

NEWSLETTER of HONG KONG COLLEGE OF PATHOLOGISTS

The Hong Kong College of Pathologists, Incorporated in Hong Kong with Limited Liability

October 1996 / Volume 5:3

Inside This Issue

1. Fees need to rise..... Hon Treasurer

2. Manpower survey update

3. EuroTransMed - CME points by satellite?

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the activities of the College grow, the number of necessary committees, panels, working groups and task forces also expands - all require input and membership by College fellows. Various outside bodies also require the services of College representatives. A list detailing such involvement is given on the next page. With only about 120 fellows residing in Hong Kong, we need the involvement of as many fellows as possible if we are to successfully achieve all the College's goals. As in any organisation, there are occasions when minor problems in communication have led to some misunderstandings, while at other times members have felt that the College has not recognised their contributions - we ask for your tolerance on such occasions. Please do not hesitate to give your opinions. Constructive feedback can only help to strengthen our College.

The **Continuing Medical Education** programme commenced on 1.7.96. It is unfortunate that some perceived problems and disagreements did not surface earlier - the CME programme had been described in two earlier editions of the Newsletter and in the Academy Newsletter. Nevertheless, several teething problems have been encountered and the College is doing its best to resolve these problems. The excellent FAQ sheet, produced by the Education Committee, helped to further explain the finer points of the programme while a special meeting on 9/8/96 with 20 or so fellows attending, raised some other issues such that the Education Committee will produce a questionnaire to canvass opinions and gauge what further action, if any, is needed. For those Academy and College fellows who feel they are not yet ready to participate in the CME scheme, the Council has resolved that they may start their CME cycle on 1.1.97. If any fellow still remains uncertain about any aspects related to the CME system, they should contact a member of the Education Committee.

I shall be representing the College at the **International Liaison Committee of Presidents** to be held in San Diego on 5th & 6th October, 1996. Our past-President, Prof Faith Ho, attended the last meeting and felt it was a successful encounter and an important method of fostering better understanding between our international-equivalent colleges and organizations. The positive effects that such a relationship can bring is obvious.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, November 23rd
NEW CLUB HOUSE,
HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB,
Shan Kwong Road, Happy Valley.

Hong Kong College of Pathologists

List of Committees, Working Groups and College Representatives on Outside Bodies.

(A) Committees Responsible to College Council

(1) Training & Examinations Committee (TEC)

- a) Panel of Examiners for each Specialty
- b) Convenors and Panel of Inspectors for laboratory inspection.

(2) Education Committee

(3) QA Committee

- a) Specialty panels for each discipline

(4) Credentials Committee

(5) Professional and General Affairs Committee

(B) Specialty Advisory Panels and Working Groups of Council

(1) Specialty Advisory Panels

(2) Laboratory Accreditation Working Group

(3) Working Group on Manpower Requirements

(4) Task Force on Cytopathology

(C) Representatives on Outside Bodies

(1) Local

- a) HKAM Council - President
- b) HKAM Education Committee - Chairman, TEC
- c) HKAM Working Group on Specialist Manpower
 - Dr S L Loke
- d) HA COC-Training Sub-Committee
 - Chairman Education Committee
- e) Panel of Representatives on Interview Board for Consultants in HA
- f) HK Museum of Medical Sciences, Board of Directors - Dr C K Lin
- g) HA COC-QA Sub-Committee
 - Chairman of QA Committee

(2) Overseas

- a) International Liaison Committee of Presidents
 - President (+ a Vice-President)
- b) WHO/COWS Joint Meeting on "Quality Assurance related Health Laboratory Technology" - President / Chairman, OAC committee

The **inspection of laboratories and training posts** has proceeded very smoothly. Particular thanks are due to Prof. Augustine Cheng and the Specialty Convenors, as well as to all the participating inspectors. The inspectors' recommendations will now be considered by the TEC and the Council's decision will then be given to the various laboratories.

A MESSAGE FROM THE HONORARY TREASURER

It is a painful thing, but in view of rising expenditure by the College, the College Council discussed and decided in the recent Council Meeting to increase the annual subscription of Fellows to \$2000 with effect from November 1st 1996, with the same percentage of increase applied to the other categories of members.

As you know, the running of our College depends almost entirely on the entrance fee and annual subscription collected from members. Like all colleges with a relatively small number of members, we suffer from a limited 'revenue' from membership. The income from the payment of entrance fee has also been drastically reduced after the first few years of the inception of our College when most of our members have paid their share. On top of that, your College is now more established and needs to be run more "professionally". With the increase in workload, the College has, in April this year, engaged a full-time paid secretarial staff member to handle the secretaries work and the financial transactions of the College. Inevitably, our expenditure has increased and the College is now running in the red.

The decision by the Council to recommend raising the annual subscription was a difficult one but it is a real necessity without which your College cannot survive and operate. This decision of the Council will be presented to the Annual General Meeting on November 23 1996 for your endorsement. Meanwhile, copies of the Audit Report for the past financial year are available for your perusal and I will be available to answer you if you have any questions on the College's financial matters.

TRAINING & EXAMINATIONS COMMITTEE

The Training and Examinations Committee would like to further remind all **Educational Supervisors** to register all new trainees with the TEC by writing to Dr SL Loke, Secretary of the TEC.

Please note that the revised **Application Form for Recognition of Training Posts in Laboratories** have been sent out in July and that laboratories concerned were

asked to complete the forms and return them within two weeks to facilitate subsequent inspection. The expiry date for most laboratories is the end of 1996.

UPDATE ON THE HONG KONG ACADEMY OF MEDICINE WORKING GROUP ON SPECIALIST MANPOWER

From Dr SL Loke, our College representative,.....

The College Council has now completed a survey on the projected manpower needs in the various disciplines.

The College working group includes Dr Wilina Lim (in Microbiology and as Convenor), Dr Raymond Chu (in Haematology), Dr Anthony C.C. Shek (in Clinical Chemistry), Dr S.L. Loke (in Histopathology), Dr Eric Chan (in Immunology). Dr H.K. Mong (in Forensic Pathology) and Dr C.S. Feng (in AP/CP).

The survey collected the views of Fellows in each discipline on the workload and the manpower required to cope with such workload. The need for more trained staff in Haematology, Microbiology and Clinical Chemistry was re-affirmed, although the number of staff positions in the public sector does not reflect the manpower requirement. This is also true for Histopathology, but to a lesser extent, particularly when the administrative and non-clinical duties of the histopathology staff are also taken into consideration. The manpower requirement in Immunology and Forensic Pathology are relatively small and care should be taken in planning their manpower supply so as not to overshoot on either side. There was no strong support for training in an AP/CP programme among the Chiefs of Service (Pathology) in the public hospitals.

The consolidated report will be submitted to the Working Group on Manpower Supply in the Academy for use in making a projection of the overall specialty medical manpower requirements in Hong Kong. The Academy Working Group has been recommending to the Academy for a while that there should be protected time for staff receiving or providing training in their discipline. The Group has also tried to set up a formula to be used for the basic calculation of the present manpower needs in order to cope with training, while taking into consideration the actual number of trainers and trainees in each College. While the Academy Working Group has pushed this aspect, individual Colleges have been asked to supplement this with more solid proposals to the Academy Council.

MEETINGS AND SOCIETIES

- The College co-sponsored, with the Hong Kong Pathology Society, the recent symposium on Paediatric Pathology held on 21st-22nd September, 1996.

- The College will co-sponsor the Keynote Lectures on "***The Liver in Transplantation***" which will be held on 16th November, 1996. This will be part of the programme of the 5th Annual Scientific Meeting and International Symposium on Liver Pathology organised by the International Academy of Pathology (HK Division).

- Following the previous issue of the Newsletter, a seminar titled "***Topics in Forensic Pathology***" will be held in Room 004, University Pathology Building, Queen Mary Hospital on the 8th of November, 1996 starting at 1415 hrs. The program will include talks by Professor Bernard Knight on "***Formulating a Cause of Death***", "***Autopsy on Post-Operative Deaths.***" Colleagues from the Forensic Pathology Service will talk about the local experience with "***Dismembered bodies***".while Dr Paul Dickens will talk on "***The Autopsy as a Tool in Clinical Audit***". The course is jointly organised by the Department of Pathology, HKU and the Forensic Pathology Service. All are welcome and C.M.E. points application has been made.

Membership of College

The total membership of our College is now 234 with 12 Honorary Fellows, 87 Founder Fellows, 63 Fellows, 14 Overseas Fellows, 13 Members and 45 Associates.

THE HONGKONG ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

Continuing Medical Education Via Satellite To Your Hospital.

The Academy seeks the Colleges' response to an approach by the *EuroTransMed* network, "a non-profit making foundation established by doctors to provide live interactive educational programmes for doctors. The foundation broadcasts by satellite up to **40 programmes a year** from its studio in London and from major conferences and symposia in Europe. Any hospital can join EuroTransMed. Already the network reaches over **200 European hospitals.**"

"EuroTransMed programmes bring together opinion leaders and researchers, practising physicians and surgeons. Research results are communicated, new developments discussed. Subjects for EuroTransMed programmes are chosen by an independent Editorial Board. This Editorial Board keeps in close touch with major European Medical Societies and responds to comments and suggestions from the audience. In choosing subjects, the Editorial Board will focus on new developments in the clinical and research fields. The interactive format of the programmes enables medical practitioners to examine and question the evidence presented."

"A selection of subjects covered by the EuroTransMed programmes:"

- Controversies in the treatment of breast cancer
- Comprehensive management of the treatment of osteoporosis
- Euthanasia - the example of the Netherlands
- Diagnostic imaging
- The practical management of coronary heart disease
- Communicating with cancer patients and their relatives
- Pathogenesis and management of progressive renal disease
- Infectious hepatitis
- Aspergillus infections: an increasing and insidious threat
- Comprehensive programmes for treating schizophrenia
- Protease inhibitors in the treatment of HIV disease
- Ensuring the virological safety of transfused blood
- Optic nerve health
- Oral contraceptives and cardiovascular disease."

"Interactive discussions with international opinion leaders"

"Doctors can call in to speak to the studio panel during the programme or send them a fax with questions or comments. Programmes are broadcast live so questions can be answered during the programme. Two-way video links are possible and video phones can be used in hospitals with ISDN lines."

"How to receive EuroTransMed?"

"Programmes are encrypted but provided free of charge to hospitals. The EuroTransMed foundation is supported by the European Commission and by educational grants from the health care industry."

"Receive sites require:

- ⇒ a standard satellite dish on the roof cabled to one or more viewing rooms
- ⇒ a satellite receiver and a EuroTransMed decoder
- ⇒ a television set(s)
- ⇒ optional: a videorecorder (hospitals are welcome to record programmes for their own libraries)."

These programmes are broadcast at one of two times 12 noon (UK time)/1pm (Mainland Europe time) or 5.30pm (Mainland Europe time)/4.30pm noon (UK time), with the latter being used for surgically related subjects. Obviously only the most enthusiastic of local professionals is likely to want to actively participate on-line at the equivalent local times but the option of recording the programmes for use by Academy fellows is one aspect of interest for the Academy.

A possible scenario is that the Academy would finance the cost of setting up the receiving dish, etc. The Academy could then make one or several tapes of the programmes for use by Academy Fellows / Colleges. Please let the College know if you would like us to further explore this matter.

[Editor: A tape of the session on Kaposi's sarcoma broadcast in March 1996 has been viewed by several Council members and their responses were most favourable as to the content and quality of the production.]

**You can obtain more information on the World Wide Web using the following URL:
<http://www.eurotransmed.nl>**

PROFESSIONAL & GENERAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

College Web Page

You can find the College home page (see below) on the WWW at <http://medi.net.hk/~hkpath/>. Try it! and give some feedback.

Souvenirs

The PGA committee has received Council approval to obtain a number of pens with pen stands bearing the College logo for purchase as souvenirs. These will be available at the AGM and afterwards. The price will be \$50.00.

College Badges of Office

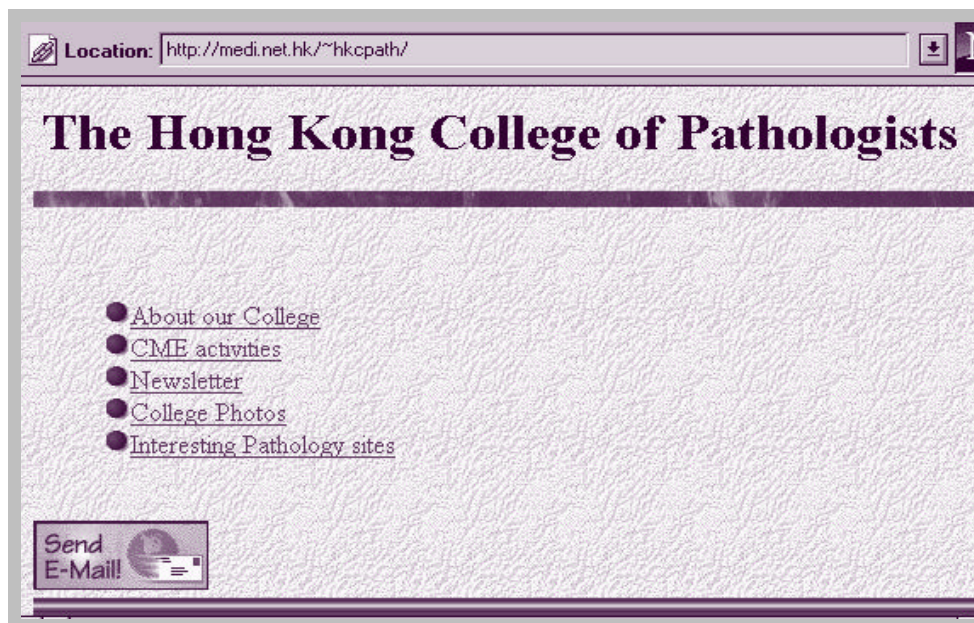
The College badge of office will be worn by the College President at this year's AGM.

College Address Handbook

The new edition to be printed soon, will be distributed towards the end of the year.

[Editor: A note from Dr CH Tse, COS Path, QEH : Would you mind including QEH Department of Pathology URL in the newsletter: "<http://www.ha.org.hk/qeh/dept/pi>"]

You will find a fairly comprehensive Pathology Internet Resource list as well as our College's CME accredited meeting notices there. I am trying to put up an updated Pathology CME activities list on our web site.]



NEW FELLOWS, MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES

Resignation:

Dr. SO Kwan Wing, Kon Fan.

It is with regret but understanding that we note the resignation of one of our Founder Fellows, Dr. SO Kwan Wing, Kon Fan. Dr So made a major contribution to the development of Anatomical Pathology at the Queen Mary Hospital in the many years before he retired to Australia. Today his major, and rightly deserved, interests lie with the roses in his garden, his wife and their grandchildren.

The College extends a warm welcome to the following:

Fellows:

Dr HO Luen Cheung

Members:

Dr NG Chung Ki

Associates:

**Dr LAM Kit Yi
Dr LO Wing Ip**

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NEWSLETTER MATERIAL?

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