

Editorial

Moving forward together under the Hong Kong College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

Stepping into my third year of presidency, I am witnessing the 36th year of the Hong Kong College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (HKCOG) commitment to postgraduate training, maintenance of professional standards, and continuous medical education in Hong Kong. The years of the COVID pandemic were a harsh time for everyone, hindering travel and face-to-face contact. In 2023, the HKCOG family was pleased to gather again for knowledge exchange and fraternity building at the 35th anniversary events. It was a particularly memorable occasion when the HKCOG held its first international conference. Over 3 days, we were delighted to meet our local experts and international supporters. We were honoured to be joined by representatives from our sister colleges and professional societies from the United Kingdom, United States, Mainland China, Asia and Oceania Region, Singapore, and Malaysia. This was a testimonial to HKCOG's commitment to upholding professional knowledge and standards through international collaborations, and we look forward to organising more international conferences in future.

During the 3 years of my tenure, I started a few new initiatives in postgraduate training in obstetrics and gynaecology. First, we completed the curriculum review, an important task that would shape how our specialists are trained in the years ahead. The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG), our partner in postgraduate training and examinations, has revolutionised its training format. We recognised the need to review our own curriculum to cater for the demands of the changing medical world. In addition to holding conjoint examinations with the RCOG, we referenced the new RCOG curriculum and revised our own, considering our own needs and practicalities. I must thank the working group, led by Dr Daniel LW Chan, for bringing this important accomplishment to fruition. It was amazing to see young fellows making major contributions to the working group. As trainees not long ago and as new trainers who understand the curriculum best, young fellows are paramount to guide our specialist training on track to match local and international expectations.

Meanwhile, the Information Technology Committee has worked closely to launch an electronic logbook that makes real-time logging easier and more environmentally friendly. Starting in 2024, the HKCOG has organised induction courses annually for new incoming trainees to familiarise them with the curriculum and the logbook.

In addition to dedicated trainees and an up-to-date curriculum, competent trainers are also key to the success of the training programme. In line with the RCOG, we pay extra attention to competence-based assessments in the workplace. As elaborated by Dr Kwok Keung Tang in a previous editorial of this journal, HKCOG has actively collaborated with other colleges to promote training in medical education and equip our trainers with modern-day training and assessment methods.

Going one step further, the HKCOG shared its expertise and experience in structured training with the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Medical Specialties Training Centre, a joint venture between the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine and the Shenzhen government. We have set up a training programme for specialists and subspecialists in Shenzhen, modelling that in Hong Kong. We piloted this at The University of Hong Kong-Shenzhen Hospital over the past few years, and it has now been officially extended to other hospitals in Shenzhen. I strongly hope and confidently believe that these new initiatives will shape our training system to cater to the needs and competence of our future specialists and to be compatible with international standards.

Obstetrics and gynaecology is a very meaningful and exciting, but stressful, speciality. To understand the psychosocial well-being of our doctors, we conducted a territory-wide survey, to which about a third of obstetricians and gynaecologists (including trainees) in Hong Kong responded. The results are being analysed and will be disseminated in due course. They will provide valuable insights to help lessen the stress that our colleagues face from work and training.

I am grateful to have been entrusted by the HKCOG over the years. I am sure that the HKCOG will continue to thrive and reach new heights with all our concerted efforts.

Dr Karen Kar Loen CHAN

President

Hong Kong College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists