




World Health Organization
Director General's Office

It is an honour and a great pleasure to greet you on the occasion of the inauguration of the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners. I understand that the objectives of the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners are to improve the standard of the practice of medicine and to promote continuing medical education in primary care or general practice. As you are aware, the development of manpower for primary health care and the promotion of innovative methods to ensure their continuing education have always been two of the major goals of the World Health Organization. I have no doubt that your efforts in this field will contribute towards the attainment of this goal.

I wish you all success in your future work.

October 1976



H. Mahler, M.D.
Director-General



THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF
GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

From

THE PRESIDENT

It is a great pleasure to hear of the formation of the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners. Throughout the world General Practice is becoming better defined and better accepted as a worthy discipline of medicine. Much of this work has been due to the pioneering efforts of many members of the several Colleges, each in their own country. There is also an increasing interchange of views, experience and knowledge, which together help to strengthen the competence and status of General Practitioners. It is with great pride and pleasure therefore that I salute and commend the behaviour of the General Practitioners of Hong Kong in setting up their own College.

Yours sincerely,

P.S. BYRNE CBE FRCGP

August 1976



The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

43 Lower Fort Street Sydney New South Wales 2000 Telephones 27 3244 27 8845 Cables Collgenprac Sydney Telex AA 25807

On behalf of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners I extend congratulations to the Hong Kong Medical Association and the general practitioners of Hong Kong on the successful launching of the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners.

We are aware that a great deal of hard work by many people has made possible this achievement and we feel confident that their faith in the future of general practice will be rewarded by the success this College will have in its role of providing an educational and research organization devoted to the improvement of standards in general practice.

The Australian College is very honoured to have had the opportunity to have been involved in a small way in the establishment of the Hong Kong College. I can assure you that we look forward to ongoing cooperation between our two Colleges. We all have much to gain from our mutual experiences and, of course, we all have the same ideals of the improvement of general practice through the provision of educational programmes and facilities.

From us all in Australia, congratulations and good wishes for the future. We are fully confident that the College, with devoted people at the helm, will prosper and fulfil its aims.

David A. Game,
President,
The Royal Australian College
of General Practitioners

1st August 1976

October 1976

Advances in medical science have produced a mass of knowledge which is now well beyond the capacity of a student to encompass in his undergraduate medical course. Indeed, the rate at which new information becomes available is so fast that a doctor is soon out-of-date if he does not continue to learn and study after graduation. It is often said that once a man has entered medical school as a student he is bound to remain a student of medicine until he retires from practice.

In helping doctors to achieve this continuous renewal of their knowledge the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners will find an important task and render a service which Hong Kong doctors need. This and other purposes for which the new College has been established are in fact complementary to those of the Faculty of Medicine. Allow me then on behalf of the Faculty to convey good wishes for the future success of the College. We shall follow with interest its progress along the road to achievement.

J.B. Gibson,
Dean, Faculty of Medicine,
University of Hong Kong.

October 1976

For medicine the last half century was a period of unparalleled advance. It was the age of scientific medicine; a time in which a host of new medical specialties were generated. The advantages were not unalloyed, for in this thrilling scientific thrust the humanitarian side of medicine was too often ignored: its comparative advances were meagre. The general practitioner often had to accept a secondary role alongside his specialist colleague. But this age is passing.

In Western societies at least, it is increasingly clear that the most compelling human need now is for the individual to establish a congenial inter-relationship with an environment ever faster-moving and more complicated. Medical evolution must change course correspondingly: in doing so it will restore the general practitioner – the family doctor – to his proper place of responsibility and status, for it is he who has the opportunity to become the expert in the interaction, often stressful, between the individual and the complex circumstances surrounding him.

The inauguration of the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners is therefore a most opportune event: it is especially welcome to all concerned in postgraduate medical activities. In prudently establishing the College a group of Hong Kong practitioners has followed the lead set by enlightened medical communities elsewhere. There is no template for success: each new college must discover how best to relate empathetically with the culture and the mores of the community it serves. The College is embarking on a noble endeavour which deserves wholehearted support, for it could lead to rich rewards in the quality of service given by its members to the people of Hong Kong.

Cecil W.D. Lewis,
Director,
Postgraduate Medical Education,
University of Hong Kong.

September 1976

On behalf of the World Medical Association I have the honor of sending words of greetings on the occasion of the inauguration of the College of General Practitioners.

Hong Kong is located in the central part of Asia, adopting the culture of the surrounding countries and building up a magnificent living environment and Hong Kong is also a place where great progress in learning can be expected.

The birth of the College of General Practitioners in Hong Kong, I think, will elevate the standard of community medical care in Hong Kong. Moreover, if primary care is developed rationally, I believe the role to be played by this College will be very great. I am convinced that if this College improves the quality of primary care and increases the number of those engaged in primary care it will greatly contribute to the new development of community medicine.

I wish the College of General Practitioners great success and a bright future.

Taro Takemi
President
World Medical Association

September 1976

As the Executive Director of the College of Family Physicians of Canada, and as President of WONCA — the world Organization of National Colleges Academies and Academic Association of General Practitioners/Family Physicians — it affords me particular pleasure to bring greetings and best wishes to the members of the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners on the occasion of your inaugural meeting.

These are stimulating and rewarding days for family doctors throughout the world. Following a period of two decades when the attention of medical educators was directed almost entirely to the training of specialists and sub-specialists — emphasis is now being placed on the more specific training of General Practitioners/Family Physicians at all levels of medical education. This acceptance of general practice as an acknowledged academic discipline is being spearheaded by National Colleges and Academies of General Practitioners/Family Physicians.

I welcome the members of the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners to this world community of family doctors, and look forward to sharing our mutual interests with you.

Donald I. Rice,
President — WONCA
Executive Director — CFPC

September 1976

I have heard of the establishment of the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners from my friends Dr. Peter Lee, who is Vice-President of the Confederation of Medical Associations of Asia and Oceania, and Sister Mary Aquinas, the Honorary Secretary of the Interim Council.

I have watched with interest the development of Colleges of General Practitioners in Great Britain and in my own country of Australia and I am indeed aware of the great work that they have done in establishing and maintaining a proper and fine standard of General Practice each within its own country.

As President of the Confederation of Medical Associations of Asia and Oceania and on behalf of the Confederation of which the Hong Kong Medical Association is such an active member, I offer to the College at its inaugural meeting the very best wishes for success in the future.

Geoffrey Newman-Morris
President
Confederation of Medical Associations
in Asia and Oceania.

August 1976

I am very pleased to learn that the preparatory phase of the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners will soon climax in the inauguration of the College. The College of General Practitioners, Singapore, sends their heartiest congratulations to the Interim Council of the Hong Kong College for their splendid achievement, and warmly welcomes our youngest sister college in the Far East region.

Much progress in family medicine has been made over the past decade, facilitated in some countries by the active support of their governments and by the involvement of their medical schools. Such situations do not always exist in this part of the world, and the initiative of developing and upgrading family medicine has to come from dedicated general practitioners.

There is much in common in the practice of family medicine in our two countries and there is much our two colleges can learn from each other.

May I on behalf of the College of General Practitioners, Singapore, extend our warm hand of friendship and wish you well in your endeavour to raise and maintain the standard of your special field of medical practice.

Wong Heck Sing
President
College of General Practitioners
Singapore.

August 1976

At all times in our individual histories Hongkong and Malaysia have been closely knit by cultural and ethnic bonds. So many of our Malaysians have received their basic training in Medicine in the Hongkong University and have returned to an honourable standing in medical science in Malaysia. Our training and teaching have a common background and there has never been any difficulty in the exchange of professional expertise. We have so much in common with a basic training in the British standard of medicine, supplemented with what we have imbibed from other national schools of teaching. In addition, the cultures and languages have a close similarity in both areas and with it goes the occurrence of the commoner diseases.

The College of General Practitioners, which is in itself so young in existence, will be honoured to have as many of our medical colleagues from Hongkong at the 3rd Joint College Convention scheduled to be held in Malaysia during the period 8th - 11th, September, 1977. We welcome the establishment of a sister institution in Hongkong and wish it a successful debut.

A.W.E. Moreira
President
College of General Practitioners
Malaysia.

August 1976

It gives me great pleasure to send this message of good wishes to the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners on the auspicious occasion of its inauguration.

It is further gratifying to learn that a brochure is also being published to commemorate this event, which would be a very useful document and a landmark in the history of the college.

The necessity of establishing such an institution cannot be over emphasised for solving the problems of the General Practitioner, who is a front line soldier for prevention of human misery and better patient care. To enable him to prevent the disease and to fight it out, it is necessary that he should be well organised and fully equipped with the knowledge of recent advances and latest techniques. Armed with the rapidly advancing scientific knowledge, the general practitioner with the establishment of this college will be able to play his role in the society more effectively.

I personally, and members of the College of Family Medicine, Pakistan, congratulate the members of the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners for their efforts in establishing this college.

We wish the college a grand success for all times to come.

S.M. Moonis
Chairman,
College of Family Medicine
Karachi, Pakistan.

August 1976

We in the Philippine Academy of Family Physicians are very happy to know that the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners has been established.

General Practice-Family Medicine being a fully-recognized distinct Specialty the world over, it is but proper and fitting that, in the Orient, GP's and Family Physicians are grouping together to promote quality medical service in this part of the world. "Primary Care" and the handling of patients as total individuals afflicted with disease is the modern approach to an efficient and less expensive Health Delivery System.

The Hong Kong College of General Practitioners and the Philippine Academy of Family Physicians, therefore, should be in close liaison to help discover their common problems and share with each other in looking for their solution.

For and on behalf of the Philippine Academy of Family Physicians and on my own, I extend our cordial greetings and best wishes.

Eduardo B. Morales.
President
The Philippine Academy of Family Practice

August 1976

With pleasure we learn that the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners will soon hold its solemn inauguration and on this occasion will publish a brochure.

In view of the rapidly advancing technology in medicine, progressive general practitioner medicine must be maintained for the interest of the patient as following the declaration previously given by experts of the World Health Organisation.

Only when all the countries in the world provide an academy, a college or an association of general practitioners/family physicians, which will be united in the W.O.N.C.A. may we be assured of the keeping up and furthering the prosperity of this indispensable first-level medicine.

In the name of the members of the Belgian Association of General Practitioners from a small and densely populated Western-European land, I wish the best to the practitioners of a smaller and more densely populated South-east Asian country.

Although the distance is great, we will be present at your solemn inauguration not only with our thoughts but also with our heart.

A.Coelis,
President
G.B.O. - V.B.O.
Belgium Association of General Practitioners

August 1976

The Association of General Practitioners of Western Germany is very happy to congratulate you on the inauguration of the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners. We hope that your engagement for the development of research in General Practice and Family Medicine will be very successful and will unite your College with the efforts of all General Practitioners around the world and within the WONCA.

Otto Forstmeyer,
Association of General Practitioners
of West Germany.

August 1976

To know of the birth of a new Academic Association of General Practitioners, as is the case of the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners, is indeed an announcement most gratifying to all colleagues throughout the world, because it stimulates all our brotherly Associations to continue in their academic activities and it also makes all General Practitioners feel that they are closer to each other, notwithstanding the physical distance that separates them.

The Association Mexican de Medicos Generales warmly congratulates the founding members of the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners for its inauguration and extends its best wishes for its continued future success.

Alejandro Robles
President
The Mexican Association of General Practitioners

August 1976

I congratulate you on the inauguration of the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners and extend to you my best wishes for steady growth in number and importance of your institution.

Family Practice in the United States has re-emerged as a basic force in charting the direction of American medicine since founding of the American Academy of Family Physicians in 1947. There is no question but what the organization has been a guiding force in this re-emergence. Continuing education has been the cornerstone of the Academy's strength. We commend it to you and general physicians everywhere.

Carl B. Hall,
President
American Academy of Family Physicians

August 1976

It is indeed gratifying to note the discipline of General Practice being accepted as a speciality in its own right. The role of General Practice in a community and the utmost respect and regard of the community in the General Practitioners is a matter of tradition. In all countries he is accepted as the leader of the community, as its friend, philosopher and guide; and all efforts at equipping him with the necessary academic background and making him learn medicine throughout his life is commendable.

The General Practitioners have to get organised into a College or Academy to update knowledge to do research in the community and/or to teach their colleagues and find out avenues for a comprehensive continuing educational programme. The Hong Kong College of General Practitioners deserves congratulation in providing this forum and opportunity to upgrade medical and health standards as a part of the community welfare.

On the occasion of the inauguration of the College, I send my good wishes and wish the members all success in their efforts.

P.C. Bhatla
President
IMA College of General Practitioners

September 1976

At its meeting on 11 September 1976, the Council of The New Zealand College of General Practitioners received with pleasure the news of the proposed inauguration of the Hong Kong College. This will be a most valuable addition to the Colleges of General Practice already established elsewhere, especially in the Pacific and South-East Asian area which involves our own College so closely. It will also provide an essential avenue for academic and practical contributions to the world-wide general practice scene by the large body of skilled and experienced practitioners in Hong Kong, many of whom we have already had the privilege of meeting at conferences and seminars conducted by other medical bodies.

We congratulate you, Sirs, on the foundation of the College of General Practitioners of Hong Kong, and send you our best wishes for a mutually valuable and enjoyable association.

With kind regards,

W.N. Clay,
President,
The New Zealand College of General Practitioners.

September 1976

On behalf of the Faculty of General Practice of the College of Medicine of South Africa may I extend to the President and members of the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners our good wishes and congratulations on the inauguration of your College. May you now join in the world community of General Practitioners and exchange views on matters of mutual interest.

B.M. Fehler
Convenor of the Faculty of General Practitioners of the
College of Medicine of South Africa.