



THE HONG KONG COLLEGE OF PATHOLOGISTS NEWSLETTER

October 1995 / Volume 4:2

OFFICE BEARERS:

President:

Professor Faith HO Chi Suk
Department of Pathology,
University of Hong Kong,
Queen Mary Hospital, Pokfulam, HK.
Phone: 28554872; Fax: 28725197.

Vice-Presidents:

Professor J LEE Chuen Kwan
Department of Anatomical
& Cellular Pathology,
Prince of Wales Hospital,
Shatin, New Territories, HK.
Phone: 26323337; Fax: 26376274.

Dr CHAN Keeng Wai,
Histopathology Unit,
Canossa Hospital,
1 Old Peak Road, HK.
Phone: 25260867; Fax: 25217081.

Registrar:

Dr MAK Wai Ping
Institute of Pathology,
Sai Ying Pun Jockey Club Clinic,
Sai Ying Pun, HK.
Phone: 25409880; Fax: 28582684.

Deputy Registrar:

Dr LOKE Shee Loong
Histopathology Laboratory,
St Theresa's Hospital
Prince Edward Road
Kowloon, HK.
Phone: 27112120; Fax: 27611798

Honorary Treasurer:

Dr MONG Hoi Keung
Forensic Pathology Laboratory,
18/F May House Arsenal Street, HK.
or Hennessey Road PO Box 20449
Phone: 28602111; Fax: 28041714

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Dr AU Ka Leung,
Department of Pathology,
Princess Margaret Hospital,
Lai Chi Kok, Kowloon, HK.
Phone: 2990 1818; Fax: 23700969.

Dr CHAN Yan Wo, Albert
Pathology Department,
Princess Margaret Hospital,
Lai Chi Ko, Kowloon, HK.
Phone: 2990 1806; Fax: 23700969

Dr CHU Wan, Raymond,
Pathology Department,
Pamela Youde Nethersole
Eastern Hospital,
3 Lok Man Road, Chai Wan, HK.
Phone: 25260867; Fax: 25217081.

Dr Robert John COLLINS,
Department of Pathology,
Queen Mary Hospital, Pokfulam, HK.
Phone: 28554009; Fax: 28559641

Professor ED Janus
Clinical Biochemistry Unit,
Queen Mary Hospital, Pokfulam, HK.
Phone: 28553202; Fax: 28559915

Dr Wilina LIM Wei Ling,
Virus Unit,
Queen Mary Hospital, Pokfulam, HK.
Phone: 28554112; Fax: 28190704.

Dr LIN Che Kit,
Hong Kong Red Cross Blood Transfusion
Services,
15 King's Park Rise, Kowloon, HK.
Phone: 27101336; Fax: 27801862.

Dr Dominic TSANG Ngai Chong,
Department of Pathology,
Block M, 11/F, Queen Elizabeth Hospital,
30 Gascoigne Road, Kowloon, HK.
Phone: 27102849; Fax: 23852455.

4th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

25th November, 1995

New Club House,
Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club
Happy Valley

5.00-5.30pm

Reception & Registration

5.30-6.30pm

4th TB Teoh Foundation Lecture

"Milestones in Blood & Sweat "

by Dr Susan Leong

6.45-7.00pm

Admission of New Fellows

Fellowship Certificate Presentation

7.00-7.15pm

EGM

7.15-8.15pm

AGM

8.15pm

Dinner

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This year, our College has accomplished one of its most important roles - that of certifying satisfactory standards of training through the process of examinations. There were candidates for both the Membership and the Fellowship examinations in Anatomical Pathology, the Fellowship examination in Microbiology and Membership examination in Haematology. A total of 17 candidates presented for examination and 4 candidates for special assessment.

Whilst the standards achieved were generally commendable, as acknowledged by our external examiners, we could not achieve a 100% pass rate. For those who were not able to pass this time, our College educational supervisors and committee members will, without doubt, do their best to help rectify any shortfalls in training identified during the examinations. The College continues to encourage a **rotational** training scheme,

not just to broaden the scope of training and experience of trainees, but also to share the load amongst trainers, many of whom may be hard-pressed with many duties in addition to the supervision of trainees. Successful candidates with 6-years of recognised training will be formally admitted as Fellows at the coming AGM.

With the examinations now established and training programs receiving more attention, our College can look to increasing our sphere of influence in other professional matters in the coming years. Manpower planning, laboratory accreditation, international liaison, and continuing education are all matters which the

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incoming council, under new leadership, will put increasing efforts on. As this is the last contribution that I will be making to this column, I wish to thank all College members, and especially our Council and committees, for their support and wise counsel and tremendous hard work to bring our College to its present stage of development - in such a short time.

This is also the time of year when we hope as many members of the College as possible will gather together to give us your views, to enjoy good food and discuss the progress of the College. Please show your support and attend the **4th Annual General Meeting** (see details above).

The **Hong Kong Museum of Medical Sciences**, now under the Society of the same name, is progressing very well. The planned external and internal renovations are now complete and the Society has now obtained the lease from the Government. The official opening on March 22nd, 1996 - 90th anniversary of the inauguration of the building - promises to be a momentous affair.

Although the Museum project continues to advance it still requires considerable support to sustain its viability. Please support it by becoming a member of the Museum Society, by verbal recommendation to potential donors, donations of items of interest and participation in the various committees of the Society. A major function of the museum is to record the history of our profession!

Do not hesitate to contact the Secretary of the Society at the Museum (from November 16th) on Tel: 2549 5123 or Fax: 2559 9458.

Membership of College

The total membership of our College is now 219 with 11 Honorary Fellows, 88 Founder Fellows, 50 Fellows, 13 Overseas Fellows, 21 Members and 36 Associates.

TRAINING AND EXAMINATIONS COMMITTEE

The activities of the TEC have recently been centred on examinations with Fellowship candidates in Anatomical Pathology (10), Haematology (1), Chemical Pathology (1) and Microbiology (1) and Membership candidates in Anatomical Pathology (2) and Haematology (2).

A Special Assessment was arranged for three candidates in Anatomical

the Registrar, of any changes in conditions in the laboratory, such as changes in trainer: trainee ratio, etc.

During the year the TEC established Specialty Boards and planning for the inspection of training laboratories, as required by the Academy of Medicine, is making good progress. will probably begin early next year.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Continuing Medical Education

One of the objectives of our College is to develop and maintain the good practice of Pathology by ensuring the highest of professional standards of competence and technical integrity. It is only through constant updating and reading that we can achieve this goal. One of the roles of the Education Committee is to propose means to assist our fellows and members in these areas. Against such a background, the Education Committee has been working on a Continuing Medical Education (CME) scheme over the past months. The aim of this scheme is to encourage all fellows and members to participate in academic activities and to promote continuing education in the field of Pathology and relevant subjects.

Such documentation of continuing education may in fact be a requirement for inclusion on the Specialist Register of the Medical Council in the near future. The Academy of Medicine also encourages and recommends the use of CME for the maintenance of professional standards.

While the Academy is planning a universal CME system, it is expected to be some time until it is functional, so the Council has decided to begin, as a pilot study, the CME scheme proposed by the Education Committee and endorsed by the

QUOTABLE

The Medical Council has informed the Registrar that *Fellow of the Hong Kong College of Pathologists* now is a quotable qualification.

The English abbreviation is: FHKCPath

The title in Chinese is:

It can be quoted, in the form as shown above, on sign-

香港病理學專科學院院士

boards, visiting cards and letterheads, etc., for the purpose of professional practice in Hong Kong.

Pathology and one in Microbiology. The TEC has noticed that not all changes in staffing affecting designated trainers have been conveyed to the College. Trainees are advised that it is their responsibility to inform the College, through the Registrar, of any change in their training program which might affect their eligibility to sit for examinations or fulfil their required period of training. Education Supervisors should inform the College, through

Council, in 1996.

The pilot CME scheme is open to all fellows of the College, initially on a voluntary basis. Credit points (CME points) will be given for educational activities which are endorsed by the Education Committee of the College. Assessment is based on the acquisition of CME points in one calendar year. Recognition in the form of a CME certificate will be issued to participants who have fulfilled the requirements.

More details will be sent to all fellows in the near future.

Workshop on Molecular Biology in Diagnostic Pathology, November 11th, 1995, University Pathology Building, Queen Mary Hospital.

You would already have received details of this workshop. The workshop covers the uses of molecular biology in tuberculosis and leukaemia with lectures and related demonstrations.

Note: *This course qualifies for 4 CME units.*

Cytology Review Course 1995

The Cytology Review Course was a great success with 65 registrants. Most of those joining the course were technicians who had applied for the International Academy of Cytology Cytotechnicians examination. The success rate of the candidates sitting the various examinations reflects well on the course. The College gratefully acknowledges the generous use of facilities provided by the Pathology Departments at HKU / QMH and CU / PWH.

Discussions are currently taking place concerning the desirability and need for a more extensive formalised course to be organised by the College

and aimed primarily at training technicians in cytotechnology and cytopathology to a level needed today. There is enthusiasm for such a course from the technicians and many of the pathologists who will be involved in producing such a course. A possible joint or collaborative examination with the IAC will be explored.

The College thanks Drs Rob Collins, Maria Wong, Alex Chang, May Chan, May Cheng and Ms Susanna Chan for organising the Cytology Review Course for 1995.

A Workshop on the Medico-Legal Autopsy. November 25th, 1995, Mortuary and 2/F Seminar Room, Clinical Pathology Building, Queen Mary Hospital.

Professor Bernard Knight will conduct this course with a detailed demonstration of techniques from 10.00-12.00 followed by a discussion on medico-legal autopsies - pitfalls and problems, from 12.00-1.30pm.

The registration fee is \$150 payable to the College.

For further information contact Dr SL Beh Tel: 2855 4882.

Fine Needle Aspiration Cytology Course, 1996.

Planning, with invitation to a guest speaker to attend, is underway for the above course for early next year.

QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMITTEE

Further rounds of the interpretative QA programmes have been distributed in multiple disciplines.

We have recently asked the Royal Australasian College of Pathologists whether they would be interested in our Chemical Pathology QA programme. As they have more than 400 participating laboratories it would be very difficult for them or us to mark the answers particularly as the questions are deliberately open-ended. We are now exploring whether a "test and teach" approach is feasible for them, ie. the questionnaire distributed with one mailing and the model answer with the text.

The RCPA has also written to ask if the Hong Kong College of Pathologists would be interested in the RCPA Quality Assurance Program in Anatomical Pathology. Our Council felt that Fellows could individually indicate if they wanted to participate and if so respond directly to Dr John Hayman. The relevant information from the RCPA is printed below:

" I am writing to ask if the Hong Kong Pathologists would be interested in participating in the Australasian College Quality Assurance Program either directly or through the auspices of the Hong Kong College.

One way which this could be organised would be to send the mail material in bulk to your secretariat for distribution to individual Pathologists or laboratories. We would appreciate material (wet specimens or tissue blocks) of a slightly exotic nature which could be incorporated in future surveys and ask if you or a representative could join our Anatomical Pathology Program Committee.

I feel that the Program, to be of value, must have a reasonable number of subscribers and it would be helpful to have your members with us.

Dr John Hayman, MD, FRCPA. Chairman, QAP Anatomical Pathology Committee, Royal Australasian College of Pathologists.

Registered Office: Durham Hall, 207 Albion Street, Surry Hills, NSW 2010, Australia.

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| <p align="center">PROFESSIONAL & GENERAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE</p> | <p>tie (sold, at cost, for \$50 each), and the furnishing of the College premises in the Academy of Medicine at the Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital. A number of souvenir pen holder/vases with the College logo on pewter were produced. These have been used as gifts for special visitors and speakers. Finally the design and production of the Presidential chain of office has almost reached fruition.</p> | <p>30th Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Medicine 1-4th August, 1996, Singapore</p> <p>The Academy of Medicine, Singapore, has invited the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine to officially participate at the Congress in 1996 and to propose speakers. Our Academy Council has agreed to send a delegation to this function. Please contact the Registrar of our College if you are interested.</p> |
| <p>While the Professional and General Affairs Committee has been active in a number of areas of its responsibility, in the future it can be expected to play a much more significant role in maintaining the professional status of pathology in society now that the early phases related to establishing and setting up a young professional College have almost been resolved.</p> | <p align="center">MEETINGS AND SOCIETIES</p> | <p align="center">NEW FELLOWS, MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES</p> |
| <p>Probing questions should be asked concerning the perception of Pathology in Hong Kong, both by those we aim to serve, our patients, and others in society including our colleagues in other areas of medicine.</p> <p>What are the implications of passive acceptance of the introduction of modern technology in roles not generally accepted elsewhere in the world? What is the profession's attitude to the advertising of services or to the running of laboratories by medically qualified persons who are not pathologists or Fellows of the Hong Kong College of Pathologists? What is the College's attitude to claims of vested interest where persons with shares in a laboratory then submit specimens preferentially to that laboratory? What is the College's attitude to fee-splitting for pathology tests? What should be done when cases with positive cytology results are signed out by technical staff?</p> <p>These are only a few of the many areas that the PGA should now address as we move from a infant College to one of maturity and integrity.</p> <p>Progress this year has included the production of the first College year-book, with a copy distributed to each member. production of the College</p> | <p>International Society for Diagnostic Quantitative Pathology</p> <p>Dr Richard Williams, a Fellow of our College from Wangaratta and District Pathology Service in Australia, has written to invite Members of the Hong Kong College who have an interest in quantitative pathology to join this Society formed in 1994 at the 7th International Symposium on Diagnostic Quantitative Pathology. There is at present no joining fee and members who would like further details, or to be put on the mailing list, can contact Dr Williams at P.O. Box 482, Wangaratta 3676, Australia. (Fax: 61 57 22 2853)</p> <p>Application Timetable for the Hospital Authority Health Services Research Fund (HSRF)</p> <p>The submission deadline for the 6th round for both full and mini grants is mid-January 1996 with applicants receiving feedback by mid-April '96. The submission deadline for the 7th round is mid-March 1996 with applicants receiving feedback by mid-August 1996.</p> <p>For further information contact Dr H Fung, Executive Secretary, Health Services Research Committee, HAHO.</p> | <p>The College extends a warm welcome to the following:</p> <p>Fellows:</p> <p>Dr CHAN Chak Lam Department of Pathology Queen Mary Hospital Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong</p> <p>Dr CHENG Fung Yip Pathology Department Caritas Medical Centre Shamshuipo Kowloon, Hong Kong</p> <p>Dr LEE King Chung Department of Pathology Queen Elizabeth Hospital Wyllie Road Kowloon</p> <p>Dr SHEK Wai Hung, Tony Department of Pathology Queen Mary Hospital Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong</p> <p>Dr TO Ka Fai Department of Anatomical and Cellular Pathology Prince of Wales Hospital Shatin, NT, Hong Kong</p> <p>Dr POON Wai Ming Forensic Pathology Service Hong Kong Government</p> |

Dr **PONG** Wai Mei
Department of Pathology
Queen Elizabeth Hospital
Wyllie Road, Kowloon

Dr **TSANG** Yick Woon
Department of Pathology
Queen Elizabeth Hospital
Wyllie Road, Kowloon

Associates:

Dr **CHAN** Sheung Wai, Gavin
Department of Pathology
Queen Mary Hospital
Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong

Dr **JONG** Kwok Kwan
Institute of Pathology
Department of Health
Hong Kong

Change of Address.

Founder Fellows:

Dr **BEH** Swan Lip
Department of Pathology
University of Hong Kong
Queen Mary Hospital
Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong

Dr **CHAN** Tze Chung, George
68 Fordyce Avenue
Sunnyhills
Auckland 1706
New Zealand

Dr Susan **LEONG**
21B Flora Court
95 Caine Road, Hong Kong

Dr **NG** Tak Keung
Department of Pathology
Princess Margaret Hospital
Kowloon, Hong Kong

Dr Daisy **SAW**
Department of Pathology
The New York Hospital
Medical Centre of Queens
56-45 Main Street
Flushing NY 11355-5095, USA.

Fellows:

Dr **CHENG** Fung Yip
Pathology Department
Caritas Medical Centre
Shamshuipo
Kowloon, Hong Kong

Dr **CHOW** Yu De, Eudora
Department of Pathology
United Christian Hospital
130 Hip Wo Street, Kwun Tong,
Kowloon, Hong Kong

Dr **WONG** Hon Man
Forensic Pathology Laboratory
18/F May House,
Police Headquarters,
Arsenal Street, Wan Chai, HK

Members:

Dr **CHOW** Kai Chiu.
Dept of Pathology, Ruttonjee
Hospital, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

Dr **LO** Wing Hong
Department of Pathology
Tuen Mun Hospital
Tuen Mun, New Territories, HK

Dr **MA** Shiu Kwan, Edmond
Haematology Section
Department of Pathology
The University of Hong Kong
Queen Mary Hospital
Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong

Letters to the Editor:

From Dr L.C. CHAN
(Haematology, QMH), The Royal
College of Pathologists Regional
Representative for Hong Kong:

**Contributions to the Bulletin of
the Royal College of Pathologists.**

*The College Bulletin Editor
welcomes fellows / members in
Hong Kong to send contribu-tions
to the Bulletin. Any comments
regarding the Bulletin can be sent
to the Editor, Professor W.F.
Whimster, at the College Office at
2 Carlton House Terrace, London
SW1Y 5AF*

Address any correspondence to:

“ Dr RJ Collins, Newsletter Editor,
Hong Kong College of Pathologists,
C/o Department of Pathology,
University of Hong Kong,
Queen Mary Hospital,
Hong Kong”
Tel: 2855 4009 Fax: 2872 8098
Email: rcollins@hkucc.hku.hk

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