



Council Report, 2023-2024

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 continues to provide training for our fellows and provisional fellows to be WBA trainers via the HKCA WBA Train-the-trainer workshops and the ANZCA Educator Program. Two WBA TTT workshops were organised in March and August 2024 with 30 participants. The College also sponsored 5 fellows to join the virtual AEP 2024 via the Education Fund.

The scientific committee was set up to enhance research activities and training in Anaesthesiology, Pain Medicine and Intensive Care. One of the objectives is to facilitate research project, especially for trainees and young fellows. Initiatives include setting up a platform for multi-centre collaboration and development of research workshop for trainees. Meanwhile, the formal project sub-committee serves to vet the quality of trainee formal projects and select high quality projects for formal project prize presentation.

Examinations

The ANZCA MCQ Paper will be implemented in the 2024 second sitting Final Fellowship Examination, which will be conducted on 13th August 2024. Board of Examinations and Board of Education have been working closely on preparing our trainees for the MCQ paper including providing online practices and sharing resources.

Total 10 fellows were sponsored through the HKCA Education Sponsorship Scheme to attend the Single Best Answer course. The primary objective of this sponsorship was to enhance their knowledge and skills specifically in writing Single Best Answer (SBA) questions, which in turn will greatly benefit the College's future assessment processes.

Echocardiography Committee

The Echocardiography Train-the-Trainer Course, co-organised with the CUHK, is being held again in 2024. With sponsorship from the College, this course provides training opportunities for additional 24 echocardiography trainers. These newly trained individuals would be equipped with the necessary knowledge, skills, and competencies to effectively supervise and guide trainees in performing workplace-based echocardiography examinations under the new curriculum. This investment in training new echocardiography trainers is a strategic move by the College. By May 2024, the College has a total of 70 accredited echocardiography trainers working in HA. Additionally, there is an ongoing training pipeline, with another 70 potential trainers currently undergoing training.

Intensive Care Medicine

The College has been working closely with Board of Critical Care Medicine (CCM) of the Hong Kong College of Physicians in organising combined ICM/CCM tutorials since its establishment of training programme in Intensive Care. The delivery format of this combined tutorials has evolved with advancements in technology. Initially, they were conducted in a face-to-face format, then transitioned to a virtual Zoom-based format, and have now shifted to an e-learning format. Starting from October 2023, the combined tutorials were gradually integrated into the e-learning platform for postgraduate medical education. This was facilitated through the Learning Management System (LMS) developed by HKAM. It is anticipated that by the end of 2024, all 38 combined tutorials will be accessible through the LMS.

Pain Medicine

In December 2023, the training accreditation for 6 HKCA Pain Fellowship Training centres expired. After undergoing a thorough paper review process, all 6 centres were successfully re-accredited.

The Vocational Training Guides on the HKCA Fellowship in Pain Medicine have served as the foundation of the pain fellowship training since 2015. However, given the latest developments in medical education, especially in the field of competency-based training, the current time and volume-based curriculum will be revamped into a competency-based one. This transition is also crucial as the College is developing closer ties with the FPMANZCA, which already uses a competency-based curriculum for their own training program. To oversee this curricular revamp, a working group will be formed later this year.

Young Fellows Committee (YFC)

In July 2023, the committee organised a volunteer service event at Crossroads where Fellows helped to organise and pack equipment donated to the organisation. In ASM 2023, the YFC put together a symposium focusing on the application of artificial intelligence and big data in the anaesthetic specialty. In April 2024, the YFC organised a fun day for team-building at Crossfire Arena where fellows brought their friends and family to engage in a series of team games such as bubble soccer, laser tag and dodge-ball. In June 2024, a leadership retreat for trainees and young fellows was held at Eaton Hotel. A professional trainer was hired to deliver a workshop on leadership style and followers' engagement. The retreat also marked the end of the first term of the YFC.

HKCA Distinguished Young Fellows

The HKCA Distinguished Young Fellows, and HKCA Achievement Award were established this year. This initiative is designed to recognise exceptional young fellows who have not only demonstrated remarkable academic achievements but have also made significant contributions to the HKCA, their profession, or community across a range of domains within the first 10 years of fellowship. The College received seven applications for the inaugural award. The details of the awards and the awardees can be found on College's website. The awards will be presented at the subsequent Congregation.

Clinical Simulation Committee (CSC)

CSC supported three provisional fellows for CSC Instructor Course Sponsorship in 2023 and provided 45 courses, which are mostly mandatory courses for trainees under our curriculum, namely Advanced & Difficult Airway Workshop for Anaesthesiologists (ADAM-A), Exposure to Anaesthetic Safety & Emergencies (EASE), Effective Management of Anaesthetic Crisis (EMAC), Focused Transthoracic Echocardiography Workshop for Anaesthetists (ECHO-A) and Ultrasound-Guided Regional Anaesthesia - Elementary (UGRA-E). CSC will continue to work closely with Board of Education to cater for the growing needs while uplifting the quality and standards of training.

ASM

"A New Leaf" signifying turning over a new leaf in this post-COVID era, the ASM 2023 was finally held as a fully physical event after a 4-year hiatus on 18th -19th November 2023 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. The meeting embraced new advancements in anaesthesiology and medicine while also emphasising themes of wellness, sustainability and positivity.

International Relations and Activities

The second agreement with the British Journal of Anaesthesia (BJA) was renewed and in effect since 1st January 2024. This new 5-year agreement features a significant reduction in the annual subscription fee for HKCA fellows, lowering it from £50 to £30 per fellow. Additionally, the agreement outlines various areas where the two organisations will work together in the future.

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 would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Council for their unwavering support and invaluable contribution to the College, especially to Dr Yee-Eot Chee and Dr Steven Wong (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. We also would like to thank our Honorary Legal Advisors, Mr Peter Man for his invaluable legal advice. Last but not least, I would like to extend my appreciation to all our members, fellows, examiners, supervisors of training, and instructors for their continuing support.

Dr Hing-yu So
President
July 2024