible by the contribution and dedication of Dr. Chan Kin Ling and Dr. Cindy L.K. Lam.
 - Our College training programme was last accredited in 1996. In order to maintain international reputation of our training programme, we invited the Chief Censor (Dr. John Scott) and the National Director of Training (Dr. Richard Nowotny) of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners to re-accredit our training programme. Their re-accreditation process was completed in September 1998.
- 1999
- The College had moved to its new premises in the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine Building, but would still retain the old premises in Duke of Windsor Building as a "Town Office" for the time being, pending more discussions by members as to how to put it to the best use.
 - The College took an active role in defining the standard of primary health care by putting forward to the public and members of our profession the "Primary Medical Care Certificate Assessment" (PMCCA) as a quality assurance exercise. The effectiveness and usefulness of this document could only be determined with the passage of time.
 - The College invited the Chief Editor of the British Medical Journal, Dr. Richard Smith, to be the Plenary Speaker in the first medical conference of the Academy and afterwards to give a training workshop to the Editors of our Journal. It was a valuable experience.
 - A consultative meeting on primary care in Hong Kong was held in March 1999. The main conclusions were:
 1. Primary-care-led medical service is the most cost-effective system of medical care.
 2. No country can possibly afford the enormous financial burden of a hospital-based medical care system.
 3. Government support in community-based training of family doctors is the usual practice in many countries.
 4. Direct observation of consultation and practice is an effective way of testing standard.
 - The 12th Conjoint HKCFP/RACGP Fellowship Conferment Ceremony was held on 25th April, 1999 at the Grand Hall of the Academy of Medicine Building, during which the Honorary Fellowship of the Hong Kong College was conferred on Dr. Natalis Yuen. The 10th Dr. Sun Yat-sen Oration was delivered by Dr. Margaret Chan, the Director of Health, who spoke on the topic: "Primary Health Care in the Next Millennium".
 - The Harvard Report on "Health Care System" for Hong Kong was finally released in May. The need for Primary Care and Family Medicine to be developed was emphasized. Our College was consulted and College Council Members attended meetings with the Legco and Health and Welfare Bureau of Hong Kong. In addition, our President, Dr. Donald K.T. Li was personally invited to address the Central Policy Unit to present view-points of the Hong Kong College.
 - Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee was appointed "Visiting Professor in General Practice" by the University of Birmingham in June 1999. He delivered his professorial Inaugural Lecture on the topic: "Family Medicine, Personal Health and Political Duty" at



Lecture Hall 6 in the Medical School of the University of Birmingham on 2nd June 1999. During his stay at the University, he was the house-guest of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. and Mrs. Maxwell Irving.

- The new revised training Handbook of the College was approved by the Academy, and the new policy therein contained would be fully implemented and effectively applied as from 1st July 1999.
- The training programme of the College had been re-accredited by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, and which re-accreditation would be valid for 5-years until 2003.
- The number of hospital-based training centres was increased to 17 and that of community-based training centres was 30. Trainees in higher vocational training numbered 12 and trainees in basic training numbered 80. Hospitals newly accredited for hospital-based training centres included Nam Long Hospital, Pok Oi Hospital, Castle Peak Hospital and Kowloon Hospital.
- Our President, Dr. Donald K.T. Li, paid a courtesy call on Sir. Denis Pereira Gray, the President of the Royal College of General Practitioners, in July 1999 in London to discuss matters of mutual interest and also to invite him to be a guest of the College to speak at the Scientific Meeting of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine in Hong Kong the following year. As a matter of interest, Sir. Denis Pereira Gray is concurrently Chairman of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges in the United Kingdom, being the first practising general practitioner to have achieved this distinction.
- Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee was invited to address the “China-Canada Joint Forum on Best Practices in Hospital Management” organized jointly by Chinese hospitals/managers and Mount Sinai Hospital University of Toronto of Canada in Beijing on October 29, 1999, and decided to make use of the occasion “to sell” to the large gathering of managers and senior executives of major hospitals in China the principles and concepts of General Practice/Family Medicine. The Forum was held at the Si-yuen Hotel in Beijing and was attended by well over 300 persons including senior officials of the Ministry of Health and the Chinese Medical Association. The title of Dr. Lee’s address was “Concept of General Practice as a Model of Quality Patient Care”.

- 2000
- Dr. Donald K.T. Li was elected a member of WONCA Asia-Pacific Regional Council.
 - Not since the 14th WONCA World Conference in June 1995 had the Hong Kong College played host to a full complement of WONCA Executives. It was therefore with pleasure that the Hong Kong College welcome WONCA’s decision to hold its Executive Meeting in January 2000 in Hong Kong. Other than making use of the occasion to exchange news and views with WONCA Executives, the College Council took pains to arrange appropriate social programmes for our distinguished visitors, highlighted by a buffet-dinner in a Private Box at the Shatin Jockey Club on a “Race Night” hosted by our President, Dr. Donald K.T. Li, to which function was invited a number of prominent Hong Kong citizens and government officials, including the Director of Health, Dr. Margaret Chan.
 - The 13th Conjoint HKCFP/RACGP Fellowship Conferment Ceremony was held on 30th April 2000 at the main Hall of the Academy of Medicine Building, and the 11th Dr. Sun Yat-sen Oration was delivered by Dr. Clarke Munro on the topic: “The Consultation – Reflections on 40 years in General Practice”.
 - The College sent a delegation in June, 2000 to attend the WONCA Asia-Pacific Regional Conference in New Zealand, during which it was decided to publish a WONCA Asia-Pacific Regional Journal. Dr. Lam Tai Pong, Editor of the College Journal, was appointed the Chief Editor of this international journal.

- To allow more doctors to benefit from vocational training, apart from the conventional basic training, the College had begun to explore the possibility of part-time basic training which programme would be submitted to the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine for formal approval. Since Bye-law 16 of the Academy's nomination procedure for academy fellowship was rescinded in September 1998, this part-time basic training programme could offer prospective candidates an alternative venue. The College hoped to implement this programme in early 2001.
- International Classification of Primary Care (ICPC-2) is an important disease classification code for research in primary care, and was WONCA's major contribution in this field during the past two decades. The College had formally signed an agreement with WONCA to translate and produce this code in Chinese. The translation of this classification into Chinese was made possible by the support and contributions from Prof. Gu Yuan and her colleagues in Beijing, and its promulgation would greatly facilitate research in General Practice in China. The translated version was expected to be available for distribution later this year.
- The number of hospital-based training centres was increased to 24 and that of community-based training centres was 39. Trainees in higher vocational training numbered 15 and trainees in basic training numbered 154. Hospitals recently accredited to be hospital-based training centres included Fung Yiu King Hospital, Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital, Hong Kong Buddhist Hospital, Haven of Hope Hospital, Prince of Wales Hospital and North District Hospital.
- CMA Study Tours – 9 delegates from the Chinese Medical Association visited Hong Kong for a study tour on August 1-3, 1999, and 8 CMA delegates visited Hong Kong for the same purpose on June 26-28, 2000 respectively. Our College arranged the delegates to visit the Family Medicine Clinic of Hong Kong University and the Department of Community and Family Medicine in Chinese University of Hong Kong. They were given a conducted tour of the Academy of Medicine Building, and briefings on Hong Kong's medical system by College Council Members.
- The College played host to Sir. Donald Irvine, President of the General Medical Council of U.K., and Sir. Denis Pereira Gray, President of the Royal College of General Practitioners and Chairman of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, who were invited to Hong Kong as special honoured guests of the College to speak at the Scientific Meeting of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine in October 2000. As a matter of interest, both Sir. Donald and Sir. Denis were the first practising general practitioners in England who were elevated to such exalted positions in the medical hierarchy in the United Kingdom.

2001

- It is pertinent to reproduce hereunder what Dr. Donald K.T. Li wrote in his President's Message for the Annual Report 2000-2001:-

"The long awaited consultation document on Health Care Reform, 'Lifelong Investment in Health' was finally released this year. For those who have devoted their time and effort in developing family medicine, it was worth the wait. We finally see what we have preached all along in this document; that the effectiveness of primary medical care can be enhanced by the promotion and adoption of Family Medicine practice, recognized as a specialized discipline of medicine that provides primary, continuing and comprehensive care to an individual and the family in their own environment. We applaud the objectives stated in the paper which is to provide comprehensive and lifelong holistic health care which is humane, and that care and comfort to the individual is as valued as medicine and technology based interventions".



- The brand-new part-time vocational training programme, put together last year through the initiation and innovation of Dr. Lam Tsan Augustine, Chairman of the Board of Vocational Training and Standard, and his hard-working Board members, was formulated and adopted by the Academy of Medicine. After Bye-Law 16 was rescinded, four years of basic training plus an intermediate examination and two years of higher training including the exit assessment were required for the nomination to the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine Fellowship. The College recognized the need of some experienced members, who might possess degrees equivalent to our intermediate examination, found difficulties in joining our full time vocational training program. A part-time vocational training program was therefore designed to enable those who worked in their own practice to accomplish the training requirements as laid down by the Academy. This part-time training programme gives more flexibility to those who aspire to be an Academy Fellow.
- The first Assessment Enhancement Course for helping members to prepare for the Conjoint Fellowship Executive held last-year was very successful and received favourable comments from those who took part. The second course was started in May and more tutors were recruited to meet the growing demands and challenges.
- Commencing March 2001, the College set up a brand-new monthly Council Member-on-Duty system. The objective of this system is to provide an alternative and convenient pathway to receive questions, suggestions and complaints from fellow members.
- The first “Certificate Course in Internal Medicine” ended in April. This educational and practical Course was highly successful and popular, thanks to the enthusiastic support of the Hong Kong College of Physicians. Participants were updated with new advances in medicine which otherwise would take them a tedious time to search through voluminous textbooks and journals. In view of the good response, a second course would be launched latter in the year.
- The number of hospital-based training centres was increased to 26 and that of community-based centres was 48. Trainees in higher vocational training numbered 26 and trainees in basic training numbered 230. Hospitals recently accredited to be hospital-based training centres included Tseung Kwan O Hospital and Tai Po Hospital.
- At the 14th Conjoint HKCFP/RACGP Fellowship Conferment Ceremony held on 29th April 2001 at the Grand Hall of the Academy Building, an Honorary Fellowship of the College was conferred on Dr. Timothy Flanagan from Australia. The 12th Dr. Sun Yat-sen Oration was delivered by Dr. the Hon. Leong Che Hung, President of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, who spoke on the subject: “From Modern China to Modern Medicine”.
- The 16th WONCA World Conference was held from 13th – 17th May, 2001 at the International Convention Centre in Durban, South Africa, when the high office of WONCA Presidency was passed from Dr. Robert W. Higgins of the United States to Dr. Michael Boland of Ireland. Regrettably, for the first time since 1978, the Hong Kong College was not officially represented in the 16th WONCA World Conference.
- The next (17th) WONCA World Conference will be held from 13th – 17th October, 2004 in Orlando, Florida, when the current WONCA President-Elect, Prof. Bruce L.W. Sparks of South Africa, will assume office.
- Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee was invited to attend the Degree Congregation Ceremony of the University of Birmingham on 18th July 2001 to receive the award of “**Doctor of Laws *honoris causa***” from their Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Maxwell Irving. Fortuitously, receiving the same Hon. LL.D. Degree on the same day from Birmingham University was none other than the former Governor of Hong Kong, the Hon. Christopher Patten.

- The College is pleased to announce that a “Diploma Course in Medical Ultrasound” jointly organized by HKCFP and HKU SPACE (Hong Kong University School of Professional and Continuing Education) is in the process of being finalised and should be ready to be offered to members early next year.
- 2002
- The College continued to maintain international contacts and to upkeep our standards of training and education in family medicine. Renowned overseas scholars were invited to our college activities.
 - In October 2001, Dr. Howard Watts and Dr. Natalie Old, external examiners from Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP), were invited to our Conjoint Fellowship Examination.
 - In January 2002, the Director of Quality Assurance (QA) and Continuing Professional Development Programs (CPD), RACGP, Dr. Peter Maguire, came and looked into our quality assurance programme. With his positive support, the reciprocal agreement between the RACGP and the HKCFP regarding QA and CPD was continued.
 - The 15th Conjoint HKCFP/RACGP Fellowship Conferment Ceremony was held on 10th March 2002 at the Grand Hall of the Academy of Medicine Building. Renowned overseas scholars invited to attend this ceremony included Dr. Paul Hemming, President of RACGP, and Prof. Robin Fraser, Professor of General Practice, University of Leicester, who was conferred the Honorary Fellowship of the College. The 13th Dr. Sun Yat-sen Oration was given by our Honorary Graduate, Professor Robin C. Fraser, who spoke on the subject: “The Core of Medicine”.
 - April 2002 – our President, Dr. Donald K.T. Li, led a delegation of College members comprising Drs. John Chung, Wong Hung Wai, Ip Kit Kuen, Eileen Tse, Yiu Yuk Kwan, Lawrence Leung, Dorothy To and Li Fan Lan to attend the Asia-Pacific Regional WONCA Conference in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia.
 - June 2002 – our President, Dr. Donald K.T. Li, led a delegation of College members comprising Drs. Lam Tsan, Leung Koon Chit, Li Fan Lan, To Kit Yuk, Tse Yuen Yee, Wong Hung Wai and Yiu Yuk Kwan to attend the WONCA European Regional Conference in London, during which the College delegation met the President of the Royal College of General Practitioners, Dame Lesley Southgate, to exchange view points on family medicine and standards. The possibility of the accrediting of our College examination towards MRCGP (International) was discussed.
 - Our President, Dr. Donald K.T. Li, was invited by the Elderly Commission of Hong Kong to be the Moderator at a Symposium entitled “Challenges and Opportunities of an Ageing Population” held in the Exhibition and Convention Centre on June 8, 2002. The Symposium was attended by over 1,000 participants.
 - July 2002 – Our President, Dr. Donald K.T. Li, our Founding President, Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee, and many other delegates attended the “4-party Meeting” at Kunming, hosted by the Chinese Medical Association. The meeting focused on the preparatory work for the prospective WONCA Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting to be held in Beijing from 3rd – 9th November, 2003. Many members of our College were nominated to serve on various Committees of the Organising Committee of the Chinese Society of General Practice, who will be hosting the event.
 - Last year, our College started to offer structural diploma programmes to College members. The first one was the “Diploma in Medical Ultrasound” which was jointly organised with HKU SPACE (Hong Kong University School of Professional and Continuing Education). This course included a distance learning theoretical component offered by the University of Ulster, teaching and practice modules by local specialists as well as a training workshop in the Guangdong Provincial Hospital



of TCM (二沙島醫院) in Guangzhou. This course offered a precious opportunity for general practitioners to learn both knowledge and practical skills of medical ultrasound. The first batch of students had graduated in August 2002.

- Building on this success, the College was about to embark on the task of offering to members a “Diploma Course in Family Medicine” in collaboration with the Department of General Practice, Monash University of Australia. This course is aimed to strike the balance of theoretical knowledge and practical skills of Family Medicine.
- The Board of Examinations had a busy year in 2002. Nearly a hundred members applied to sit the current Conjoint Fellowship Examination. The markedly increased demand made it necessary to modify the examination format. This new format will be introduced in 2003.
- The number of trainees in higher vocational training is 32, and those in basic training 267, of whom one-third are currently being trained in community-based centres and two-thirds are being trained in hospital-based centres. The number of community-based centres are 64, and that of hospital-based training centres are 29, of which the recently accredited hospital-based training centres included Hong Kong Eye Hospital, Cheshire Home Shatin, Pamela Youde Eastern Hospital and Tung Wah Eastern Hospital.
- On the occasion of its 90th Anniversary, the Peking University Health Science Centre (the former Beijing Medical University) organized a series of celebratory and commemorative functions, amongst one of which was the “*Presidents’ and Deans’ Forum*” on October 25, 2002, when Presidents and Deans of major Universities and Medical Schools in China and around the world were invited to Peking University to participate in a symposium on the theme: “*Globolisation of Medical Education*”. Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee was honoured to be invited to be the Principal Speaker. He spoke on the title: “Thoughts on Medical Education – Tough Choices, Hard Thinking”. More importantly, he purposely had two appendices attached to the copy of his printed speech (in both Chinese and English):- (1) his proposal to transform the health delivery system in China from the existing hospital-based one to that of community-based; and (2) his recommendation to completely revamp the system of medical undergraduate teaching in China.
- Ever since 1987, when Conjoint HKCFP/RACGP Fellowship Conferment Ceremonies were held annually in Hong Kong, the Hong Kong College had been privileged to have Australian representatives, in many instances in the persons of their College Presidents, at College Conferment Ceremonies in Hong Kong to confer Fellowships of the Royal Australian College, there was never the need for reciprocity because of the absence of similar arrangements at Australia College ceremonies. Therefore, it was a nice and friendly gesture for our President, Dr. Donald K.T. Li, accompanied by the Chairman of Q&A Committee, Dr. Chan Kwok Wai, to attend the Fellowship Conferment Ceremony and Scientific Meeting of the Royal Australia College of General Practitioners in Perth in October 2002. Over and above the obvious desirable effect of further cementing the already close relationship between the two Colleges, Dr. Li’s trip in the company of Dr. Chan had the added advantage of reinforcing the understanding and mutual recognition of the essence of quality assurance and standards of fellowship examinations.
- Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee, in his capacity as a member of the Council of the University of Hong Kong, and as a member of the Board of Management of the HKU School of Chinese Medicine, was invited to be the Principal Speaker on the occasion of the presentation of certificates to the historically significant first batch of graduates to be conferred the degree of “*Bachelor of Chinese Medicine*” in the University of Hong Kong at the Loke Yew Hall on January 21, 2003.

HKCFP Commemorative Brochure

Insert – March 2003

In the process of his globe-trotting exercises in the early '70's to canvass on behalf of the Hong Kong Medical Association for international recognition of our local medical association as an independent professional organisation, Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee came into contact with many people around the world, amongst whom were members of the top echelons of WONCA and leaders of its member colleges/academics. To gather information on these "WONCA Connections" in those early days, Dr. Lee had to get in touch with three "generations" of WONCA "Hon. Secs." in the persons of Dr. David Game in Adelaide, Prof. Wesley Fabb in Melbourne and Dr. Alfred Loh in Singapore. That was why by the time Dr. Lee had finished documenting the College's attendances at the 8th WONCA and 9th WONCA World Conferences in 1978 and 1980 respectively, the transcripts were too late to be included for publication in the main body of the Commemorative Brochure. However, since the records are of general interest and serve to fill material gaps in the history of the College, they are herewith reproduced to be distributed as an "INSERT" for general information:-

8th WONCA World Conference in Montreux, Switzerland, in 1978

- The deep debt of gratitude that the Hong Kong College owed to the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners for their support, assistance and advice in the process of the establishment of our College could not be overstated, but it was the genuine friendship to our members and the enlightened commitment to our College development of their then President (in the '70's), Dr. David Game, that we should be particularly thankful. Incidentally, Dr. Game was a pioneer of General Practice/ Family Medicine and one of the founders of WONCA, and in the '70's, its Hon. Secretary-Treasurer. Under Dr. Game's influence and encouragement, Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee was introduced to and become involved with the "inner sanctum" of its controlling body – the WONCA Executives – even before the "birth" of the College. As a matter of fact, one of the first decisions of the Hong Kong College after its incorporation was to become a member of the world body, World Organisation of National Colleges and Academies and Academic Associations of General Practitioners/Family Physicians – WONCA, also known as "World Organisation of Family Doctors".
- It was not surprising, therefore, that "1978" found the President of the young College, Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee, and one of its Council Members, Dr. Emmanuel L.P. Chang, in Montreux, Switzerland, to attend the 8th WONCA World Conference. It was most unfortunate that the Hong Kong delegates had their first taste of a "WONCA World Conference" when it was the most chaotic and disorganised meeting in WONCA's history. Whereas previous "WONCA World Conferences" were always held in countries with national colleges who inevitably would host the conference, the meeting in Montreux was an experiment by WONCA Executives to organise one in a "neutral" country without a national college (in this case, Switzerland) with the help of an international conference organizer under the supervision of the President of a member college – in this instance, the Chairman

of the Organising Committee was Dr. Stuart Carne, the President of the Royal College of General Practitioners. The result was disastrous; but it did have its hilarious moment when someone hit on the idea of featuring one of Switzerland's "national treasures" by bringing a live cow into the Banquet Hall where the Conference Dinner was being served. The animal promptly emptied its bowels right in the center of the magnificent and stately Ballroom. Fortunately, all these mishaps did not in any way damper the camaraderie spirit of the international gathering, nor to any extent diminish the academic and professional value of the wealth of scientific papers presented at the conference.

- At the 8th WONCA World Conference held in 1978 in Montreux, Switzerland, Dr. Ed. Kowalewski of the United States took over the WONCA Presidency from Dr. Don Rice of Canada, and Dr. Arthur Hofmans of the Netherlands was elected WONCA President-Elect. Dr. Don Rice of Canada became the WONCA Immediate Past-President.

9th WONCA World Conference in New Orleans, U.S.A., in 1980

- Our President, Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee, and Council Members, Dr. Henry F.K. Li and Dr. Natalis Yuen, attended the 9th WONCA World Conference held in New Orleans, U.S.A. in 1980. The Conference was hosted by the American Academy of Family Physicians and was held in conjunction with the Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Academy. Even though the number of WONCA delegates to New Orleans were under a thousand, the convergence of some 6,000 members of the American Academy upon the meeting halls, seminar rooms, discussion groups, poster sessions, etc., made the occasion quite an impressive one. One minor episode at the conference was worth recording. Dr. Natalis Yuen recalled that after attending a lecture on "Patient Compliance", Dr. Henry F.K. Li said to him, "I never realised 'Patient Compliance' has such a large scope and involves so many aspects of patient management". This is one glaring example taken from a real-life incident over twenty years ago involving one of our Founding Members to demonstrate how members today could gain from attending similar meetings, especially international meetings.
- During the 9th WONCA World Conference in New Orleans, U.S.A., in 1980, Dr. Ed. Kowalewski of the United States handed the "reins of government" of WONCA Presidency over to Dr. Arthur Hofmans of the Netherlands, who was installed as WONCA President. At the same Conference, Dr. David Game of Australia was elected President-Elect, and Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee of Hong Kong was elected WONCA "Independent Member-at-large", a member of WONCA Executives - the supreme governing body of WONCA. The Immediate Past-President was Dr. Ed. Kowalewski.
- At the same Conference, WONCA Council deliberated at length on the need to lengthen the time-interval between World Conferences from the existing practice of holding it once every two years. The concerns expressed were (1) the rapid increase in number of national colleges applying to join WONCA; (2) too frequent world meetings tend to disrupt internal activities of member colleges; and (3) WONCA Secretariat may need more time to prepare for world meetings with increased memberships. After a lengthy debate, WONCA Council decided that as from 1980, WONCA World Conferences would be held once every three years.