

## Council's Report

The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the College was held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2008. Prof Lau Yu Lung, Dr Lee Wai Hong, Prof Ng Pak Cheung, Dr So Lok Yee and Dr Tam Yat Cheung were elected *ipso facto* to the five available vacancies of Council Members for the years 2008-2011. Mr. Chan Chi Hung and Mr. Walter Ma were appointed as Honorary Legal Advisor and Honorary Auditor of the College respectively. It was resolved that membership subscriptions of all categories in 2009 would remain unchanged as in 2008.

During the past year, the following colleagues were co-opted as Council Members: Dr Chow Chun Bong (as elected Council Member of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine), Dr Leung Tze Ching, Vincent (as Chairman of Hong Kong College of Paediatricians Foundation) and Dr Ku Wai Hung and Dr Soo Man Ting (as young Fellows). The Chairpersons of standing committees remained unchanged as in 2008.

During the year 2008/2009, six Council Meetings were held in which all standing committees (Accreditation, Education, Examination, House, Membership, Professional & General Affairs and Review Committees) as well as the Hong Kong College of Paediatricians Foundation made their reports to the Council.

### **Training in Paediatrics and the Accreditation of Training**

The accreditation of Basic and Higher Paediatric Training Programmes in General Paediatrics has been running smoothly in the past year. The Council has re-accredited all eleven Paediatric Training Institutes in September 2007 with effect from 2008 to 2013. All trainers were also re-accredited for the next two years (2010 – 2011). The Accreditation Committee and the Council also provided clarification to minor questions: In relation to accreditation of non-paediatric trainees (including trainees in Family Medicine programme) such that their elective periods in paediatric units were eligible for retrospective accreditation on a case by case basis. With the new curriculum of 3-month training each in MCHC and CAS from January 2009, the assessment sheet for the mandatory MCHC/CAS module was revised and those being assessed as grade E/F may be required to undertake remedial training. The Accreditation Committee had considered in detail the accreditation criteria for “Extended Hospital Activities Accreditable for College Training in Paediatrics” but the discussion was closed (with no recommendation) pending the progress of the future Centre of Excellence in Paediatrics.

The major activity for the past year was the progress in setting the system of accrediting subspecialty programmes. The Working Group on Accreditation of Paediatric Subspecialties has met and formulated the organizational structure for the administration of future subspecialties. The College Bye-laws have been revised by adding a section on “Subspecialty Affairs”. The logistics of appointment of the Director of Subspecialty Boards, and the Committee for Subspecialty Boards were laid down, as well as the vetting procedures for applications for establishing Subspecialty Programmes. The College has also organized the 4<sup>th</sup> Open Forum to explain the guidelines and procedures for accrediting subspecialties to its Fellows, Members and Associates and to hear their opinions on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2009. So far no application for subspecialty programme accreditation has been received.

As at November 2009, the College has 214 accredited trainers and enrolled 104 Basic and 51 Higher Trainees which was increased compared with 71 Basic and 59 Higher trainees last year.

### **Education and Professional Activities**

The following educational activities were organized by the College in the past year. All were well attended by the intended audience.

1. Three sessions of Paediatric Updates were held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2008 (Case discussion), 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2009 (Nephrology) and 5<sup>th</sup> September 2009 (Clinical ethics).
2. Postgraduate Training Course for Trainees sitting the MRCPCH Clinical/ Intermediate Examination from July 2008 to February 2009, and from July 2009 to February 2010. For the recent courses, all sessions were in the format of bedside teaching, communication and history taking skills. The starting time was postponed to 5:30 pm to enable most trainees to attend. The average attendance so far was 50%.
3. Paediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) Course – jointly organized by PGA Committee with the Heart Institute for Children, Hope Children’s Hospital, Illinois, USA, and Hong Kong Paediatric Nurses Association – was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October to 7<sup>th</sup> October 2009 at Tang Shiu Kin Hospital. Two provider courses (with 83 attendants), and one renewal course (24 attendants) were held.
4. “Update Series on Child Health 2009” (jointly organized with the Hong Kong Paediatric Society): 4 sessions with 2 lectures each were held on 27<sup>th</sup> June, 11<sup>th</sup> July, 29<sup>th</sup> August, and 12<sup>th</sup> September 2009.
5. The third Child Protection Course, run by Dr Patricia Ip and MCCA colleagues on behalf of the College, will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2009. The College has resolved that all trainees starting their basic training on or after 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009 will need to attend the course as a mandatory requirement for Fellowship application.

6. Annual scientific meeting will also be organized on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2009 just before the College Annual General Meeting and Fellowship Conferment Ceremony.

Colleagues from our College also gave lectures for the 2009 CME Programme of the Chinese Medical Association of Macau.

“The Hong Kong College of Paediatricians Prizes in Clinical Paediatrics” for the year 2008-2009 were awarded to Mr. Wong On Yat of The Chinese University of Hong Kong and Mr. Leung Siu Ting of The University of Hong Kong.

The College Council has also discussed the issue of accepting commercial sponsorships for its meetings. It was resolved that all educational grants should be unconditional and pooled in a central educational fund for use in College’s educational activities. The sponsorships would be de-linked from any advertisements especially by milk formulae companies.

The College CME programme has been running smoothly in 2009 but there remained the problems of Overseas Fellows and Active CME Point requirement. From January 2008, the Academy has approved parallel recognition for overseas Fellows who have their own Paediatric CME/CPD Programmes in their country of residence. Only 7 Fellows have done so, because some Overseas Fellows joined CME Programmes for General Practitioners (not Paediatrics). From January 2008, the Academy required 15 Active CME points per cycle. So far 136 Fellows achieved 5 or less Active points in 2008 (the first year of cycle). Several changes in CMECPD programmes were made to facilitate Fellows and ease the workload of the College Secretariat: Instead of requiring all Fellows to submit annual return forms each year, the College Secretariat will retrieve each Fellow’s CME profile from the Academy’s iCMECPD record, and inform him/her about CME compliance by email annually. For Fellows who had already achieved the 3-year cycle CME requirements (including 90 points total, 30 Cat A points, and 15 Active points), College will not process their further individual CME applications. The College Byelaws were amended in March 2009 to include the right for College to levy administrative fees for CME programme. However, since Academy will charge each Fellow for any late submission of CME points, the College will not make such charges in future.

## **Examinations**

As before, the College has organized 3 Part I Examinations, 3 Part II (Written) Examinations and 2 Clinical Examinations in year 2009. The passing rates were as listed in the Examination Committee report.

For the Exit Assessment in December 2008 and June 2009, the passing rates were both 100% (compared to 100% and 92% in the past year). The Committee had discussed to standardize the questions and required standards of this Assessment. Although the RCPCH has introduced OSCE format for their ST7 Exit Examination, there was no plan of doing this in Hong Kong.

The passing rates of the 3 DCH Written Examinations in 2009 were 0%, 0%, 100% (as compared to 33%, 33%, 43% for last year). The DCH clinical examination had changed to OSCE format from 2006 and its passing rate was 73% in 2008.

From February 2009, a musculoskeletal (MSK) station has been introduced in the Clinical Examination to assess candidates' ability to examine joint and gait problems. Videos and explanation notes have been sent to all Training Units. Further training sessions on MSK, history taking and communication skills by UK examiners were organized for local candidates on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

Dr WH Lee also represented our College to be the External Examiner in the Macau Paediatric Consultant Examination on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

### **Community participation in issues of Child Health Interests**

Through the PGA Committee, the College made responses to the government on issues related to children's health and welfare: In response to consultation from the government on the new HKSAR Report on the implementation of United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child, Dr Patricia Ip attended a Legislative Council hearing on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2009 and the College submitted a written response on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2009.

The College also co-signed a petition (by the Alliance for Children's Commission) to the government expressing concern on tackling drug abuse among children and young people. These documents could be viewed on the College website.

Dr LY So and Dr SN Wong represented our College to attend an interview on RTHK on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2009 to introduce the work of the College to the public.

### **Collaboration with Ministry of Health (MOH) on Specialist Registration in Mainland China**

Our College was one of the four pilot specialties selected by MOH to start the pilot programme of specialist training and registration in Mainland China. Our president and Dr CK Li represented our College to visit the Children's Hospital, Fudan University on 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> March 2009 and had compiled a report on the pilot scheme in paediatric specialty programme in China to the MOH.

**Donations to victims in Sichuan Earthquake**

The College would like to thank all Fellows who had contributed to the donation of \$365500 to the China Earthquake Relief Fund last year. The College and College Foundation cooperated with the Department of Applied Social Sciences of Hong Kong Polytechnic University to set up a Student Activity Centre at the Han Wang School, where the children of MianZhu county can receive social, physical and psychological support after the disaster. The donation was used to support the expenses for one year.

**Membership**

As at November, 2009, our College has 500 Fellows, 26 Overseas Fellows, 51 Members, 3 Overseas Members and 104 Associates. There was a net increase of 16 Fellows and 56 trainees locally.

**Acknowledgement**

The Council wished to thank the chairpersons and members of all Standing Committees, the Working Group on Accreditation of Paediatric Subspecialties, and the Hong Kong College of Paediatricians Foundation for their dedicated leadership and contribution; our secretariat team Ms. Christine Li, Connie Lui, Vanessa Wong (who joined us in September 2008) for their efficient service; all the Chiefs-of-service and Training Supervisors and the course teachers of training institutions for their support of postgraduate paediatric training course; all the examiners for their support in the Intermediate Examination/MRCPCH, Exit Assessment and DCH Examinations; and all invited speakers of College-held educational programmes.

**Dr. WONG Sik-nin**  
Honorary Secretary