

7th Singapore-Malaysia Joint Meeting in Ophthalmology

26-27 March 1988

Venue: College of Medicine Building, Singapore

Organised by: Singapore Society of Ophthalmology

Organising Committee

Chairman	Dr Cheah Way Mun
Secretary	Dr Ang Chong Lye
Treasurer	Dr Billy Tan
Scientific Committee	Dr Lee Chin Piaw Dr Heng Lee Kwang
Congress Facilities	Dr Jerry Tan Dr Long Hen Wee
Registration	Dr Tun Yee Dr Ng Sok Hoon
Social Programme	Dr Currie Chiang
Committee Members	Dr Victor Yong Dr Khoo Chong Yew Dr Richard Fan Dr Chia Swee Cheong Dr Goh Swee Heng Dr Pauline Cheong Dr Paul Chew Dr Brian Fleck

Secretariat

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c/o Department of Ophthalmology Singapore General Hospital, Outram Road Singapore 0316

Message

Dear Colleague

The Organising Committee of the 7th Singapore-Malaysia Joint Meeting in Ophthalmology takes great pleasure in inviting you to join us in this Annual Meeting.

The programme has been drawn up and we have gathered a panel of prominent overseas and local experts to take part in our plenary lectures and symposia.

The Meeting this year has two special features. Firstly, the venue is to be held in the newly restored College of Medicine Building or the former Faculty Building of the University of Singapore, which has excellent congress facilities. Secondly, the afternoon sessions are divided into various symposia according to the area of sub-specialization. Subspecialization is a definite trend of ophthalmic practice in this region. The main theme of this Meeting viz "Current Concepts in Ophthalmology" will include updates of various subspecialties such as glaucoma, pediatric ophthalmology, contact lens practice and anterior segment surgery. In addition, there will be opportunity for free papers to be presented. So, once again, may we invite you to participate in this Meeting and we look forward to a time of fruitful exchange of knowledge and of meeting friends again.

Dr Cheah Way Mun

Organising Chairman

**Seventh Singapore-Malaysia Joint
Meeting in Ophthalmology 1988**

Opening Address 7th Joint Congress

26 March 1986

by Dr Chew Chin Hin

DDMS (Hospitals), Singapore

Mr Chairman, ladies & gentlemen

May I first thank the chairman and his Organising Committee for inviting me to this annual gathering of Malaysian and Singapore Ophthalmic Surgeons. Ever since its inception in 1980, this joint meeting has increased in stature. From a single session meeting in one day, this 7th Meeting now consists of two full days with concurrent sessions. It is heartening to see so many of you here today, eager to exchange knowledge and to keep abreast with recent developments in Ophthalmology. The importance of these two worthy objectives cannot be over-emphasized.

Indeed the discipline of Ophthalmology is expanding very rapidly, both internationally and in this region. Over the past decade there were notable advances such as laser therapy and intraocular lens implantation. In 1987, our surgeons of the two Eye Departments in SGH and TTSH performed some 3,500 intraocular lens implantation operations. The ageing Singapore Population prone to eye problems like cataracts and degenerative changes will ensure a continued demand for ophthalmic expertise in the 1990s.

The main theme of this meeting "Current Concept in Ophthalmology" is a timely reminder to all of us that Ophthalmology like any other branch in Medicine, is expanding so rapidly that one needs to keep up constantly with current knowledge, surgical science and technology. Continuing Medical Education (CME) is a life-long process and I urge you all to adopt this commitment. Besides learning, we should in turn actively impart knowledge and skills learnt to fellow colleagues through scientific meetings like this, as well as during clinical activities in the wards and clinics. Learning and teaching must therefore go hand in hand.

Sub-specialisation is a definite trend in ophthalmic practice in the world today. Sub-specialisation raises the standard of clinical practice and also promotes research and development.

It is the Ministry's policy and concern, as many of you know, to encourage the career development of doctors at all levels. To this end, the Health Manpower Development Plan (HMDP), implemented since 1980, will this year award 7 scholarships to our Ophthalmic trainees who have been trained and prepared to go overseas to acquire their higher professional qualifications. This expense has been necessary to-date. However, the School of Postgraduate Medical Studies of the National University of Singapore will before long conduct its own examinations leading to the Master of Medicine in Ophthalmology degree. Singapore will then have reached the stage of training as well as certifying Ophthalmic Surgeons locally. As has been the case with the M Med in Ophthalmology will be recognised by our sister Colleges in Britain and Australia as equivalent in standing in their diplomas.

Much of these funds could then be used to send ophthalmologists in the Ministry for advanced specialist training to well established centres overseas as well as inviting eminent experts to Singapore specifically to train and to transfer their skills and expertise to our officers. That would clearly enable us to speed up the acquisition of skills and knowledge in the sub-specialisation process.

There are today in Singapore 46 doctors with qualifications in Ophthalmology; 19 are in our Ministry and 27 are in the private sector. The number was 35 when I addressed you 5 years ago. This is still insufficient for Singapore's requirement. It is heartening therefore to see our younger doctors are taking the initiative to specialise in this field. At the recent traineeship selection exercise, the popularity of Ophthalmology could be gauged by the fact that trainees were appointed only after they had acquired the Part I of the fellowship examination. Eight were selected and will commence their training in June this year. In addition to these Departments in SGH and TTSH, NUH has also, since 1987, a similar department with training facilities.

The field of Ophthalmology is still wide open and sub-specialisation within Ophthalmology is already at our doorstep. May I urge all of you to make full use of various local and overseas training schemes offered by the Ministry to embark in or further their sub-specialties.

It now remains for me to wish you all a very fruitful exchange of knowledge and interaction over the next 2 days and to declare the 7th Singapore-Malaysia Joint Meeting in Ophthalmology open.