

The Hong Kong College of Anaesthesiologists

Council Report, 2020-2021

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

Doctor's well-being has been an under-appreciated area in our local setting. Compounded with the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a significant impact on trainees' and fellows' wellbeing, on both a personal and professional level. The College has thus established a welfare workgroup to identify issues amongst our fellows and trainees, as well as to provide a platform for promoting and increasing awareness of psychological wellbeing within the College.

In February 2021, Perioperative Medicine Committee was established and the first meeting was held in May 2021. The Council has empowered the Committee to provide leadership for advancement of Perioperative Medicine in Anaesthesiology in Hong Kong by: 1) Building a conceptual framework; 2) Setting strategic direction; 3) Developing implementation plans; 4) Establishing cross-disciplinary and international collaborations.

The Workplace-based Assessment (WBA) Train-the-Trainer (TTT) Workshop has been put on hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Recognising the need to continually enhance the capacity of fellows to provide WBAs for trainees, an online version of WBA TTT Workshop was successfully held on 19th June 2021 at Hong Kong Jockey Club Innovation Learning Centre for Medicine of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine. Virtual lectures with immersive simulation were conducted to facilitate the development and implementation of the competency base curriculum, and the workshop was well received by the participants.

Examinations

It has been a stressful year for the Board of Examinations and trainees who sat the examinations during the pandemic. In order to keep the examinations running with the minimal impact of ever-changing government's regulations, the 2020 second sitting and 2021 first sitting of both Intermediate and Final Examinations were conducted in online format successfully despite all the challenges encountered.

Intensive Care Medicine

The Board has continued to work closely with Board of Critical Care Medicine (CCM) of the Hong Kong College of Physicians on setting up the Joint Syllabus in Intensive Care Medicine and the first draft is underway. Various supervised learning activities, like workplace-based assessment (WBA) will be incorporated in the new curriculum as a formative assessment and therefore a WBA Workshop for SOTs and Trainers would be organised in July 2021.

Pain Medicine

The first Joint Spring Meeting Webinar co-organised by Faculty of Pain Medicine ANZCA and HKCA, with the title of "Delivering Pain Management in the time of COVID-19 and Telehealth", was held successfully on 5th November 2020.

CME/CPD

To help fellows getting the information of CME activities readily available at your fingertips, a Google calendar for CME activities has been created. Starting from 2021, CME activities with registration details and CME points can be found in this calendar.

Trainee Committee

The Trainee Committee, established in 2016, aims to strengthen communication between trainees and the College in order to improve the training and welfare of HKCA trainees. In 2020, the Trainee Committee website was launched. This website serves to share training resources, information on courses and conferences as well as journals among trainees. The results of our first Annual Trainee Survey which covered various issues related to learning opportunities, training and welfare was also published. In 2021, the Committee will continue the second Annual Trainee Survey which allows anonymous feedback from trainees. The survey in 2021 put more focus on workplace wellbeing among trainees, aiming to collect more information and promote trainees' personal and psychological wellbeing.

Clinical Simulation Committee (CSC)

Due to the changes of the HKAM Guidelines on Procedural Sedation, various non-HA medical institutions invited the College to provide safe sedation training to healthcare workers. For example, Paediatric Dental Sedation Safety Course was jointly organised by Hong Kong Society of Paediatric Dentistry, Loving Smiles Special Care Dental Centre and HKCA. The course aims to provide necessary knowledge and basic skills to dentists, dental assistants and nurses to facilitate safe sedation and minimise complications.

IT Committee

As reported in the last council report, the new website was supposed to be launched in August 2020. However, due to a few unexpected issues which took some time to deal with, the new website was eventually launched in July 2021. In order to blend in the abbreviation of the College and the new website, a modern logo has been created and the traditional logo remains as the College's official logo for formal occasions, and as the seal for the College.

ASM 2020

The ASM 2020, with the theme of "New Decade. New Milestones. Anaesthesia in 2020" was conducted virtually without exception. In collaboration with Evidence Based Perioperative Medicine (EBPOM), the 2-day virtual conferences attracted over 500 delegates, the symposia had recorded an average attendance of over 150 delegates, and the virtual exhibition hall had been visited by more than 300 delegates.

International Relations and Activities

The College plays a greater role on the international stage with various collaboration with the international colleges.

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. The International Academy of Colleges of Anaesthesiologists (IACA) was officially launched on 30th April 2021 at the ASM of ANZCA. The IACA organised its first flagship virtual Conference with title of "COVID-19: Lessons for the future of Anaesthesia and Critical Care" on 15th – 17th June 2021.

Due to ongoing travel restrictions, the 2021 FPM ANZCA and HKCA Combined Spring Meeting, which is scheduled for 16th October 2021, would be conducted as a fully virtual meeting. Further details will be announced soon.

College Finances

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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