

Message

Since its establishment in 1977, the College has made important contribution to the introduction and development of family medicine in Hong Kong. During these vibrant years, the College has spared no effort in promoting the important role of family medicine in health care. It is also committed to enhancing professional standards by organizing training courses for members and encouraging continuing education. Its programmes have provided practical and structured teaching in family medicine for general practitioners.

The public health care system in Hong Kong is facing many new challenges. With an ageing population and increasing prevalence rate of chronic diseases, there is a growing need for health care services. Family physicians are expected to play a prominent role in the future service delivery model. Primary care is not just about the curing of diseases. It also emphasizes continuing, comprehensive, and holistic medical care for individuals. Family doctors also play a gatekeeping role for both individuals' health care and the health care system, preventing unnecessary investigations and treatments.

With an enhanced relationship between the family physician and the patient, much more can be done to provide preventive care and whole-person care. The Government looks forward to working closely with the medical profession in promoting the role of family doctors.

On the happy occasion of its 30th Anniversary, I would like to congratulate The Hong Kong College of Family Physicians for its distinguished achievements in the past and wish it every success in the years to come.



Dr York Y N CHOW
Secretary for Food and Health





Congratulatory Message 30th Anniversary of The Hong Kong College of Family Physicians

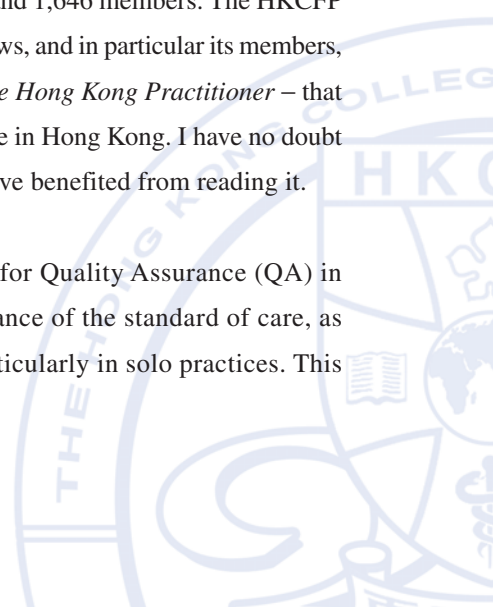
It gives me great pleasure, on behalf of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, to congratulate the Hong Kong College of Family Physicians on its 30th Anniversary following its transformation from the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners.

The Hong Kong College of General Practitioners (HKCGP) incorporated in 1977 has been in the forefront of life-long learning. One of its Objects says, 'To encourage and assist persons (whether members of the College or not) to arrange, take part, undergo, undertake and carry out training courses, schools, seminars, symposia, conferences, and other activities in relation to medical, surgical, scientific or other fields of knowledge which the College considers are calculated to improve the knowledge and skill in those fields or any of them of the persons taking part in them or to extend knowledge and raise standards of learning generally in those fields or any of them.' The HKCGP has the vision and mission of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) that is so important to individual medical practitioners and the field of medicine. Their foresight is to be saluted.

This particular Object has several important components that I can see. First, it acknowledges the importance not only of knowledge but also skill in the practice of medicine. Second, it highlights the variety of learning activities from passive to active. Third, it embraces the whole range of specialties in the field of medicine. Fourth, it recognizes the importance of standard and the maintenance of standard. Fifth, it refers to the practice of an individual as well as that of a team. These are all pertinent if the Medical Profession aspires to provide the best holistic health care to the Public, for which I hold the view that we are all obligated to do so.

Since the HKCGP became one of the Founding Colleges of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, the Hong Kong College of Family Physicians (HKCFP) has continued its work according to its Objects. The HKCFP has now 414 Fellows and 1,646 members. The HKCFP is to be commended for its never tiring effort to assist its Fellows, and in particular its members, in CPD. It was the first College to have its own journal – *The Hong Kong Practitioner* – that provides a wide range of articles most relevant to the practice in Hong Kong. I have no doubt that many practitioners in the private sector in particular have benefited from reading it.

It is also the first College to give credit and certification for Quality Assurance (QA) in clinic practice. This is a very important step in the assurance of the standard of care, as peer review is an effective means to improve practice particularly in solo practices. This



QA activity is a voluntary one, and I whole-heartedly salute and congratulate those colleagues who have participated in it. They have been honest with their desire to improve, confident of their work, and not been intimidated by audit. They realize that the objective of such peer review is not a punitive one, but a formative one that will enable them to perform even better. This is both an ethical and moral attitude that we medical practitioners must possess, for we are the profession that much trust has been thrust upon and we need to prove we are worthy of it.

The HKCFP has also put in much effort to improve the role of medicine in the Community, or medicine outside the Hospital. The move is an important one for patients who must have the continuous care (or seamless care) in the Community setting that is of standard after they have been discharged from hospitals. I believe Community care is psychologically better and less threatening to patients too. I look forward to the HKCFP and its 1,700 Fellows and members working hand in hand with various Colleges and professional Societies in drawing up the health-care plan and scheme that is most conducive to the health and welfare of the people in Hong Kong.

The HKCFP has an illustrious history for 30 years gaining respect not only locally but also abroad. It has been very active in promoting and improving the concept of primary care and family medicine. With its multi-faceted activities I am certain that the achievement of the HKCFP in the years to come will be glorious, but more importantly, will be of benefit to the Medical Profession as well as the people of Hong Kong.

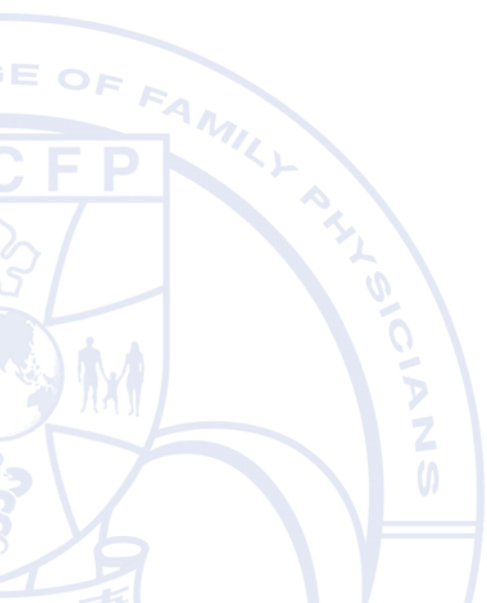
May I take this opportunity to wish the Hong Kong College of Family Physicians every success in its future endeavours.



Professor Grace Tang

President

Hong Kong Academy of Medicine



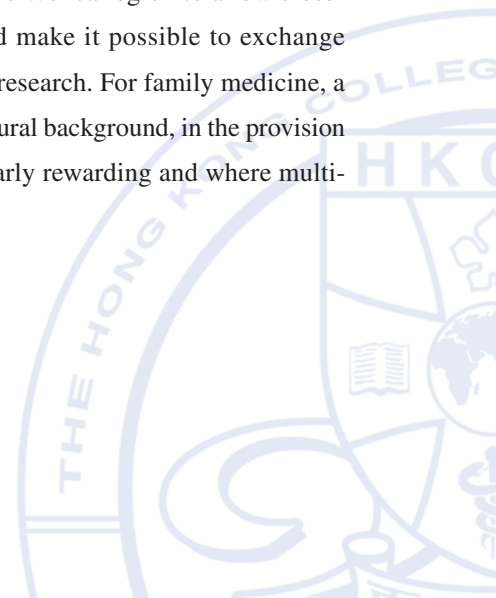


Congratulations from The World Organization of Family Doctors

The celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Hong Kong College of Family Physicians is a significant occasion. Of course for the College itself and for the patients in Hong Kong – it marks three decades working for better health of people and the Hong Kong community. But the Hong Kong College has always had an impact far beyond the borders of its constituency. The thirty year history of the College has been thirty years of academic family medicine development from a global perspective. My congratulations with this Anniversary, from Wonca, the World Organization of Family Doctors, is a tribute to your lasting and hugely important contribution to family medicine around the World.

Medicine, and with it family medicine, is seeing ongoing changes. In that respect, the change of name of the College from 'General Practitioners' to 'Family Physicians' is more than a symbol or word game. Health care delivery requires the highest degree of professionalism at the critical point where patients with undifferentiated signs and symptoms seek medical care. At this point, 'trivial' and self-limited illness must be differentiated from major disease – often on the basis of still difficult to value complaints. Critical decisions depend on this for patients' medical life histories, their wellbeing and that of their families and with substantial consequences for the health care system. This is a key function that does no longer require a 'generalist' in the sense of a jack of all trades, but a 'generalist' in terms of a highly sophisticated specialist in judging signs and symptoms, without a organ-system personal preference, able to handle the clinical uncertainty that comes with it and capable of dealing with patients as individual human beings, irrespective of their particular background. This is the 'Family Physician' the Hong Kong College has embraced for its mission, in order to serve the health care needs of the Hong Kong population.

The changing face of medicine makes international collaboration ever more important and this requires a change in strategic operations of academic family medicine. The Hong Kong College was at the core of the formation of the Asia Pacific Wonca region to allow closer collaboration within the Asia Pacific region. This should make it possible to exchange innovations in patient care, in teaching and training and in research. For family medicine, a particular issue is to be responsive to patients' social and cultural background, in the provision of care. This is where international exchanges are particularly rewarding and where multi-cultural Hong Kong again has a genuine strength to play.



Nowhere has the contribution of the Hong Kong College been more tangible than in opening China to the World of Family Medicine. Wonca's ambition of a family doctor in every community in the world, and provision of academic family medicine outreach to all these practitioners, is a formidable one. The vastness of mainland China and its rapid socio-economical and demographic changes in particular challenge this ambition. But small steps at a time, persistence and quiet networking have enabled Wonca to build its collaboration with China over the past decades. Dr Peter Lee, during his term as Wonca president, provided the vital initial leadership, but the Hong Kong College as whole has stood by its determination ever since.

The 30th anniversary this year marks 30 years of leadership in the Hong Kong community and in the international community of academic family medicine. The impact the Hong Kong College of Family Physicians has on the development of family medicine and primary care measures way beyond its actual size in numbers of members. In that respect is the 30 years anniversary just a moment in passing, and we can confidently look forward to a productive College in the decades that lay before us.

It gives me great pleasure to add to the compliments of the World Organization of Family Doctors Wonca, my personal congratulations and best wishes as well. I have had the immense privilege of visiting Hong Kong on quite a number of occasions and enjoy the College's proverbial hospitality. Many of the College leadership have become personal friends over the years, and highly valued allies in addressing the challenges we are faced with. It is a comfort to know Wonca, and I myself will be able to count this thriving ally on our side in the years before us.

Because the past is the prelude of the times ahead and the true significance of celebrating an anniversary is to prepare for that future. On behalf of the Wonca, on behalf of the family doctors of the World, I congratulate the Hong Kong College of Family Physicians with its 30th anniversary and wish it a bright future.



Professor Chris van Weel
President of WONCA





Thirtieth Anniversary of The Founding of The Hong Kong College of Family Physicians

Congratulations to the President and Council, Members, Staff, and Well-wishers of the Hong Kong College of Family Physicians on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the founding of your College.

It was in 1977 that a group of pioneers led by Dr CY Lee implemented the vision of a College for general practitioners in the land. I note from the website of the College that the objective is to establish and maintain a high standard of skill and practice of Family Medicine in Hong Kong.

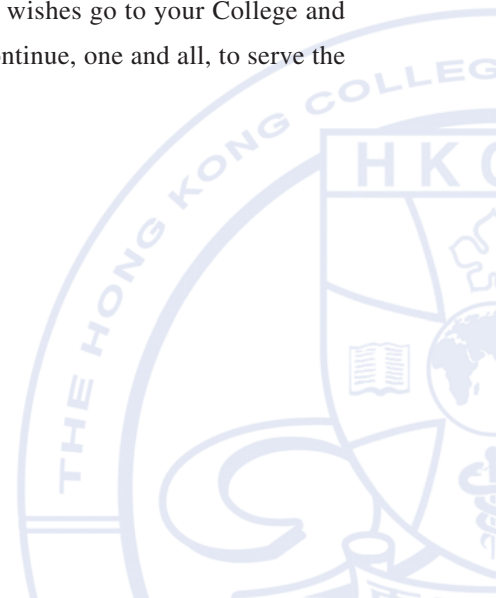
In the last thirty years a lot has been done. Today, the Hong Kong College of Family Physicians has a formal vocational training programme for postgraduate doctors who intend to pursue a career in Family Medicine; has numerous courses to hone the knowledge and skills of family physicians; and has also inspired the inclusion of family medicine teaching in the two medical schools in Hong Kong. All these achievements underpin the high standard of general family practice in Hong Kong.

The Hong Kong College of Family Physicians is a beacon of light in Asia Pacific in assisting countries around in their journey of family medicine development. The Hong Kong College is also an active country member of Wonca.

The challenge into the future for the Hong Kong College of Family Physicians, and this also applies to the sister Colleges of Family Medicine world wide, is to sustain the enduring family medicine vision of person-centred care. In our post modern world of high technology and social mobility, more than ever, the family physician is the unifying anchor in patient care. Our discipline needs to reach out to promote the awareness of this important role of the family physician to the four Ps of the land, namely, the people, the policy makers, the press, and the medical profession at large.

Congratulations again on your achievements and my best wishes go to your College and each of you as you journey on into the future. May you continue, one and all, to serve the people of the land.

Assoc Professor Goh Lee Gan
Regional President (2001-2007), Wonca Asia Pacific
President, College of Family Physicians, Singapore



Congratulatory Message for 30th Anniversary of The Hong Kong College of Family Physicians

Membership-based organisations are only ever as strong as the sum of our members. I am an active supporter of our college's active outreach to overseas doctors; we enthusiastically support family physicians across the world and I am thankful for the opportunity to play a small role in your well-deserved celebration.

Just as The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) is proud of its achievements and our ties within our region, it is clear to see that our friends also have much to celebrate! As you look back on your College's 30 years of history, you should be filled with pride. Your achievements are many. Your commitment to quality health care for the people of Hong Kong, taken together with your dedication to high standards of medical education, is commendable.

Like our own College, you have made a significant investment in research into family medicine. The establishment of The Hong Kong College of Family Physicians (HKCFP) Research Fellowship is an important commitment to the future of family medicine. The newest members of our profession are our future; encouraging and developing a research culture in the early years of their career path can ensure that family medicine continues to be at the cutting edge of medical innovation.

Of course, the work of a medical college extends much further. You should take this opportunity to celebrate your many achievements in providing educational opportunities to your members. Education is now more important than ever and new skills are required to meet the challenges of an ever-shifting medical environment.

In this time of fast-paced change, the building and sharing of knowledge within our own professional circles and across international borders is of critical importance. Your college has a commendable commitment to high quality publications, to the celebration of academic excellence, to recognition of champions and, vitally, to the promotion of family medicine as a career path.

I strongly support the RACGP's strong internationalist outlook. As one of the largest medical colleges in the southern hemisphere, our College is proud of the diversity of our membership, especially of our close links with expatriate Australian doctors and with doctors in the Asia-Pacific region.

Our close ties with our overseas colleagues are represented not only in formal agreements between colleges, but also in common values. I believe that it says much about the universality



of medicine that, despite our different backgrounds, different languages and different geographic locations, we all share a strong commitment to our patients, to the provision of high quality care and to high standards of medical education.

A commitment to standards, quality care and education is the foundation of our College and again I say that we share common values. The provision of a conjoint HKCFP/ RACGP Fellowship is a tangible expression of this link. Half a world away, this common value of excellence in education unites us. No matter in what environment or location we provide care to our patients, we are linked by our passion for the best health outcomes.

Together we are facing the challenges of an ever-changing world; think of how far medicine has come since the foundation of your College. The future of our profession faces many tests in the areas of patient and community care, medical advances, changes in technology, shifts in the make up of the medical workforce and in the ways we work and network.

In the face of this increasingly rapid change, perhaps our most significant challenge lies in preserving the human touch that is the core of family medicine. Our profession has a long and honourable history of integrating the sciences with the human side, and as a medical specialty, we are well placed to ensure that, in a world that is always changing, our patients remain our central, primary focus.

As your College moves into the future, you will expand your thinking outside of the usual safe places and into new areas. The health of our environment is fast becoming an issue of as much importance to family physicians as it is to biologists.

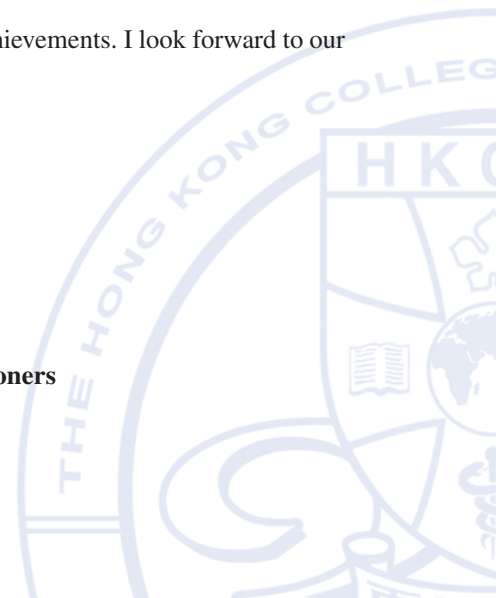
While we can not see ahead to what tomorrow will bring, we can reaffirm our commitment to tackling its challenges and to maintaining those attributes that have served us well in the past. Of all values, I believe that friendship and cooperation deliver the greatest benefit to our profession and to those for whom we care. From far away, on the other side of the world, Australia's doctors are celebrating with you.

Congratulations on your 30th anniversary and on all your achievements. I look forward to our continued close friendship into the future.



Dr Vasantha Preetham

President, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners



Congratulations on the 30th Anniversary of The Foundation of The Hong Kong College of Family Physicians

We note with pleasure that it has been 30 years since the establishment of HKCFP. Compared with the history of medical science, 30 years is not long. But the history of family medicine dated back only to the latter period of last century, and counterparts in Hong Kong medical circle founded HKCFP as early as 30 years ago, which shows your extraordinary breath of vision.

Over the last 30 years, HKCFP has done a lot of works and made great progress in training of family doctors, enhancing the academic level and promoting the development of family medicine. HKCFP has made honorable contributions to Hong Kong's social-economic development and promoting of health of Hong Kong residents.

On behalf of the Society of General Practice of Chinese Medical Association, I would like to extend warm congratulation on the 30th anniversary of foundation of HKCFP and the achievements you have made.

With the help and support from you and other counterparts, general practice of mainland China has undergone sustained development. We still expect your support and help now in the future.

Long distance separates no bosom friends. We look forward to partnering up with you and making our contribution to the development of family medicine/ general practice and public health of our people.



Professor Bing-hui Yang
Professor, Dean of the Society of General Practice
Chinese Medical Association

