

Special Article

The Birth of Hong Kong College of Midwives

The Hong Kong College of Midwives (HKCM) was established on 15 March 2012. Its objectives were to advance the provision of education and training, to promote the science and practice of midwifery in Hong Kong, and to develop and maintain high practice of midwifery by ensuring the highest professional standards of competence and ethical integrity.

With years of preparatory work, the College was accredited by the Provisional Hong Kong Academy of Nursing (PHKAN) in March 2012 and became one of the 14 Academy Colleges of that Nursing body. The HKCM was officially inaugurated on 12 May 2012. This important milestone signified the professional development of Midwives in Hong Kong. The inauguration was successfully held in the Grand Hall of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine Building. A total of 50 Midwife Fellows were conferred as Grandfather Fellows on that day. The inauguration was officiated by Dr York Chow, Secretary for Food and Health and Dr CH Leong, Patron of the PHKAN in the presence of the Chairman of Hospital Authority (HA), Director of Health, Chief Executive of HA, and President of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine. This is the fruition of the vision to establish an independent organisation to regulate advance nursing and midwifery practice for the professions, through the concerted efforts of nurse and midwives leaders, specialty nurses and midwives, as well as academics from different sectors.

The Hong Kong Academy of Nursing is the professional association established to govern nursing and midwifery practice in Hong Kong. It is to lead growth and advancement of the nursing and midwifery profession, and promote collaboration and solidarity among nursing and midwifery specialties. It also promotes the highest professional, ethical, and governance standards in partnership with the Government and other professional bodies, to provide nursing and midwifery services of excellence to the community. The PHKAN's current priority is to establish the Academy as a statutory body and along with it, an ordinance enacted to empower the Academy to endow official accreditation to nursing and midwifery professionals. Over the years, good progress has been achieved with the support and facilitation of the Government, other professional associations, and the community.



Grandfather Fellowship Conferment in 2012

The HKCM was founded by Ms Alice SHAM, Ms Manbo MAN, Ms Irene LEE, Ms Florence HAU, Ms Iris LAM, Ms Rita YUEN, and Ms Miu-Ho POON. With very helpful advice and support by O&G, Midwifery and Nursing colleagues, the College has now been established for 1 year. Other than the five Office Bearers and eight Council members, 10 Fellows have been invited to join the Council as co-opted members after conferment of their Fellowships in May 2012. Under the Council, there are four committees, each with different terms of reference clearly delineated; namely: the Fellowship Selection Committee, Finance & Executive Committee, Education Committee, and Review Committee.

Since its establishment, the College has strived to lay the ground work for future development. In 2013, the College was re-accredited by the PHKAN for another 2 years as it has fulfilled the requirements of an Academy College. The Council members are currently working very hard to establish a membership training programme, which hopefully will be ready for enrolment in 2013/14.

Basic and post-basic training elements are focused on the consolidation of midwifery practice in normal childbirths and the advanced role of midwifery practice. Various specialty areas are included in the post-basic and post-membership training, which should become a prelude for admission to the Fellowship. In this regard, the support from obstetricians, gynaecologists as well as other health-care professionals and clinical specialties will be vital. With

this type of progress, I am confident that the HKCM will promote and foster the growth of professional midwifery in Hong Kong.

Alice SHAM RN, RM, B. Nursing, MBA, MSc (Counselling), FHKCHSE, FACHSM, FPHKAN (Midwifery)

Hong Kong College of Midwives