

HKPS AGM 2007, Sheraton Hong Kong Hotel & Towers, 22 September 2007
President's Message

Good evening fellow members and invited guests. Welcome to the Hong Kong Pain Society's first Annual General Meeting. It has been an exciting year since our inauguration in October 2006 that was graced by the presence of the Honorable Dr York Chow and the Honorable Dr Leong Chi-Hung. Our main objective in the last 12 months was to establish a strong membership with multidisciplinary representation. I believe we have achieved our objective somewhat. As of the September 2007, the Society's membership stands at over 300, comprising members from over 15 different medical specialties and healthcare disciplines.

In line with the mission of the Society, over the last 12 months we have conducted lectures, published newspapers' articles and took part in a series of RTHK health education topics for general public, and conducted seminars, workshops and lectures for our members. The activities were well attended and detailed information and photos can be found in our website, www.hkpainsociety.org. In the coming year we shall continue to concentrate on educational activities for our members, other healthcare professionals and the public. In time we also plan to organize and participate in more community programmes and activities.

At the Association of SouthEast Asian Pain Societies (ASEAPS) meeting in Manila last December, I had the opportunity to represent the Hong Kong Pain Society at the Declaration for Chronic Pain Relief in Asia Pacific: Controlling the Burden of Chronic Pain. Pain management in Asia is gradually getting the attention it deserves and Hong Kong is at the forefront in the development of pain medicine and management in Asia. In February 2007, Council also had the opportunity to host a luncheon for Ms Kathy Kreiter, the Executive Director of the International Association for the Study of Pain. It gave us the opportunity to voice our special Hong Kong SAR situation with her.

As you know we started our Society as a Limited Company and we are now in the process of applying for charity status with the Registrar. We anticipate that our application will be approved soon. This will affect our financial planning because at present any income is taxable, and therefore this year we have elected to maximize the use of the Society's savings. Our application to join the Federation of Medical Societies in Hong Kong as an Associate Member has also been approved recently. We hope that this will further legitimize HKPS as a medical and health related organization.

Finally we recently had our first Council election. I wish to congratulate and welcome the new Council members, and also to thank all our Foundation Council members and advisors for their time, effort and contributions to our successful first year. In particular I wish to express my appreciation to Dr Michael Sham, Dr Amy Fung, Ms Marlene Ma and Professor KF Ng who are retiring from the Council. I would also like to express our gratitude to all members and guests who I do not have space to mention here, and who have participated in the many activities of the Society including workshops, lectures and seminars as well as organizing them. Without their enthusiastic support and effort, the objectives of the Society would not have been achieved. I look forward to your further participation in HKPS activities in the coming months.

PP Chen
President