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and we can see occasional fishermen harvesting their catch. But come nightfall, the Lao bank of the river transforms into a night market which sees local people setting up sprawling stalls and selling all sorts of goods including apparel, shoes, bags, electronic devices... the list goes on and so does the long queue of stalls, drawing huge crowds of local and tourist shoppers alike. It was indeed a sight to behold!

At the end of the convention, we bring home much more than just knowledge and skills, but also the friendships forged during the convention, ideas to strengthen the relevance of our Singapore Family Physician (SFP) journal, and ways to encourage our family physicians to publish more good articles through topic reviews, case reports and even research! Our team sincerely thanks the College for allowing us this opportunity to learn from our fellow medical editors in the Asia Pacific region.

■ CM

6th Asia Pacific Primary Care Research Conference

by Dr Fok Wai Yee Rose, MCFP(S), Editorial Member

The 6th Asia Pacific Primary Care Research Conference (APPCRC) in conjunction with Family Medicine Symposium was held at The Academia on 21 to 23 September 2017. This is the first time that the College of Family Physicians Singapore (CFPS), SingHealth Duke-NUS Family Medicine Academic Clinical Programme and other institutions from the public and private sectors came together to organise this event. A total of 400 participants from 6 countries had attended this important event.

The theme – *Advancing Best Care through Education and Research* emphasises the importance of education and research in supporting and advancing the development of Family Medicine, and importantly, to bring about better patient care across the continuum of care.

Remembering our history

The inaugural APPCRC was held in Malaysia in 2009 and was mooted by senior leaders in Primary Care research who came together to brainstorm for ideas to advance Primary Care research. Five countries including Taiwan, Singapore, Myanmar, Hong Kong and Malaysia came together. The inaugural conference was so successful that future conferences were swiftly put in place.

Primary care research agenda include 4 core areas – namely:

- 1) Clinical research
- 2) Health services research
- 3) Research on education and teaching
- 4) Research on methodology

Highlights of APPCRC

This includes the much esteemed research championship workshop which provides a platform for family physicians to showcase their research ideas and develop a robust research protocol under the wise counsel of experienced family medicine researchers in the academia. Besides this key event, live competitions for best

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poster and best oral presentation awards added to the excitement of the conference.

High profile educators and researchers presented their talks including keynote lectures on “Nudges for healthy living”, “Pushing the boundaries of Family Medicine” as well as “Promoting careers in Family Medicine”. Participants were spoilt for choice in the multiple workshops that offered a buffet menu ranging from psychometrics, quality improvement, education, ethics, meta-analysis, scale development and validation, Evidence-based medicine (EBM) and health interventions. A roundtable discussion on conducting complex intervention trials in primary care settings was scheduled. This had serve to encourage and support high quality research in family medicine as well as to link up those with common interests to participate in collaborative research projects.

The time is ripe to promote Family Medicine and Primary Care as an academic specialty and to deliver EBM for best patient care. Come, help us realise our dreams and goals for Family Medicine!

■ CM

Convocation 2017

Enhancing Family Physician Development

Mr Ng How Yue, 2nd Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Health, was the Guest-of-Honour at the Family Medicine Convocation Ceremony and Dinner, on 18 November 2017. He addressed the guests with the following speech.

Dr Tan Tze Lee, President, College of Family Physician Singapore, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening

INTRODUCTION

It gives me great pleasure to join you all this evening at the Family Medicine Convocation Ceremony and Dinner.

I would first like to congratulate this year’s graduates on successfully completing your course of study and attaining your postgraduate Family Medicine qualifications. This is an important milestone in your career and in your journey of lifelong learning.