



President's Message

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As we transition towards an endemic state, there is the fervent hope that all of us can get back to what we do best, and that is to treat our patients to the best of our ability. This also holds true to the way we manage COVID-19 patients today. We have learned so much about the disease during this seemingly long two years.

The current Omicron variant has allowed us to move to a semblance of normality, though we dread to think about what may be lurking around the next corner. On the whole, we have done well, though there was much where we could have done better. One thing that the pandemic taught us is that we need to have a whole of society approach and where healthcare is concerned, we need the joint efforts of both the public and private sector. We have seen that Public Private Partnerships when forged well does work.

In this lull following on to the wave of Omicron which swept rapidly throughout the nation, our Health Minister has seen it fit to announce that he will table the White Paper on healthcare soon. MMA has been insistent that a healthcare reform is needed in order to have an efficient system that will be the pride of the nation. The White Paper does tie in with MMA's aspiration and we do hope that we are engaged as a main stakeholder in the discussions leading up to the White Paper.

MMA believes that we should nurture our youth so that they can be the future leaders in healthcare. There needs to be a progression of leaders so that we have the best minds at the lead of the medical profession.

With that in mind, MMA had earlier formed the Society of Malaysian Medical Association Medical Students (SMMAMS). This society has been very active in organising both online and physical events for student members. They have culminated this year with the holding of the International Federation of Medical Students Association (IFMSA) Asia Pacific Regional Meeting (APRM) 2022 which is slated to be held from 26 June 2022 to 3 July 2022 in Malaysia, which will attract delegates from 15 countries.

For this effort of SMMAMS, the society received a token of appreciation from YB Dato' Sri Nancy Shukri, Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture which was awarded by the Malaysian Convention & Exhibition Bureau (MyCEB). I was proud to receive the award on behalf of SMMAMS at the Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre (MITEC) Kuala Lumpur on 23 March 2022.



SMMAMS Award by MyCEB

Another notable event involving our young ones was the panel discussion entitled, 'Code Black-Securing the Future' which was held on 2 April at Kompleks Pendidikan Perubatan Canselor Tuanku Ja'afar in the UKM Cheras Campus. This was held in conjunction with their annual V(WE) Project which has the theme,

'Vaccine Nation, Ready on Mission'. This aims to allow the medical students to drive home the message on the importance of immunisation targeting both the students as well as the public.



Contestants & Judges V(WE) Project



V(WE) Project Judging

In conjunction with this, an exhibition on the various vaccine preventable diseases was held with the participation from medical students from various universities. It was a real pleasure to judge the various exhibition booths set up by the students.

My fellow panelists included Dr Amanda Elli (check her out on Instagram), Chee Mun and Hashwin Singh, both medical students. We spoke on a variety of topics concerning medical education and the future of the medical graduates. It was evident that many of the students, mostly from year one were very concerned on their future career pathway.

Going further abroad, though virtually, the United Kingdom and Eire Council for Malaysian Students (UKEC) which serves as the umbrella body to all Malaysian Societies in the UK and Ireland as well as an integral platform representing the collective interests of over 16,000 Malaysian Students in the UK and Ireland

UkeChange session in progress



had invited me to be on their panel of judges for their UKEChange programme in the Healthcare section.

This is an idea developing programme that aims to tackle real public policy issues in Malaysia by proposing solutions to problem statements provided by industry experts. Also on the panel of judges was Mr Tirupathi Kartik, CEO of Napier Healthcare Solutions, Singapore and Dr Fazilah Shaik Allaudin who is the Senior Deputy Director, Planning Division, MOH. It was again an exercise of delight to see how young minds think.

At the National Education & Learning Summit 2022 themed 'Revitalising Education Today to Fill the Employment Needs of Tomorrow', which was held on 31 March 2022 at the Seri Pacific Hotel Kuala Lumpur, organised by KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific and which was attended by many great minds of education, I was invited to be a panelist in the session entitled 'Industry Feedback-How Are Graduates Faring in the Workplace'. I shared with the participants on the realities happening in the graduate sphere and expressed the view that the educational institutions too should shoulder the responsibility of ensuring the right selection of aspiring medical students and that it should not just be a numbers game.



National Education & Learning Summit

It was fun to be back in Ipoh to witness the installation of Dr Satkunan Mark as the incoming Chairman along with the committee of Ipoh Branch. It was the 50th Anniversary Banquet & Installation Dinner which was held on 26, March at the Kinta Riverfront Hotel, Ipoh. Dato' Dr Ding Lay Ming, who had done well as the Pengarah Kesihatan Negeri Perak was the chief guest of the dinner. Everyone let their hair down once the formalities of the evening was done. **BMMA**



Dato' Dr Ding Lay Ming (l) and Dr Koh Kar Chai (r)