

Newsletter

Spring Issue, June 2004



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Editorial Board

HS LAM
J CHAN
W FOO
J KHOO
TL KWAN
CY LUI
Y WONG

President's Jottings

Dr. Lilian Leong

AOCR 2006

The hot news is Hong Kong College of Radiologists will be hosting the next AOCR (Asian Oceanian Congress of Radiology) in Hong Kong in August 2006. The decision to bid AOCR was supported by many. In a show of solidarity for Hong Kong, we were strongly supported by the Hong Kong Tourism Board, the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau and of course, our own Council and members. Moreover, we also have support from Chinese Society of Radiology. The move was also met with enthusiasm from technology companies. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for all those who have contributed.

This is of course only the beginning. Much work needs to be done. In fact, the preliminary Organizing Committee has already started to plan and coming forth with blue prints. We are committed to stage a memorable congress with a world-class professional and scientific programme and a fun studded social programme too for your family members to enjoy as August is the month for summer holiday. Look out for our beautiful and original poster of AOCR 2006: Hong Kong night scene made up by thousands of radiological images. And keep the date: 7-10th August 2006 reserved for the Congress. We also rely on you for the promotion when you attend overseas meetings and when you talk to your colleagues.

CME, CPD, Training Courses, Internet, Management/Communication Skills...

I recently attended a lecture delivered by Professor King Li. In his concluding remarks, he stressed that intuition is important to get one on the right path when we are facing a world of too much information.

Gone are the days that we took references from a few textbooks and publications on specialty topics, subscribed to 2-3 journals and conducted a lot of personal communications to solve any professional problems. Today's professionals see daily new edition of voluminous books/ interactive CDs/ teaching files and are given free bulletins and periodicals containing articles of all facets. There are always designated columns or pages in newspapers and programme in TV channels reporting on cutting edge development, educating the public in details about different diseases. There are so many or too many journals which most of them seem to be worth our reading. We are frequently alerted, invited or attracted to participate in many CME activities and scientific congresses. There are many websites that we can search for all kinds of information or we can use to maintain our CME activities. And then, we must find time to learn new techniques. As a result, we are always on the lookout for good and appropriate training courses. Moreover, we have to train ourselves to deliver and communicate all these in a manner appropriate to our patients and colleagues. Is it "good old days" or "brave new world"? However, one thing is for sure, Radiology has gained its importance and is performing its indispensable role for a better and healthier society. It is just that we have to organize our time, set our goals and figure out how to make use of the vast data and multiplicity of venues available to us. And yes, rely on your intuition.

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Synchronization of CME cycle

The Hong Kong Academy of Medicine has decided to synchronize the 3-year CME cycles of all existing Academy fellows to start again on 1 January 2005, irrespective of the commencement date of related change in medical registration. In order to comply with the new regulation and avoid confusion for our fellows, CPD cycles for all registered fellows will end on 31 December 2004.

The Academy has also decided that

- (a) For remaining CME cycle that is less than 3 years, minimal pro-rata CME points should be obtained at the end of 2004. For instance, a remaining cycle consisting of 18 months would demand a minimum of 45 CME points by 31 December 2004.
- (b) For remaining CME cycle that is 6 months or less, in view of the difficulty of obtaining the required CME points within a small finite period, the Academy would permit combination of this period with the previous cycle for the calculation of pro-rata CME points. For instance, a fellow starting a cycle on 1 October 2004 would have this remaining cycle of 3 months to be counted with the 3-year cycle ending 30 September 2004, i.e. the fellow would require a minimum of 97.5 points for the 39 months from 1 October 2001 to 31 December 2004. This would be a one-off exercise only.

For further inquiries, please contact Dr. Choi Ho Keung by writing or by email at phkchoi@ha.org.hk

Minimum Requirement of CME points by College Fellows on 31 December 2004

<i>Group</i>	<i>Fellows with Cycle commencing</i>	<i>Months for CME</i>	<i>Minimum Requirement of CME points</i>	
1	1 April 2002	33	$90 \times 33/36$	= 82.5
2	1 October 2002	27	$90 \times 27/36$	= 67.5
3	1 April 2003	21	$90 \times 21/36$	= 52.5
4	1 October 2003	15	$90 \times 15/36$	= 37.5
5	1 April 2004	9	$90 \times 9/36$	= 22.5
6	1 October 2004	39 (counted together with the cycle starting 1 Oct 2001)	$90 \times 39/36$	= 97.5

Part 1 Training Course in Medical Physics

Period:	14 August 2004 to October 2004
Time:	9:00am – 12:00 noon, Saturday mornings
Venue:	Lecture room (J-LG04), Lower Ground, Block J, Queen Elizabeth Hospital
Registration Fee :	HK \$1,000
Deadline of Registration :	30 July 2004

Part 2 Fellowship Preparation Course in Clinical Radiology

Includes rapid reporting sessions, film reporting sessions, slide quiz & tutorials.

Programme

<i>Core Tutorial Sessions :</i>	14 and 28 August 2004
Time :	9:00am – 12:30pm
Venue :	Radiology Department, Queen Elizabeth Hospital
<i>Weekend Revision Course :</i>	24 and 25 July 2004
Time :	9:00am – 5:30pm
Venue :	Radiology Department, Prince of Wales Hospital
Registration Fee :	HK \$1,500
Deadline of Registration :	1 July 2004

2004 Part 2 Fellowship Lecture Course

Period:	6 November 2004 to 5 March 2005
Time:	9:15am – 12:30pm, Saturday mornings
Venue:	Lecture room (J-LG04), Lower Ground, Block J, Queen Elizabeth Hospital
Registration Fee :	HK \$1,500
Deadline of Registration :	15 October 2004

Registration forms can be obtained from the Unit Head of the Department of Diagnostic Radiology of HA hospitals, from our College Secretariat, or from our College Homepage <http://www.hkcr.org> . Photocopies of forms are acceptable.

Please send completed registration form and cheque for registration fee to the Secretariat of the College.

Cost is a major issue. It was an eye-opener learning about the cost of medicine in my past few months in the private sector. Before this I only had a vague idea. Now I realize that chemotherapy might cost over 20K a month, and that radiation therapy easily runs over 100K per course. A complete blood count means a few hundred, while an image-guided biopsy would be at least a few thousand. A week spent in the hospital would cost over 10K. Spiraling cost of medicine means something to me now. We are not even talking about profiting here: what the patients paid covered the running costs mostly. Every dollar counts. And then I realized that we have been spending an enormous amount in public medicine.

In the public sector, cost is also a major issue, but only discussed at a different level. In public medicine, the cost of treatment was not an immediate concern, not in the clinic anyway. The patients never had to worry about the cost of their treatment, nor did the doctors. Having a blood test or an imaging procedure are both taken for granted. If the patients have to bear, let us say part of the cost, they would have second thoughts. The annual drug budget or expenditure that we used to know was actually only a small proportion of the spendings. One should include, for example, in the treatment of nasopharyngeal cancer, the cost of blood tests, MRIs, intravenous tubings, cotton wool and dressings, and the salary of the personnel serving the patients. Cutting costs would mean only one thing – deterioration of service quality. It is not the solution.

The bottom line in my practice is to maintain a high standard of medical practice, and at the same time, minimize the cost. On making a clinical decision I also have to consider the patient's financial capability. I need to let the patient know that the money was well spent and spent wisely. I do not want to be blamed for blowing OPM (other peoples' money) without a good cause.

It is a good idea to start looking for a decent medical insurance policy!

10th Asian Oceanian Congress of Radiology (AOCR), 28 April to 1 May 2004, Singapore

The Conference was held in the Raffles City Convention Centre in Singapore between 28th April and 1st May 2004.

AOCR is held biennially and is organized under the auspice of Asian Oceanian Society of Radiology (AOSR). The 9th meeting was held in Singapore in 2001. The 10th meeting was rescheduled to this year because of SARS in the region in 2003. There are twenty-three member societies representing respective countries in the AOSR. The changeover of the Executive Committee took place with Prof. Lenny Tan of Singapore becoming the President and Dr. Lilian Leong the Immediate Past President of the AOSR.

This year's main scientific themes were very educational from an oncologist point of view. Highlights included infective disorders, radiological and pathological correlations, interventional procedures, information technology, evolving roles of radiologists and hepatobiliary conditions.

In the AOSR Executive Council meeting on 29th April 2004, Dr F.L. Chan and I represented our College to bid for hosting the next AOCR. With the support of other Hong Kong delegates, we were successful in the bidding, and it was endorsed that Hong Kong will host the 11th AOCR.

I look forward to your whole-hearted support for the next Congress in Hong Kong 2006.

Part II Training in Clinical Oncology

The Council of Hong Kong College of Radiologists formed a Working Group on Clinical Oncology Part II Training Program in October 2003 to review and recommend improvements in Part II Clinical Oncology Training.

After collecting opinions from all parties concerned, the Working Group submitted its report to the Council in February 2004 which was endorsed with minor amendments in March 2004.

Recommendations:

The Training Program includes:

1. A Part II Training Course
2. Recommendation and encouragement for Trainees to rotate during their Part II Training amongst other local Training Centers to improve and enhance clinical experience
3. A Special Mentorship Scheme to provide counseling to multiple-attempts candidates.
4. A system of documentation on Trainees' progress.

It must be stressed that day-to-day training in individual Training Center is of paramount importance and its role should not be diminished.

1. Part II Training Course (see appendix)

- The Working Group recommends setting up a formal Part II Training Course.
- All Part II candidates are required to have attended the Training Course.
- Each Trainee is required to enroll in a Training Course once in his or her Training career.
- A Trainee, subject to his or her Training Center understanding and agreement, can enroll in any particular year after passing Part I Examination before sitting Part II Examination.
- It is mandatory for Part II Trainees to attend at least 80% of the Training Course.
- Trainee not able to fulfill at least 80% of attendance should report to the Clinical Oncology Training Course Subcommittee to seek assistance.
- Trainee whose attendance is less than 60% is required to repeat the full Training Course the following year, subject to Clinical Oncology Training Course Subcommittee's approval.
- Trainee whose attendance is more than 60% but less than 80% is required to repeat a specified portion of the Training Course the following year, subject to Clinical Oncology Training Course Subcommittee's approval.
- All Clinical Oncology Trainees, regardless of stage of training, are encouraged to attend.
- Concurring with the annual Part II Joint FRCR / FHKCR Examination, the Part II Training Course is run annually.
- The Working Group recommends a trial run starting June till September 2004 and the regular course will start in December 2004.
- It was agreed that the format of teaching session should follow the principle of case-orientated approach as much as possible contrasting with pure lecturing approach. Candidates should be given opportunity to "interact" during these training sessions.
- A fee will be charged on enrolled candidates.

2. Trainee Rotation

The Working Group accepted the general principle of Trainee Rotation. However, there were diverse opinions and concerns regarding the implementation of this scheme. The Working Group was unable to reach a common consensus on the logistic level amongst different local Oncology Training Centers. However, the Working Group encourages Part II Trainee Rotation especially in the following situations:

1. Upon candidates' request.
2. Upon supervisors' recommendation.
3. Multiple-attempts candidates.

3. Special Mentorship Scheme

- Multiple-attempt candidates are encouraged to join this scheme as mentees.
- Mentees are normally accepted to this scheme once. However, additional counseling can be considered in special situation.
- Mentees joining this scheme should give consent in order for the College to release personal information to the Special Mentor.
- The College provides the Special Mentor details of the individual multiple-attempts candidate performance.
- The Mentor programme will last for six-months.
- The format and intervals of counseling are individualized.
- Individual Training Center should provide all reasonable assistance to facilitate this scheme.
- The Special Mentor should report to and recommend, as deem necessary, to the Council any additional training measures tailored to individual candidate at the end of the counseling period.
- Dr. W H Lau had agreed to be the first Special Mentor.

4. Documentation

- The Working Group recommended that Trainees should attend at least 80% of the Part II Training Course.
- The College should organize the Training Course and collect relevant data including nominations of Part II Training Course representatives from each Oncology Center.
- The College should document Trainees enrollment and completion of Part II Training Course and, if any, individual Trainee detail and period of Training Rotation.
- The Trainee should document the enrollment and completion of Part II Training Course and, if any, the detail and period of Training Rotation in the Exit Assessment Training Logbook.
- The College should document Multiple-attempts candidates joining the Special Mentorship scheme. The Special Mentor should report to and recommend, as deem necessary, to the Council any additional training measures tailored to individual candidate at the end of the counseling period.

Further details on Clinical Oncology Part II Training Program can be obtained from the College Secretariat.

Overseas Qualification in Clinical Oncology

Recognized Overseas Qualifications Eligible for Special Examination in Clinical Oncology Hong Kong College of Radiologists

The College Council approved the formation of a Working Group in May 2003 to review the List of Recognized Overseas Qualifications Eligible for Special Examination in Clinical Oncology (The List). Previously there are three qualifications in the List: Diplomate of the American Board of Radiology in Radiation Oncology (DABR), Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in Radiation Oncology (FRCPC) and Fellow of Royal College of Radiologists (FRCR).

A questionnaire was sent to all Clinical Oncology Fellows in November 2003 to collect opinions and views. The majority (96%) of the returned questionnaires supported the need to review this List. 82% agreed that DABR and FRCPC training were not comparable to our College Training. 87% agreed that the FRCR should remain in the List.

The College Council and the Education Committee deliberated thoroughly on the Working Group Report.

The College has particularly looked at the training in the two qualifications in Radiation Oncology in the existing list: DABR and FRCPC. These two organizations share similar curriculum focusing on Radiation Oncology, with significant deficiency in training of Medical Oncology and Palliative Care. The training towards their qualifications in Radiation Oncology is, therefore, not comparable to that of the Fellow of Hong Kong College of Radiologists in Clinical Oncology.

The College recommended to the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine to replace the existing List with the following revised list:

Recognized Overseas Qualification Clinical Oncology

Fellow of the Royal College of Radiologists (Clinical Oncology)

In April 2004 the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine had approved the revised List.

The College will implement the revised List with effect from 1st January 2005.

Membership Status

Our College has the following number of members as at 31 May 2004:

<i>Status</i>	<i>Number</i>
Honorary Fellow	8
Fellow	312
Member	71
Trainee Member	10
Associate Member	1
Total	402

List of Trainee Members admitted from 1 February to 31 May 2004:

<i>Admission date</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Specialty</i>	<i>Training Center</i>
20 April 2004	LEUNG Kwok Cheung	CO	QEH

List of Member admitted from 1 February to 31 May 2004:

<i>Admission date</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Specialty</i>	<i>Training Center</i>
24 February 2004	CHAN Kar Ki Katherine	DR	TMH
24 February 2004	CHOI Kwok Keung, Calvin	CO	QMH
24 February 2004	CHU Cheuk Man	DR	PWH
24 February 2004	HUNG Hiu Yee	DR	PWH
24 February 2004	TONG Mei Po Mabel	DR	PWH
24 February 2004	WONG Chi Ping	NM	QEH
25 May 2004	CHEUNG Chi Yan	DR	PWH
25 May 2004	LEUNG Kwong Chuen	CO	QEH
25 May 2004	LUI Cheuk Yu	CO	QMH
25 May 2004	WAI Man Wah Andrew	DR	QEH

Conferences

5th Congress of the Asian and Oceanian Society of Neuroradiology and Head and Neck Radiology (AOCNHNR)

Organizer: Asian and Oceanian Society of Neuroradiology and Head and Neck Radiology

Date: 8-11 October 2004

Venue: Worldfield Convention Center, Shanghai, China

Enquiry: Department of Radiology, Huashan Hospital, 12 Wulumuqi Zhong Road, Shanghai 200040, China

E-mail: xyfeng@shmu.edu.cn

Web: www.chinaradiology.org or www.aosnhnr.org

2nd Asian Breast Diseases Association Teaching Course

Organizers: Asian Breast Diseases Association &
Dept. Of Diagnostic Radiology and Organ Imaging,
Prince of Wales Hospital
Date: 7-8 August 2004
Venue: Postgraduate Education Centre,
Prince of Wales Hospital,
30-32 Ngan Shing Street, N.T.,
Hong Kong, SAR
Enquiry: Dr. Miranda Chan
Department of Surgery,
Kwong Wah Hospital,
25 Waterloo Road, Hong Kong
Fax: (852) 2781 5454
E-mail: chancml@ha.org.hk
Web: www.abda2004.com

RCR-2004 Annual Meeting

Organizer: The Royal College of Radiologists
Date: 13-15 September 2004
Venue: One Great George Street,
Westminster, London
Enquiry: The Conference Office,
The Royal College of Radiologists,
38 Portland Place, London W1B 1JQ
Tel: 020 7636 4432
Fax: 020 7323 3100
E-mail: conf@rcr.ac.uk

International Imaging Course

Organizer: The Chinese University of Hong Kong,
Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Organ
Imaging
Date: 4-5 September 2004
Venue: Kai Chong Tong, Postgraduate Education Centre,
Prince of Wales Hospital,
Shatin, N.T., Hong Kong
Enquiry: Ms. Grace Mak
Tel: (852) 2632 1035
Fax: (852) 2648 7269
E-mail: gracemak@cuhk.edu.hk
Web: www.droid.cuhk.edu.hk

The 22nd Leeds Gastroenterology Course for Radiologists

Organizer: University of Leeds &
The Royal College of Radiologists
Date: 12-16 July 2004
Venue: St James's University Hospital,
Leeds, UK
Enquiry: Mrs D Fisher, Postgraduate Department,
Ashley Wing, St James's University Hospital,
Beckett Street, Leeds LS9 7TF
Tel: 0113 2065883 / 2064825
Fax: 0113 2448575
E-mail: diane.fisher@leedsth.nhs.uk
Web: www.leedsgicourse.co.uk

ICIS- Society Meeting and 4th Annual Teaching Course

Organizer: International Cancer Imaging Society
Date: 10-13 October 2004
Venue: Sestri Levante, Portofino Coast, Italy
Enquiry: ICIS Secretariat,
BIR Conference Office,
36 Portland Place,
London, W1B 1AT. UK
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7307 1414
Web: www.icimagingociety.org.uk

31st Annual International Skeletal Society Refresher Course

Organizer: The International Skeletal Society
Date: 6-9 October 2004
Venue: Westin Dragonara Resort,
St. Julian's, Malta
Enquiry: International Skeletal Society
c/o Ryals & Associates, Inc.,
P.O. Box 380, Springville, AL 35146
Web: www.ryalsmeet.com
www.internationalskeletalsociety.com

The 17th International Somerset MRI Course

Date: 10-14 October 2004
Venue: The Palace Hotel,
Torquay, Devon, UK
Enquiry: Rachael Blundell,
Training and Education Manager
MIA Lodestone
PO Box 699 Taunton TA1 4ZW
Tel: +44 1823 246243
Fax: 01823 276243
E-mail: rblundell@lodestone.co.uk

ASUM-34th Annual Scientific Meeting

Organizer: Australasian Society for Ultrasound in
Medicine
Date: 24-26 September 2004
Venue: Star City, Sydney
Enquiry: Conference Secretariat
ASUM 2004 ICMS Pty Ltd
84 Queensbridge Street Southbank
VIC 3006 Australia
Tel: +613 9682 0244
Fax: +613 9682 0288
E-mail: asum2004@icms.com.au
Web: www.icms.com.au/asum2004

CT/MRI 2004 Gold Coast

Date: 30 July- 1 August 2004
Venue: Conrad Jupiter's Hotel, Gold Coast,
Queensland, Australia
Enquiry: Event Solutions
PO Box 165 Arana Hills,
QLD 4054, Australia
Tel: (+617) 3855 3711
Fax: (+617) 3855 2811
E-mail: shan@eventsolutions.com.au
Web: www.phoenixconf.com