



23 March 2007

Dear Fellow,

**Discussion Forum: From Continuing Medical Education (CME) to
Continuous Professional Development (CPD)**

You may be aware from the news and publications of the Academy that the Education Committee has been considering the move to CPD for quite a long time.

CME in the conventional sense is perceived to focus more on updating medical knowledge and is less effective in changing medical practice or ensuring competence; while CPD aims to promote development of competencies relevant to the practice profile of a practitioner that may change over the years, as well as professional development endeavors that are directed at enhancing his quality of care and the delivery of safe standard of practice.

After years of discussion, the Academy Council has agreed *in principle* to move forward to CPD in stages. In summary, the following has been suggested:

- The definition of CME would be gradually expanded and made comparable to CPD in broad terms. From now on such educational and development programmes will be called CME/CPD;
- Starting from 1 January 2008, all Colleges would cap the passive CME points allowed at 75 points or below per cycle. Fellows would have to include some other CME/CPD activities into their CME/CPD cycle;
- Starting from 1 January 2011 tentatively,
 - Fellows are recommended to obtain some points in activities like quality assurance, medical audits, mortality and morbidity meetings, or those activities involving improvement of patient care (*this list is now being refined*);
 - CME/CPD activities would be expanded to include other non-medical professional development activities such as knowledge and skills relating to relevant laws, information technology, clinic management and interpersonal communication.

Before the Academy proceeds further, we would like to organise another forum (previously held in September and December 2006) to explain to you about the rationale and the details of the change and listen to your views on the proposed move in order that we can make a programme that can fulfill our goal as well as your needs. Fellows who were unable to attend the previous forums please try to attend this time. Please complete the form attached to register a place for this forum.

Yours sincerely,

C.T. Hung
Vice-President (Edu. & Exams)
Chairman, Education Committee

Encl.