



CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT 2026/2027

Dear fellow MMA friends,

I am Dato' Prof Dr Tharmalingam Palanivelu from the Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) Kedah Branch. I have been a Life Member of the MMA since 2001 and had the privilege of serving as Chairman of MMA Kedah for the 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 terms.

In 2012, I served as the **Organising Chairman of the 52nd National MMA Annual General Meeting (AGM)**. At that time, the MMA was facing a significant crisis and was at risk of deregistration by the Registrar of Societies (ROS) due to technical issues. Together with a committed team, we successfully organised the AGM in Sungai Petani, Kedah, enabling the Association to fulfil its statutory obligations and avoid deregistration. Since then, I have continued serving the MMA through various committees, and currently serve as the Founding Chairman of the MMA Postgraduate Parallel Pathway Subcommittee (2024–present).

I served the **Ministry of Health for 30 years**, including 20 years as a Consultant Physician at Hospital Sultan Abdul Halim, Sungai Petani, before my retirement. I currently serve as **Professor of Medicine at AIMST University**.

I have been an **international MRCP (UK) and MRCP (Ireland) trainer and examiner for the past 15 years**. Since 2020, I have served as the **Regional Representative and Advisor for the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI) in Malaysia** and as the **Chief Coordinator of the MRCPI Clinical Examinations in Malaysia**.

In this role, I played a key part in establishing the **landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the MMA and the RCPI in 2022** to co-organise the MRCPI Clinical Examinations at KLGH, PPGH, HSAH and HTF. This collaboration has enabled the MMA to conduct multiple international postgraduate physician training activities comparable with those of the **Academy of Medicine of Malaysia**, elevating the MMA's standing as a respected postgraduate academic institution for young doctors in Malaysia. I believe these efforts have made the MMA increasingly relevant to the next generation of doctors.

With humility and a deep commitment to our profession, I offer myself as a candidate for the position of President-Elect of the Malaysian Medical Association for the 2026/2027 term.

Manifesto

To lead innovatively and transform the MMA into a **Resourceful, Revenue-Generating, Relevant, and Reputable** organisation for all doctors.

Mission

1. Lead an **innovative membership campaign** that engages medical students, house officers, medical officers, and young specialists. Expand postgraduate training opportunities through recognised parallel pathway programmes to **support career progression** and encourage lifelong MMA membership.
2. Engage constructively with the Public Service Department (JPA) to advocate for **permanent appointments for future house officers** and, where a pensionable scheme is not feasible, ensure appropriate Employees Provident Fund (EPF) benefits.
3. **Promote the value of MMA membership** during undergraduate, housemanship and specialist training programmes by **leveraging the MMA-RCPI career pathway programme that I developed**.
4. **Address the challenges faced by private consultants and general practitioners**, particularly current pressing professional and practice issues.
5. **Initiate discussions with the Government to enable private general practitioners to provide care for Government-sponsored outpatients** under a fair and sustainable framework, without intermediaries, similar to the NHS model in the United Kingdom.
6. **Advocate for parallel pathway specialist training without compulsory Hadiah Latihan Persekutuan (HLP) scholarships**, while supporting an appropriate service-bond arrangement.

Dato' Prof Dr Tharmalingam Palanivelu

Chairman, MMA Parallel Pathway Postgraduate Education Subcommittee

Senior Consultant Physician

Professor of Medicine AIMST University

Regional Representative & Advisor for Royal College of Physician Ireland