

Elder Care Special Interest Group

By Dr Tan Boon Yeow, FCFP & Chairman, Eldercare SIG

The eldercare SIG had the pleasure of hosting the visit of Dr Charles Samuel who is the 1st visiting expert for the Ministry of Health Manpower Development Programme for Step-down Care (HMDPSC) on the 19th March 2004.



Dr Scherer with president of College, council members & eldercare SIG members.

active discussion ensued with comparison of the different systems of care and training of doctors. Dr Scherer was very impressed with the training available for local family physicians and feels that we have a very good foundation to work on.

The session was followed by a talk by Dr Scherer on: **"The role of Family Physicians in Nursing Homes"**. In the talk, he highlighted the training models of primary care physicians in different countries caring for the elderly in residential facilities and explored the various areas of training/competencies required to provide quality care. He also looked at the funding mechanisms of medical services for Australian nursing homes and highlighted their strengths and deficiencies.

The SIG also had its second SIG family medicine grandround on the 4th of May. We had a interesting session when Dr Ho Han Kwee, a family physician who spent 2 years in Japan, shared about his experiences. We enjoyed the many slides he showed on the Japanese elderly and how active a life they led there. The Japanese elderly are known to have the longest disability free life expectancy.

Dr Tan Boon Yeow, family physician and Fellow of the college then presented on his one and half years' working experience in a wide range of aged care services in Melbourne and Sydney, Australia. The highlight was the exploration of the processes that we could learn from the Australian aged care system as well as how as family physicians can adapt to the care of aging population in Singapore.

A/Prof Goh Lee Gan rounded up the evening with a presentation of a new Graduate Diploma in Geriatric Medicine (GDGM) syllabus and encouraged family physicians to consider enrolling for the enriching program to increase their capacity to care for the elderly.



Dr Scherer giving a talk in College Lecture room.

Dr Scherer is a geriatrician from Melbourne, Australia. He has contributed extensively to the community aged care services in Australia. He is the Chairman of the Policy and Planning Committee of the Australian Society for Geriatric Medicine, and is actively involved in the implementation and development of aged care policies and guidelines. Dr Scherer is also involved in working with the GP divisions in Australia with the training of family physicians in the area of aged care.

Dr Scherer met up with the president and council members of the college as well as members of the eldercare SIG. An



Dr Tan Boon Yeow, Dr Ho Han Kwee & A/Prof Goh Lee Gan sharing their unique experiences from overseas systems of healthcare for the elderly.

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"Healthy Aging in the Elderly"

Chairman:

Dr Cheong Seng Kwing, FCFP,
Senior Family Physician, NHGP

3 Aug 2004 (Tuesday)

5:15pm - 6:45pm

College Lecture Room

PRESENTERS:

Dr Pang Weng Sun, head and senior consultant of the department of Geriatric Medicine, Alexandra hospital and the president of the Society for Geriatric Medicine Singapore, will explore the concept of healthy aging in the elderly and look at ways how family physicians can be involved.

Dr Ong Chin Fung, senior family physician, Singhealth Polyclinic will look at evidenced based health screening in the elderly. There are many screening programs available in the market. However, only some have proven value.