

## Editorial

# Academic Collaboration of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Fraternity in Singapore

**KH Tan**

The objective of Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Singapore (OGSS) is to promote and maintain a high standard in Obstetrics & Gynecology in Singapore. One of the stated constitutional aims is to publish paper and other literature related to Obstetric and Gynecology and allied subjects in support of this academic objective. The Singapore Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (SJOG) is the academic voice of the society.

SJOG is now in the 38th year issue since March 1970 when it started off as The Proceedings of the Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society. While the origin of its volume issue number can be traced to 1970, its academic origins and inspiration went as far back as half a century ago to 1956 where it began as the Bulletin of the Kandang Kerbau Hospital (KKH) for Women with Professor BH Sheares as editor.<sup>1</sup> The Journal has evolved to its present name 'Singapore Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology' since 1977 to accommodate an expansive academic role in Singapore and the region, more than just the deliberations of the academic activities of OGSS.

Some recent events has significantly enhanced the academic landscape of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology (O&G) in Singapore and are worth pondering.

The Chapter of Obstetricians And Gynaecologists, Academy of Medicine has been transformed to the College Of Obstetricians And Gynaecologists, Singapore (COGS) in 14 August 2004. COGS with its 4 sections (Gynaecological Oncology, Maternal Fetal Medicine, Reproductive Medicine and Urogynaecology) focused on continuous professional development and continuous medical education. COGS has produced a number of consensus guidelines for O&G fraternity in Singapore.<sup>2</sup> Fellows of COGS are also involved in the Exit Assessment of Advanced Specialist Trainees (AST) conducted by the Specialist Training Committee (STC O&G), Singapore.

An academic milestone for the O&G Fraternity in Singapore was achieved with the conduct of the First Joint M.Med (O&G)/ MRCOG Part 2 Oral Assessment Examination in KK Women's and Children's Hospital Singapore on Monday, 8 May 2006. The Second Joint Examination was held on 14 May 2007. This milestone was achieved through the collaboration of COGS, Royal College Of Obstetricians And Gynaecologists, UK and Division of Graduate Medical Studies, National University of Singapore.<sup>3</sup>

The O&G Clerkship Programme of Duke/NUS Graduate Medical School (GMS) has been formulated this year, at the KK Women's and Children's Hospital. The teaching & learning strategies and methods for the GMS students are significantly different from that of Yong Loo Lin Faculty of Medicine and incorporate innovative teaching methods like team based learning. There is also current buzz and excitement of transforming both healthcare clusters of Singapore into vibrant academic medical institutions with strong focus on clinical excellence, education & research.

Academic collaboration of Obstetrics and Gynaecology fraternity in Singapore is crucial and should be nurtured. This is not only to reduce duplication & clashing of academic activities, but also to optimise use of resources for training and education; and yet still allowing institutions and organisations to focus on their strengths, express their niches and raised their academic profiles. The key is good communication between institutions and organisations.

An important aspect in relation to this, has been the MOU signed between OGSS and COGS on 17 Dec 2004. This is a commitment by OGSS and COGS to work closely for the benefit of the fraternity, raising academic and professional standards in O&G. Through the MOU, there are cross representations in each other's council meetings to facilitate communication. In 2008, OGSS and COGS will continue to co-organise the Postgraduate Refresher Course. Since the 1999 course, both organisations have been co-organising these courses.

SJOG aims to have researchers and academics in Singapore especially young OGSS members,

contributing articles of academic or educational interest for our O&G fraternity in Singapore and the region. SJOG can provide our young members with opportunity, guidance and a platform to publish their academic endeavours.<sup>4</sup>

At the same time, SJOG strives to enhance academic collaboration with sister organizations (like the College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists Singapore, Perinatal Society of Singapore and the Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology of Singapore) and various O&G related hospital institutions (including KK Women's and Children's Hospital, Singapore General Hospital and National University Hospital which are the training ground for O&G postgraduates). In this issue, with prior discussions between OGSS & COGS and approval, SJOG has taken on a collaborative step to promote academic co-operation, by initiating the publication in SJOG of a Consensus Statement of COGS. This would help to achieve a wider dissemination of the consensus statements to the O&G fraternity and would

be useful to the O&G community. Consensus Statement On The Management Of Pre-Eclampsia (College Of Obstetricians And Gynaecologists, Singapore) is published in this issue.

The 6th Singapore Congress of O&G held at the Conrad Centennial Hotel, from the 21st to 25th March 2007 (under the leadership of Dr Suresh Nair and Dr Beh Suan Tiong) has been a great success and has significantly raised the academic profile of Singapore O&G internationally. Three issues of SJOG including this, will be dedicated as Congress Issues with the support from this Congress.

It is hoped that further collaboration and communication will further raise the academic standing of the Singapore O&G fraternity and standards of O&G care in Singapore.

SJOG hopes to play a helpful role in this academic endeavour.

## REFERENCES

1. Loganath A & Vengadasalam D. *The Singapore Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*. In: Tan KH & Tay EH, editors. *The History of Obstetrics & Gynaecology in Singapore*. Obstetrical & Gynaecological Society of Singapore and National Heritage Board, Singapore. P155-158 & P186-187. 2003
2. Ho TH. *The History and Development of the Chapter of Obstetricians And Gynaecologists / College Of Obstetricians And Gynaecologists*. *Ann Acad Med Singapore*. 2007;36(7):505-16.
3. Tan KH. *First Joint M.Med (O&G)/MRCOG Part 2 Oral Assessment Examination in Singapore*. *Singapore Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology* 2006;37(1) 52-55
4. Tan KH. *The Future of Singapore Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*. *Singapore Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology* 2006;37(1)1-2