



## Council Report, 2022-2023

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.

### ***Retreat and Strategic Planning***

The College organised the Retreat on 8th January 2023 to discuss areas that concern fellows and members the most. The Council had thorough discussion about the way forward for the College which will involve considerable input from councillors, members of various Boards and stakeholders.

### ***Anaesthesiology***

If there is a silver lining to the COVID-19 pandemic, it would be fast-growing technologies such as online meetings and artificial intelligence (AI). Webinar on perioperative medicine co-organised with COC (Anaesthesiology) of Hospital Authority, and webinar on AI were held in early 2023 respectively.

Nurturing young fellows to become trainers has been one of the College's priorities. College recognised the importance of early engagement of young fellows, the target participants for the Workplace Based Assessment (WBA) Train-the-Trainer (TTT) workshop have been extended to provisional fellows. In addition to the regular WBA TTT workshop organised by the College, College sponsored six fellows to attend Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) Education Programme in 2022, and will sponsor another six fellows in 2023.

Board of Education revamped its structure in order to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness, and improve communication between stakeholders. The Formal Project Sub-committee evaluated the review process of formal projects and enhanced the transparency and communication between the concerned parties during the review process.

### ***Perioperative Medicine (POM)***

The POM Committee has resolved to develop a series of recommendations and certification programs to ensure the quality and safety of our perioperative service provision, as well as to uphold a high standard in the perioperative care delivered by Anaesthesiologists. To this end, the Perioperative CPEX Practitioner Certification Programme has been established to provide training for and recognition of CPEX practitioners in Hong Kong.

Another certification program and a few Practice Recommendations are now in the pipeline, with the 1-year Anaesthetic Nurse Certificate Course and Recommendation for Preoperative Echo Clinic being our main Projects in 2023.

### ***Welfare and Wellbeing***

A research grant from Medical Protection Society (MPS) foundation was received for evaluating the implementation of well-being measures for our members and fellows. We hope the research project will help us shed light on whether a hybrid approach to positive psychology interventions, through a web-based platform, can have an effect on well-being amongst our trainees and fellows. The welfare workgroup will soon be embarking on our positive psychology study to explore the effects of such interventions amongst fellows and members of our college.

### ***Examinations***

College had sponsored six representatives to attend a Foundations of Assessment Course in 2021 who subsequently organised an Examiners Workshop on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2022. The Workshop comprised pre-workshop and post-workshop tasks. During the workshop, participants were given introduction of the standard setting of examination, and had group discussion on the assignments. Guest instructors were invited to share their illuminating insights on examining.

The new examinership application and training process was reviewed in 2022 and was introduced in late 2022. The provisional examiners are required to attend the abovementioned examiners workshop as part of the



training requirements. Being examiner is a mammoth undertaking, the College is grateful for having many enthusiastic examiners who have passion in examination.

The implementation of ANZCA MCQ Paper in Final Fellowship Examination is confirmed to be in place in 2024 second sitting. In the course of the coming year, Board of Examinations and Board of Education will work closely to prepare our trainees for the MCQ paper.

### ***Intensive Care Medicine***

The Board of Intensive Care Medicine has revised the Vocational Training Guide (VTG) for Training in Intensive Care which is effective on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023. Trainees who commence their higher training in IC from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023 onwards will follow the new training programme.

Accreditation status of the six training centres for IC were renewed. Under the new training programme, all training centres are categorised as either category A or category B according to the caseload and number of trainers.

### ***Pain Medicine***

The Long Case Assessment (LCA) is a crucial aspect of the fellowship training in pain medicine for both the HKCA and FPMANZCA. Due to the pandemic, organising LCA has become extremely challenging. Infection control requirements of local hospitals and interruptions in clinical and academic activities have resulted in a backlog of candidates for examination. Despite these obstacles, both HKCA and FPMANZCA collaborated to conduct a joint LCA in October 2022, facilitating candidates to achieve their training milestones.

### ***Young Fellows Committee (YFC)***

YFC held its inaugural meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022. The first event, a webinar titled “Anaesthesia Across Borders – A Conversation with HKCA Fellows Overseas” was held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Sixty fellows and trainees took part in this webinar to reconnect with five young fellows who relocated overseas. The facilitated discussion covered differences in anaesthetic practice, work arrangement, training opportunities and family life.

The second event, “YFC Careers and Networking” was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023. It was attended by over 50 fellows and trainees. The 8 invited speakers spoke about their careers in academia, private practice, corporate administration and experience working in humanitarian missions. The total expenditure was HKD 30,078. SAHK sponsored the event fee for its members and trainees which corresponded to over 90% of the expenditure. The remaining 10 percent was covered by the YFC budget.

Within the past year, the YFC has launched a Facebook page to connect young fellows and help promote the latest college activities. The page currently has 72 followers. An Instagram (IG) account “anaes\_daily” was also set up with the aim of providing public education about the anaesthetic specialty. The IG account has garnered 561 followers.

Preparation is currently underway for two upcoming events, which include “Volunteer and Refugee Simulation Experience at Crossroads”, scheduled to take place on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2023, and the first Young Fellows Symposium at ASM 2023.

### ***Trainees Committee***

The Trainee Committee aims to serve as a bridge between trainees and the college, and to provide additional ways for trainees to express their opinion and needs. The third Annual Trainee Survey was conducted recently, and valuable information from our peers regarding training, education and professional examinations were received. The level of burnout was also assessed as part of the psychological health and overall wellbeing. The Committee would continue to maintain close communication with the college to enhance our training and education, while providing support to trainees.

### ***Clinical Simulation Committee (CSC)***

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Hospital Authority and the College has been renewed for 5 years (2021-2026) to support the development of simulation training for HKCA trainees. In order to engage young fellows in simulation teaching, the eligibility of CSC Instructor Course Sponsorship has been extended



to provisional fellows. CSC developed a mechanism for accreditation of private medical centres to organise sedation training for their medical staff in the hope of upholding the standards set by the HKCA. A webinar on Advanced Difficult Airway Management (ADAM) was jointly organised with the Society of Anaesthetists of Hong Kong (SAHK) on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2022 with speakers from Southeast Asia.

### **ASM**

The council of the HKCA, and SAHK recognised the disruptions to physical activity and mental health caused by the 5<sup>th</sup> wave of the pandemic in unprecedented ways. To support our fellows and trainees in these unsettled and turbulent times, HKCA fellows and members were offered complimentary registration fee for ASM 2022.

After the challenging times of the past three years, the Organising Committee of ASM 2023 is going to turn over “**A New Leaf**”, and shall bring us a face-to-face Annual Scientific Meeting 2023 on 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at the Convention and Exhibition Centre.

### ***International Relations and Activities***

2022 has been a fruitful year for the International Academy of Colleges of Anaesthesiologists (IACA), in which HKCA is one of the founding Colleges. Webinars on Environmental Sustainability, and Opioid Regulation were organised which engaged hundreds of participants worldwide. HKCA was responsible to host a webinar on opioid regulation which was held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

The 2023 ANZCA Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM), and Emerging Leaders Conference (ELC), which were held in early May, returned to the face-to-face format. The HKCA President and a HKCA young fellow are invited to participate the ELC every year. Attending ANZCA ASM and having business meeting with ANZCA is on the President’s, and the CEO’s annual work schedule in the hope of forging a close relationship between the two Colleges, and forging networks and friendships with other overseas colleges and societies.

Board of British Journal of Anaesthesia (BJA) meeting is another regular overseas event that the President participates in. The College is having a dialogue with the Board of BJA regarding the renewal of the MoU, and exploring the possibility of organising research related workshops.

### ***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 Yee-Eot Chee and Dr Phoon-ping Chen (Vice-Presidents), Dr Simon Chan (Honorary Secretary), Dr Timmy Chan (Honorary Treasurer), and Chairpersons of all Boards and Committees.

My special thanks go to Ms Kristy Cheung, the CEO of the College, and the other staff members including Ms Fonia Lam, Ms Mandy So, 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, and instructors for their continuing support.

Dr Hing-yu So

President

July 2023