

# BERITA CSM



Newsletter of the College of Surgeons, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia

## Message from the President

HANAFIAH HARUNARASHID



I would like to thank my Council Members and everyone associated with the College for their tremendous support over the past year. It has been a year of challenges and adversity and the effect of

losing our home cannot be underestimated. For this, I have to congratulate all fellows and members for keeping calm and united during the difficult times. I would also like to thank our partners, the Academy of Medicine of Malaysia, the Academy of Family Physicians of Malaysia and the College of Physicians for their tremendous efforts in handling this issue. Now that we have moved out of our old premise into a temporary home, it is time to plan the future. The challenge as we move into the next phase is to cherish the traditions and values of the past while embracing our future with enthusiasm.

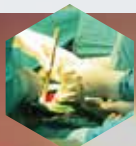
The word "challenge" is derived from 13<sup>th</sup> century French, at which time it suggested "an accusation of wrongdoing." That is certainly not the current intent. We often use the word "challenge" to mean "arouse or stimulate". This is probably the meaning that we should adopt. One major challenge is keeping everyone together. When the College was formed in 1972, there were only 23 founding members. Today, we have over 730 fellows and members. There are many surgeons out there who are qualified to become members and yet they have not done so. We must ask why? Indeed, the advancement in the field of surgery has led to specialisation and super-specialisation. How does the College remain relevant when there are fewer and fewer things in common between its members? This is the challenge the College is facing today.

One area that I admit we must improve on is communication. Communications might seem like the most straightforward area of College activities, but in my opinion, it may have been the most difficult to accomplish. The College leadership is very sensitive to the concerns and desires of fellows and members, and while responsive to these issues, it often has been difficult to communicate the activities of the Council to the membership. As a consequence, there often is a disconnect between our busy members and equally hardworking leadership because of poor communication. Most of us connect to each other once a year during the annual meeting. The younger members may be involved in some of the College's workshops throughout the year. I hope that during my tenure, there are better communication between fellows and members and perhaps the formation of chapters will help to stimulate a better sense of belonging.

During the recent meeting with presidents of the surgical societies, it has been tentatively agreed by those who attended to form Chapters of the College. This will ensure a more prominent participation of each interest group in the College Council. I hope that we can work on this, based on our constitutional by-laws and declare the formation of the chapters at the CSAMM Annual Scientific Congress in Ipoh next year. Next year's meeting promises to be a memorable event. Not only it is going to be hosted in the land of our Royal Patron, we have confirmed the participation of all the four Royal Colleges of Surgeons from the United Kingdom - the first time in our 46-year history. On top of that we also have the College of Sri Lanka, our latest partner, to join us in the scientific programme. The aptly chosen theme for next year's congress is "Primum Non Nocere" - First Do No Harm. It is time that we all go back to basics.

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Improvement in the quality of surgical care was the core principle behind the founding of the College, and quality improvement remains one of our primary missions today. Surgeons undoubtedly want to provide high-quality patient care, but the majority of these health care professionals are unlikely to directly participate in quality efforts in their practices or at their hospitals.

Quality, which will be increasingly data- and outcome-driven, is the benchmark by which future surgeons will be judged. Surgeons must own quality. Its measurement must be local, personal, accurate, and risk-adjusted. The new amended Medical Act gazetted on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017 is another step forward in ensuring standards are maintained. In the Act, the College has a pivotal role to play via the Academy of Medicine of Medicine. The areas include the Medical Education Committee, the Evaluation Committee and the National Specialist Register. Continuous professional development (CPD) activities is an important component of quality improvement exercises and the CPD credit point system is a requirement in the new Medical Act.

Since the formation of our College, education has been at the heart of all College efforts. It is indeed our foundation rather than a pillar. The College now engages in a plethora of educational and training activities at all levels, from entry courses for incoming surgical prospects to medical students. However, our primary focus has been primarily on surgical trainees educational activities, whereas post masters higher end education has been organized and managed by other specialty groups.

As the specialties of medicine developed during the 20th century, they did so within well-established boundaries. When I started the practice of surgery, we all knew that there was a clear delineation between what I did as a surgeon - primarily open operations - and what most of the physicians did - primarily diagnostic and non-invasive treatment. However, in the last decade or two, as innovation led to the development of new ideas, methods and devices, the boundaries between specialties started to blur. The treatment of common bile duct stones for example, once the domain of the general surgeons, became part of the practice of a gastroenterologist; the treatment of intra-abdominal abscesses or the placement of central venous lines, done only by surgeons in the past, was now in the hands of interventional radiologists. Better drugs has led to a changing pattern of treatment and what used to be a common operation such as the Highly Selective Vagotomy has been a practice in the past.

In some of these situations, the loss to surgery was caused by our failure to seize new opportunities. Many surgeons felt that retreating to the operating room and continuing to use the tools of the past was better than retraining and embracing the future. The vascular surgeons had learnt from the mistakes made by their cardiothoracic colleagues, and made endovascular skills training part of their curriculum. The practice has changed so much that in the United Kingdom, the society had dropped the word surgery. These boundaries continue to fade away, and my prediction is that the process will accelerate in the future.

Another major factor that will impact our future practice is society's increased concern with improving the quality while controlling the costs of care. Given that the practice of surgery involves greater risk than most other specialties, preserving and improving safety and being able to measure quality in a reliable way will continue to be an essential part of practice. I don't have an easy answer on how we can overcome this issue, but a radical change on how we work may be needed. Perhaps sharing of facilities and avoidance of duplication may be a good start.

On a happy note, I would like to share our joy and gratitude in winning the bid in Basel, Switzerland to organise the World Congress of Surgery 2021 in Malaysia. The successful bidding team was led by the Director-General of Health of Malaysia Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, and myself as President, supported by our past president, Professor Emeritus Dato' Dr Yip Cheng Har, College Honorary Treasurer Professor Nur Aishah Taib and Council Member Dr Ng Char Hong. We had also received strong support from the Malaysian Convention & Exhibition Bureau (MyCEB), the universities, the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC) and the medical industries. Syabas and terima kasih to everyone!

Thank you too to our College Senior Vice President, Prof April Camilla Roslani, for her excellent endeavor in securing a new partnership with the prestigious Royal College of Surgeons of England. The future looks bright indeed. In fact, I sincerely feel that the College's future is in safe hands.

Finally, I am really looking forward to another exciting year. There will be many challenges ahead, but I am convinced that we can face them head on and succeed. We are all in this together. You should trust what is inside of you, as Christopher Robin said to Winnie the Pooh, "You must always remember: you are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think".

See you in Ipoh next year!





# Reflection on 47<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Surgery (WCS) 2017

*Reported by Oscar Cheong Yih Jeng*

This year, the 47<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Surgery was held at Basel, Switzerland from 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> August 2017. I was selected by the International Association of Student Surgical Societies (IASSS) to attend the Congress as a student delegate. It was a great opportunity for me as this is the first time in history that medical students are allowed to participate in the World Congress of Surgery. Other than the main congress, student delegates were allowed to take part in either the DAVOS course for gastrointestinal surgery or Career Development for Academic Surgeons course. I chose to attend the career development course because the content was really interesting to me.

A Career Development Course was held on Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2017 from 8.00 am to 4.30 pm. The course was divided into 4 sessions: (1) Academic surgery, (2) Getting started with clinical and experimental research, (3) Presenting your ideas and results and (4) Tribulations of the academic surgeons. Although the speakers for the career development course were mainly from the United States of America, the content of the lectures was still relevant to Malaysia. Through this career development course, I have a better understanding of an academic surgical career and the research options for academic surgeons. I understand that the research options range from basic science and translation research, clinical research, outcomes and health services research, global surgery research and education research. After attending the course, I have developed an interest in becoming a surgeon scientist and pursue a career of an academic surgeon in the future.

I also learnt about the importance of having mentors in my career and how to choose the right mentor. I realized that a mentor is very important because he offers guidance, provides opportunities, helps his mentee to take the right steps and make the right move. I am glad to have a good mentor, Professor Dato'

Dr P Kandasami who constantly guides me during my medical school days till now. However, having only one mentor in one's career is never enough. One should have more than one mentor in his career. This allows the mentee to learn from different mentors who impart wisdom and share their knowledge with a less experienced person.

Besides that, all the student delegates were also invited to join a three days' workshop on scientific writing. The workshop for students aims to provide them on insight on how to prepare and review scientific manuscripts. During this workshop, I learnt about different statistical methods, data analysis, writing an abstract and writing a manuscript review. Besides that, I also learnt how to critique abstracts. On the last day of workshop, my group also discussed about editorial misconduct and duplicate publication. Reflecting on my participation in this workshop, I have benefited a lot from the discussion led by Dr Sanziana A. Roman, an endocrine surgeon from Duke University Hospital.

During the main congress from 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> August 2017, I was given a task to go to different venues to assist the organizers and speakers. This provided me an opportunity to get to know speakers who are the leading experts in their respective specialties. They gave me a lot of advice and encouraged me to pursue a career in surgery if I am really determined to do it. Other than that, I also learnt about trauma surgery by attending the trauma sessions because it was a relatively new topic to me. I am grateful for having the opportunity to attend the 47<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Surgery at Basel, Switzerland. I would like to thank my parents and my mentor, Professor Dato' Dr P Kandasami for encouraging me to attend this congress. I would also like to thank the College of Surgeons, Malaysia and International Medical University (IMU) for supporting me to participate in the 47<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Surgery.





# ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS 2018 OF THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, ACADEMY OF MEDICINE OF MALAYSIA

by Associate Professor Dr Lim Kean Ghee

Next year the College of Surgeons will be going to Ipoh. The date set is 11 to 13 May, before *puasa* begins. Ipoh is going to be a refreshing setting for the Congress of the College and His Royal Highness the Sultan of Perak who is the Academy Patron has taken a keen interest in the plans.

The Organising Committee has decided on the theme *Primum non nocero*, 'First do no harm'. We are interested about how technology can drive advances in surgery and how surgical care can be optimised with day-care and plans for better recovery but felt that this age old motto of the profession encompasses all and must be still borne in mind. We are also interested in the equitable delivery of surgery to the people in Malaysia as well as knowing how that can be done across the world.

The Organising Committee has invited a wide faculty of local speakers to draw from. Several overseas Colleges have also shown keenness and accepted our invitation to participate in the Congress. These include the Royal College of Surgeons of

Edinburgh, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow and the College's well established friend every year the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. In addition, the College of Surgeons of Sri Lanka is coming to join us as well. This means that we are going to have in addition an expanded array of distinguished speakers available to interact with the participants and to share their wisdom and science.

Programmes for students and nurses will be included. Young surgeons should start getting their work ready for presentation for the Ethicon Prize and free papers and posters. We shall have a very distinguished person for the AM Oration who will be a local person in 2018 as well as honouring the second recipient of the M Balasegaram trainer award.

As the plans develop, we look forward to informing you about who you will get to hear from at the Congress, so please mark your calendar and look out for the details for registration next year. For enquiries and input do contact our secretariat.



College of Surgeons  
Academy of Medicine of Malaysia

## ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS

# PRIMUM NON NOCERE

11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Aman Jaya Convention Centre  
Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia

[www.csamm.asm.org.my](http://www.csamm.asm.org.my)

CONGRESS SECRETARIAT  
College of Surgeons, AMM

Unit 1.6, Level 1, Enterprise 3B, Technology Park Malaysia (TPM), Jalan Innovasi 1, Lebuhraya Puchong - Sungei Besi, Bukit Jalil, 57000 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan  
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## *President of the College bestowed with Fellowship of overseas organisations*



*We wish to congratulate Associate Professor Dato' Dr Hanafiah Harunarashid, our College President, who was awarded the Fellowship of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore (FAMS) at the 51<sup>st</sup> Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Medicine in conjunction with its Diamond Jubilee Anniversary on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2017 as well as the Fellowship of the American College of Surgeons on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2017.*



## *Congratulations and Thank You*



*The Council of the College would like to extend its heartiest congratulations to Professor Dr Rosmawati Mohamed for her ascension as the Master of the Academy of Medicine of Malaysia. We would also like to say a very big thank you to Professor Dato' Dr P Kandasami for helming the Academy and for leading us splendidly for the past few years.*





# College of Surgeons Academy of Medicine of Malaysia Life Membership

The College of Surgeons would like to encourage all members of the College / Academy to take advantage of Life Membership. The Constitution of the Academy states that all members except Honorary Fellows may become Life Members by donating to the Academy the following sums:

- RM1,000 for members who are over 50 years old
- RM2,500 for members who are below 50 years old

It is a one off payment and it will also save you the hassle of having to remember to pay and make the payment every year. Payment can be made via the following ways:

## 1) PREFERRED METHOD

- direct bank transfer to the Academy bank account:

**Name of Account** : Academy of Medicine of Malaysia

**Account No** : 873-1-0377348-5

**Name and Address of Bank** : Standard Chartered Bank, Jalan Ipoh, Kuala Lumpur

\*Please email the proof of bank transfer to the Secretariat at [members@medicalacademies.org.my](mailto:members@medicalacademies.org.my)

## 2) PAYMENT VIA IPay88

- please email to [members@medicalacademies.org.my](mailto:members@medicalacademies.org.my) and you will be given a username and password to enable you to pay online

## 3) CHEQUE

- made payable to "Academy of Medicine of Malaysia" and send to the Academy Secretariat

## 4) CASH

- which can only be paid at the Academy Secretariat at Unit 1.6, Level 1, Enterprise 3B, Technology Park Malaysia (TPM), Jalan Innovasi 1, Lebuhraya Puchong - Sungei Besi, Bukit Jalil, 57000 Kuala Lumpur

We would very much appreciate your continuation as a member and your participation in the College / Academy's growth, aspirations and achievements.



# Care of the Critically Ill Surgical Patient (CCrISP) Provider Courses 2017

*Reported by Professor Dr April Roslani*

CCrISP Provider courses have been run in Malaysia under licence from the Royal College of Surgeons of England since 2013. The third edition utilized a combination of interactive lectures, small group sessions and clinical simulations (moulages), enabling participants to apply principles of acute surgical management in a safe learning environment. CSAMM now has 31 active local instructors, and runs four provider courses a year.

Feedback from participants and instructors is a key component to staying relevant, and is collated after each course. The fourth edition, launched this year, resulted from consideration of such feedback. In addition to a more streamlined programme, focusing on the more engaging components i.e. the small group sessions and moulages, new material, with greater emphasis on clinical, moral and ethical contexts, has been introduced. Pre-test assessments are now conducted on-line, reducing the administrative burden on local staff.

The last delivery of the third edition course took place on 25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> March 2017. Following re-training of instructors on

the new format, the fourth edition was launched on 27<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> May 2017 in conjunction with the CSAMM 2017 Congress, and a further course run on 27<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

Apart from some systems-related glitches pertaining to the on-line assessments, feedback has been good. Nevertheless, it was noted that local participants struggled more than usual in communication-related sessions in the absence of the communications lecture, and thus, the latter will be re-introduced in the upcoming courses.

To date, CSAMM has run 15 Provider Courses. These courses are in demand as prerequisites for higher surgical training, locally and abroad. The increasing number of overseas applicants is testament to the quality of delivery by the Malaysian faculty, and bodes well for further expansion. Plans for the future include integration of CCrISP into the Malaysian surgical training curriculum, expansion of the number of instructors and courses, as well as development of regional collaborations.





# Joint Surgical Colleges Fellowship Examination (JSCFE) - General Surgery

## 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> August 2017

*Reported by Professor Dr April Roslani*

The JSCFE is the international equivalent of the UK intercollegiate exit surgical examination, which leads to the award of Fellowship of the surgical college of one's choice, and the right to use FRCS as a post-nominal. A truly intercollegiate examination, examiners comprise senior consultants in their field, representing the Royal Colleges of Edinburgh, England, Glasgow and Ireland.

Examiners are rigorously vetted and trained, and further subjected to performance reviews by assessors, to ensure standards are maintained and a fair examination delivered.

The General Surgery examination has been held internationally five times since its inception in 2013, led by the Chair of JSCFE General Surgery, Mr Graham Sunderland. Malaysia has hosted three of these, in 2015, 2016 and 2017, the viva voce being conducted in the Majestic Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. The first two diets were coordinated locally by Associate Professor Dato' Hanafiah Harunarashid, the clinical examination taking place at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

University of Malaya hosted the most recent diet of clinical examinations, coordinated by Professor Dr April Camilla Roslani. The assessor this time was Mr Tim

Graham, and the UK Colleges sent some of their most experienced examiners, many of whom are doyens in their field of practice, and several who are or have been presidents, chairs and council members. Fifty-seven candidates presented themselves, including four Malaysians, and the examination ran smoothly with excellent feedback from examiners and candidates alike. The overall pass rate was 49%. Three Malaysians passed.

With such an impeccable track record, Malaysia looks set to remain a fixture on the JSCFE circuit. Other specialties, such as Orthopaedics and Cardiothoracic Surgery, may be next to consider Malaysia as a venue. Kudos to all involved!





# Memorandum of Understanding - Membership of the Royal College of Surgeons [MRCS] Examination [RCS England]

Reported by Professor Dr April Roslani

The Royal College of Surgeons of England held the MRCS Part B OSCE in Malaysia for the second time on 9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> September 2017, with University of Malaya as the local hosts, coordinated by Professor Dr April Camilla Roslani. Forty-four candidates presented over two days to the international examiners lead by Chief Examiners Professor Dr Frank Smith and Mr Karl Trimble.

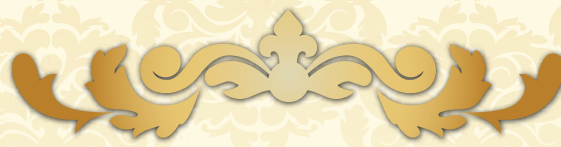
OSCEs are challenging to deliver, given the specific requirements and need for standardization of stations, including training of lay actors. Nevertheless, the local team was able to pull this off very well.

Key members of the examining team also delivered a lecture series, and an MRCS preparatory course for trainees interested in attempting the examinations. These were well-received.

To emphasize their commitment to further educational collaborations, RCS England and University of Malaya signed a memorandum of understanding on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2017. RCS England was represented by Ms Fiona Myint, Council Lead for Examinations, while University of Malaya was represented by Professor Dr Norsaadah Abdul Rahman, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation. The President of CSAMM, Associate Professor Dato' Hanafiah Harunarashid, and University of Malaya Faculty of Medicine Dean, Professor Dato' Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman, were on hand as witnesses to the proceedings.







# Invitation

## to be Examiners for the College of Surgeons



The College of Surgeons would like to invite members to be observers and subsequently external examiners for local examinations. The examinations are run by a Conjoint Board of the Ministry of Education and the College is represented in the Board. The College has a Court of Examiners and the Registrar of the Court of Examiners will consider all applications.

The MINIMUM CRITERIA are as follows and we are calling for applications for General Surgery:

- i. an actively practising consultant surgeon who has a recognized postgraduate general surgical qualification.
- ii. have at least five years' clinical experience after completion of postgraduate training, preferably with a general surgical sub-specialty interest, functioning as a consultant in his/her own hospital and credentialed at hospital level.
- iii. be able to manage complex general surgical cases independently and provide consultations for these.
- iv. work in a tertiary level centre.
- v. must be prepared to be available for the full diet of any examinations which they are appointed to.

Members may also apply to be in the Court of Examiners after they fulfil the additional criteria as follows:

- a. completed a recognized examiner training course.
- b. observed at least two full diets of the relevant examination.

*The College will arrange for qualified candidates to fulfil the two conditions.*

**CSAMM Secretariat**

