

Message from the President

It has been a great honour for me to have served as the President of the Hong Kong College of Paediatricians for the past three years. I am very grateful for the unfailing support of Dr. Alex Chan, Dr. S. N. Wong, Dr. Frederick Ko, Council Members, Fellows, Members and Associates of our College. Your advice, comments and at times criticisms have helped me immensely in my efforts to carry out the duties as your President. It is very humbling for me to follow the footsteps of my predecessors Professor C. Y. Yeung, Professor N. K. Leung and Professor T. F. Fok who had done so much for the establishment and development of our College. It is with great pleasure that I pass on the helm to Professor P. C. Ng who will undoubtedly steer our College to new heights in the coming years.

Over the past three years, the Postgraduate Training Programme has been restructured to improve the history taking, counseling and clinical skills of our trainees. Mandatory structured training components like the Paediatric Advanced Life Support Course, Child Protection Course and training in Maternal Child Health/Child Assessment Service have been introduced. It is my hope that the Neonatal Resuscitation Programme and training in professionalism be given emphasis in the future. My appreciation goes to Dr. Alex Chan who has been the chair of the Education Committee. He has pushed through the educational reforms and planning of our continuing medical education programme. Our College has also organised Continuing Medical Education lectures this year for general practitioners in Macau on the invitation of Chinese Medical Association of Macau.

The Task Force on the Accreditation of Paediatric Subspecialties had been dissolved and the Working Group on the Accreditation of Paediatric Subspecialties has been established under the able leadership of Dr. C. W. Chan. The framework and procedures for subspecialty accreditation, the organizational structure of the various subspecialty boards under the Director of Subspecialty Boards (to be appointed) have been delineated and communicated to all our Fellows in an Open Forum on Paediatric Subspecialty Accreditation held on the 27th October this year. In addition, our College participated as one of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine advisors to the Ministry of Health (MOH) of P.R. China to assist the MOH to establish a system of accreditation of professional specialty training in China. As President of the College, I visited the Children Hospital of Fudan University (CHFUF) together with Dr. C. K. Li to accredit the trainers, institution and programme of CHFUF in March 2009. The report was submitted to Professor J. F. Huang in Hong Kong on 24th June 2009. A system of assessment of candidates after completion of professional paediatric training in China is still to be implemented. Professor Hong Hsu, Vice President of the Children Hospital of Fudan University has recently communicated with me that doctors in

China would be interested to come to Hong Kong to observe the format of our Intermediate Examination. Arrangements will be made for them to come as observers during the February 2010 diet of the Joint Intermediate Examination/Membership Examination of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.

The Guangdong/Hong Kong Pediatric Exchange Meeting in June 2008 was expanded to include participation of doctors from Shanghai and Chongqing. The Hong Kong, Guangdong, Shanghai, Chongqing Pediatric Exchange Meeting will be held tentatively in Guangdong in June 2010. We have started organizing a Scientific Session before our Annual General Meeting/College Conferment Ceremony this year and hopefully, this will be an annual event of our College.

The proposed Centre of Excellence in Paediatrics (CEP) which is an initiative of the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong SAR Government, is in the final stages of approval for funding. The establishment of the CEP will be of great benefit to the children and adolescents and a great catalyst for paediatric subspecialty development in Hong Kong. Once again, I would like to encourage our young Fellows to look ahead and embrace this new development by exploring the possibility of overseas subspecialty training for two to three years. Such a move will entail some financial, personal and family sacrifice but I would suggest to them that this would be very worthwhile for their future in the long run.

I would like to extend my heart-felt thanks to our Committee Chairpersons, Dr. C. W. Chan (Accreditation), Dr. Alex Chan (Education), Professor P. C. Ng (Examination), Professor Y. L. Lau (Membership), Dr. L. Y. So (Professional and General Affairs), Dr. Paul Ko (Review), Dr. N. S. Tsoi (CME Subcommittee) and members of the various committees who have participated diligently to transact our College business and activities effectively. My special thanks go to Dr. S. N. Wong who has been a very conscientious and efficient Honorary Secretary of our College and I am delighted that he will continue to serve our College as the Vice-President. Dr. Vincent Leung, Chairman of the Hong Kong College of Paediatricians Foundation has been active as ever in the past three years in fund-raising and organizing for activities like the annual Neonatal Resuscitation Programme in Yunnan, Qinghai and Tibet, annual Mission to Cambodia and Sichuan Earthquake Relief Fund. In addition to all his hard work, he also provides plenty of fine wine to make such activities more enjoyable for the participants. A special tribute must go to Dr. Frederick W. K. Ko who has kept our College finances in excellent order through the crash of 2001, SARS, the financial boom of 2006/2007, financial tsunami in 2008 and Swine H1N1 Influenza in 2009.

Finally, I would like to wish our incoming Office Bearers and the new Council under the leadership of Professor P. C. Ng all the best for the coming three years.

Prof. LOW Chung-kai, Louis
President