



Historical Notes



- 1957** On 19 July, Prof Gordon Ransome convened the first meeting of medical specialists and on 29 August, the body was named the Academy of Physicians and Surgeons.
- 1958** The name was changed to the Academy of Medicine on 11 December.
- 1959** Immediately after its inauguration, the Academy turned its attention towards the establishment of formal postgraduate training and continuing education. A carefully prepared memorandum to the Government and the University led to the formation of a Committee of Postgraduate Medical Education at the University with representation from the Academy and Government.
- 1961** The Academy was registered under the Societies Ordinance (Chapter 228) of the Government of Singapore on 25 April.
- 1962** The Mace was gifted to the Academy by Mr H Sena, a leading jeweller on 1 March.
- 1963** The Academy's first Congress of Medicine was held from 3 to 5 May.
On 20 June, the Letters Patent for the Academy's Coat of Arms, granted a year before by the Sovereign's Kings of Arms, was formally presented by His Excellency the Yang Di-Pertuan Negara, Encik Yusof Ishak.
- 1965** Singapore became an independent nation on 9 August and a Republic in December.
- 1966** The Minister for Finance was pleased to approve the Academy as an Institution of Public Character under the Income Tax Ordinance (Chapter 166) with effect from 1 January.
The Chapters of Physicians and Surgeons were established within the Academy on 2 December.
- 1966** An autonomous sister Academy of Medicine was registered in Malaysia with a similar Constitution on 22 December.
- 1967** On 4 November, Council held discussions with the then Deputy Prime Minister, Dr Toh Chin Chye.
This meeting led to the establishment in 1968 of the School of Postgraduate Medical Studies and a re-constituted Board.
- 1968** The Chapter of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists was inaugurated with Dr Benjamin H Sheares as the foundation Chairman on 17 December.
- 1970** Higher professional medical examinations were instituted leading to the degree of Master of Medicine (MMed) in Internal Medicine, Paediatrics, Surgery and Obstetrics & Gynaecology.
- 1972** A Banquet in honour of the President of the Republic of Singapore, Dr Benjamin H Sheares, was held on 7 June. President Sheares had in February graciously granted his Patronage to the Academy.
The *Annals, Academy of Medicine, Singapore* was first published as a quarterly publication.

- 1974** A Memorandum on Specialist Certification and Registration was submitted to the Government. This was followed a year later by the formation of a Standing Committee on Specialist Training and Certification.
- The Chapter of Radiologists was inaugurated on 18 January.
- Prof Sir Gordon Ransome, the first Master, formally opened the Academy of Medicine Lecture Theatre on 31 January.
- The Chapter of Anaesthetists was formed on 5 October.
- 1975** President Sheares, the Patron, and Mrs Sheares officially visited the premises of the Academy at the Medical Centre on 19 January.
- Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the Prime Minister, was admitted an Academician of Medicine *honoris causa* on 21 August and at the same ceremony declared open the Tenth Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Medicine.
- 1976** A Memorandum on Specialist Training and Certification was discussed and accepted by the general membership on 30 November. This was brought to the information of the Singapore Medical Council.
- 1977** On 19 September the Academy was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee.
- 1978** The Academy of Medicine (Societies Act) was dissolved with effect from 14 February.
- The Academy of Medicine, under the Companies Act Cap 185, was recognised as an Institution of Public Character under Section 37(2)(c) of the Income Tax Act on 11 January.
- 1979** The Chapter of Dental Surgeons was inaugurated on 21 May.
- In November, the *Annals, Academy of Medicine, Singapore* was entered into the MEDLINE online data base and cited in all issues of Index Medicus.
- 1981** The Chapter of Community & Occupational Medicine was inaugurated on 21 January.
- The Academy joined the entire nation in mourning the loss of Dr Benjamin H Sheares, the President of the Republic and Patron of the Academy on 12 May.
- 1982** On 21 January the new President of the Republic, Mr C V Devan Nair accepted Patronage of the Academy.
- 1985** On 7 November the new President of the Republic, Mr Wee Kim Wee accepted Patronage of the Academy.
- 1986** The Academy secretariat shifted from the Alumni Medical Centre to temporary premises at Harrower Hall on College Road.
- Work commenced to plan, design and furnish the Academy's offices in the refurbished College of Medicine building.
- The Chapter of Psychiatrists and the Chapter of Pathologists were formed.

- 1987** The Singapore Medical Council approved the use of the letters “AM (S’pore)” after the names of members of the Academy.
- The Academy shifted into new premises at the College of Medicine Building. The Ministry of Health granted the Academy an initial 10-year tenancy.
- The Chapter of Paediatricians was formed.
- 1990** A Joint Committee for Advanced Specialty Training (JCAST) comprising representatives from the Academy, School of Postgraduate Medical Studies and the Ministry of Health was established. The objects of the JCAST are (i) the provision of advanced specialty training in Medicine leading to specialty certification; (ii) the accreditation of training posts for advanced specialty training; and (iii) the promotion of continuing medical education.
- 1991** The designation of AM (Academician of Medicine) was replaced by FAMS (Fellow of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore).
- 1993** On 6 October the new President of the Republic, Mr Ong Teng Cheong accepted Patronage of the Academy.
- 1998** The Specialist Accreditation Board (SAB) was formally established to oversee the accreditation process of medical specialists in Singapore. Each of the 35 specialties recognized for the purpose of specialist registration with the Singapore Medical Council has a Specialist Training Committee (STC), which is appointed jointly by SAB, National University of Singapore Division of Graduate Medical Studies and the Academy. MMed remains the local entry qualification for advanced specialty training and FAMS is the local specialty qualification awarded to those who have passed the exit examination. Where appropriate, the FAMS is to be linked with overseas exit qualifications.
- 1999** On 3 September the new President of the Republic, Mr SR Nathan accepted Patronage of the Academy.
- 2000** The Council of the Academy approved specialist accreditation in 6 dental specialties, namely Endodontics, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, Orthodontics, Paediatric Dentistry, Periodontology and Prosthodontics.
- 2001** The main secretariat formally re-located to its new home from its leased premises at the College of Medicine Building. The Specialist Training Secretariat remains at the Academy’s branch office at the National University of Singapore, Kent Ridge Campus.
- President SR Nathan, Patron of the Academy, officially opened the Runme Shaw Building on 3 October. He penned the following message to commemorate this special occasion:
“After almost 50 years, the Academy has found its own home – though modest by other standards. In officially opening the Academy’s Headquarters, it is my hope it will flourish in its esteem in the eyes of the profession as well as others who appreciate its contribution to professionalism and scholarship.”
- 2004** The following Colleges were incorporated as companies limited by guarantee:
- College of Anaesthesiologists
 - College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
 - College of Paediatrics and Child Health
 - College of Physicians
 - College of Radiologists
 - College of Surgeons