

The Hong Kong College of Anaesthesiologists

Council Report, 2019-2020

It has been a challenging and difficult year. The College has made a very difficult decision to cancel the ASM 2019, the examinations and all teaching/training courses scheduled for the first half of 2020. We appreciate our fellows' and trainees' understanding in these unsettled times. Despite these unprecedented difficulties, 2019 was the College's 30th Anniversary. To mark this occasion, a collection of accessories has been made, which has been announced on TUOHY.

On behalf of the Council, I would like to summarise in this report the work done in the last year and highlight our plans for the future.

Anaesthesiology

The Board of Education has developed a vision to align the future direction of anaesthesia education in Hong Kong, namely – 1) provision of a world-class training curriculum for anaesthesia trainees, to enable trainees to become self-regulated learners, and to develop professional attributes to become leaders in the field of anaesthesia and perioperative medicine, and 2) provision of a quality learning environment for lifelong continuous medical education for Fellows. The Board will continue to work towards these goals in the upcoming years.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused widespread disruption to education and training. Traditional face-to-face meetings, tutorials and lectures are to be replaced by videoconferencing or webinar. The College is working alongside various stakeholders and IT experts to provide alternative teaching and learning format in order to adapt this new normal.

The inaugural HKCA Workplace Based Assessment Train-the-Trainer Workshop was held on 7th December 2019 at Hong Kong Children's Hospital Simulation Training Centre (ChildSim). Merging simulation with faculty development in Workplace Based Assessment to meet the demands of the new curriculum, the workshop was well received by the participants. More workshops are currently being planned for 2020.

Board of Examinations has been working hard on the arrangement of examinations for the latter half of 2020, including the scheduling, contingency and precautionary measures so that the examinations could be held conveniently and safely.

Hospital accreditation exercise, which is conducted every 5 years, was completed in 2019. The Hong Kong Children Hospital, which was commissioned in late 2018, has been accredited as a HKCA training centre. The College appreciates the time and effort of the members of Board of Accreditation and inspection teams.

Intensive Care Medicine

The total number of accredited intensive care training centres in Hong Kong has increased to 8 while the College has granted 65 Fellowship in Intensive Care in the past 24 years. In view of increasing demand of intensive care service, especially facing new virus pandemics like COVID-19, the Board continued to work closely with Board of Critical Care Medicine (CCM) of the Hong Kong College of Physicians to develop a joint training curriculum so as to follow the global trend to establish a common training and assessment for doctors working in ICU. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Combined Colleges Tutorials has been changed to on-line teaching since April 2020.

Pain Medicine

The Board invited the Hong Kong College of Orthopaedic Surgeons, the Hong Kong College of Radiologists and the Hong Kong College of Psychiatrists to nominate external examiners for Final Fellowship Examination in Pain Medicine in 2019. Pain management requires multidisciplinary collaboration and orthopaedic, clinical oncology and psychiatry are our major partners. Inviting examiners from these Colleges provides a platform for the exchange of clinical experience and exploring collaboration opportunities for the sake of patients' benefits and the development of pain medicine. An electronic portfolio system has been developed to cater for the workplace based assessments and entry of logbook for the vocational training in Fellowship in Pain Medicine.

CME/CPD

To provide more CME opportunities to fellows due to the cancellation of ASM 2019, online CME quizzes have been developed and are available on iCMECPD until 31st December 2020. With the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the College has subscribed to Zoom to support CME meetings and teaching activities, with the aim of encouraging more online CME activities for Fellows during this challenging time.

Trainee Committee

The Trainee Committee, established in 2016, aims to strengthen communication between trainees and the College so as to improve the training and welfare of HKCA trainees. The Committee has collected trainees' views on the new curriculum, changes to the fellowship examination and workplace-based assessments to ensure that training needs are met, and that problems encountered during training are identified.

New projects have been planned and they include development of a Trainee Committee website for sharing of training resources, upcoming courses and conferences; development of an Annual Trainee Survey for trainees to give feedback to Board of Education on various issues related to learning opportunities, examinations and welfare.

Clinical Simulation Committee (CSC)

The College collaborates closely with Hong Kong Academy of Medicine on medical simulation training. Agreements were signed between CSC and Innovative Learning Centre for Medicine (ILCM) to conduct Procedural Sedation Safety Course (PSSC) and Air Crew Resuscitation Simulation (ACRS) Course. PSSC aims to enhance the safety of procedural sedation provided by healthcare workers whereas ACRS delivers medical and resuscitation knowledge to Air Crewman Officer and aviation healthcare workers.

Echocardiography Committee

Echocardiography Train-the-trainer Course co-organised with CUHK will be held again in 2020 in view of the need and positive feedbacks received. With sponsorship from the College, the course offers opportunities for training up another 24 echocardiography trainers and preparing them to supervise workplace-based echocardiography for trainees under the new curriculum. By May 2020, the College has 52 accredited echo trainers working in HA while 64 more potential trainers are being trained.

IT Committee

The current website has been used more than a decade and it is being revamped. The new HKCA website includes some new features and the launch of the new website is expected to be in August 2020.

International Relations and Activities

The HKCA has been working alongside with The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA), College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland (CAI), Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCOA) and Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) to establish The International Academy of Colleges of Anaesthesiologists. After a year of preparation, the International Academy was due to be inaugurated in September 2020 at the World Congress. However, due to the postponement of the World Congress, the inauguration of the International Academy has been put on hold. Further details of the International Academy will be announced soon.

The other planned overseas activities including the Tripartite Meeting in Manchester in May 2020, and the 2020 Combined Spring Meeting in Queenstown New Zealand in November 2020 have been postponed due to the pandemic and the travel restrictions.

College Finances

Despite the cancellation of ASM 2019 which is one of the major incomes for the HKCA, the College finance is in good shape according to the financial report. The Council will make every effort to ensure that College funds are used purposefully and judiciously.

Acknowledgement

I am very much indebted to the council for their unfailing support and contribution to the College, especially to Dr Hing-yu So and Prof Joseph Lui (Vice-Presidents), Dr. Simon Chan (Honorary Secretary), Dr. Anne Leung (Honorary Treasurer), and Chairpersons of all Boards and Committees.

My special thanks go to the staff working at the College including Ms Kristy Cheung, Ms. Fonia Lam, Ms Dorothy Liu, Ms Pinky Tsui and Ms. Felix Keung. We also would like to thank our Honorary Legal Advisor, Mr. Peter Man, for his invaluable legal advice. Last but not least, I wish to thank all members, fellows, examiners, supervisors of training, facilitators and instructors for their continuing support.

Professor Chi-Wai Cheung
President
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