This year, we celebrate the Golden Jubilee, a significant milestone in the history of the Academy of Medicine of Malaysia. It is indeed a very humbling experience to be Master of the Academy during this momentous occasion.

The Academy of Medicine of Malaysia was founded in August 1957 in Singapore. It was launched as the Academy of Physicians and Surgeons, and was re-named the Academy of Medicine in the following year. Following the separation of Singapore from Malaysia on 9th August 1965, an autonomous Academy of Medicine of Malaysia was established in Malaysia under the Societies Act in 1966. Over the years, the Academy has grown in strength and stature. As the body that embraces and represents all the Specialties in the country, the Academy enjoys the confidence of the Ministry of Health and the Malaysian Medical Council. Undoubtedly, we have gone through a long, challenging but inspiring journey. It is fittingly that while we celebrate our past accomplishments, and pay tribute to the tireless and enormous contributions of the past leaders of the Academy and its Colleges.

To mark the Golden Jubilee, the Academy will be hosting the 50th Malaysia-Singapore Congress of Medicine and the 3rd Tripartite Congress of Medicine (incorporating the 1st Emergency Medicine Annual Scientific [EMAS] Meeting) at the Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, from 19th to 21st August 2016. Our Royal Patron, DYMM Paduka Seri Sultan Perak Darul Ridzuan, Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Azlan Shah, has graciously consented to officiate the Opening Ceremony and to deliver the Golden Jubilee Oration. The Presidents of over 20 overseas Academies and Colleges have confirmed their attendance to grace the occasion. A book to commemorate the significant milestones of the Academy will be launched at the Opening Ceremony. The highlight of the Golden Jubilee will be a Gala Dinner, on the 20th August 2016. I would like to urge the Colleges of the Academy to join in the celebrations of our glorious achievements.

I attended the Opening Ceremony of the College of Physicians on 26th March 2016, at the Berjaya Times Square Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. The Ceremony was indeed dignified and steeped in tradition. The sounds of Scottish bagpipes and the sight of Council Members in the college gowns in academic procession provided a distinguished backdrop to the opening ceremony. The incorporation of the academic procession for the first time in the Annual Meeting of the College of Physicians, made it a historic and memorable event. I hope this pomp and pageantry will continue to be a regular feature in the future annual gatherings. It is important to recognise, that while some restructuring took place in the unification process of the College of Physicians with the Academy in 1995, the unique characteristics of the College were retained. Thus, the Colleges continue to use their names, their logos, their constitutions and to adhere to their respective traditions.

The Annual Scientific Congress of the College had an interesting theme: “Acute Medicine – Getting it right the first time!”. It was well-organised, and well-attended with more than 700 delegates. In recent years, acute medicine has rapidly evolved as a new specialty of Internal Medicine and there is a growing demand for acute care physicians in the country. Advances in scientific knowledge and technology and the changing demography of the patients have triggered the formation of new fields of practice in medicine. The challenge of the Colleges is to acknowledge these inevitable changes, be inclusive and play a positive role in promoting and developing these new areas of practice.

Despite the notable achievements of the Masters Programmes, we continue to face a shortage of specialist
Reforms in Postgraduate Training, organised a National Forum on the Malaysian Medical Council, in collaboration with the Academy and the private sector. Ministry of Health, the Universities, from the specialty bodies, the subspecialty training with inputs the governance of specialty and of a National Body to oversee will facilitate the establishment We hope the amended Medical Act medical education and training. Undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. Also, the Masters Programme is more than 20 years-old and it was primarily modelled to produce generalist in various medical specialties. With advances in medical science and technology, specialisation and subspecialisation and establishment of new fields of practice in medicine is inevitable. However, excessive specialisation can be deleterious to the healthcare system. Specialist medical education training is at crossroads. It is imperative for the profession to deliberate on these issues and suggest reforms in the specialist training programmes. With the amended Medical Act 2012, the Malaysian Medical Council will oversee the continuum of undergraduate and postgraduate medical education and training. We hope the amended Medical Act will facilitate the establishment of a National Body to oversee the governance of specialty and subspecialty training with inputs from the specialty bodies, the Ministry of Health, the Universities, the Academy and the private sector. The Academy, in collaboration with the Malaysian Medical Council, organised a National Forum on Reforms in Postgraduate Training, held on 15th May 2016, at the Medical Academies of Malaysia.

The objective of the Forum is to advance postgraduate education and training through effective and optimal utilisation of resources. It is vitally important for the profession to help ensure there are not only enough specialists but that they have the right skills mix in the delivery of specialist care. Our planning for education and training must be aligned to the needs of the community.

The Forum was fruitful with the stakeholders giving their valuable input. There was a lot of enthusiasm to have a proper structured training programme and a consensus for better governance of specialist training.

**Report of the National Specialist Register**

The amended Medical Act 2012 requires the establishment of a National Specialist Register. The Act has received the Royal assent on the 5th September 2012, and the gazette was published on 20th September 2012. The Medical Council is in the process of getting the regulations endorsed. Although the Academy and the Ministry of Health established the Specialist Register in 2006, the Specialty Subcommittees continue to experience difficulty in interpreting and applying the guidelines. It has been necessary to constantly refine and fine tune the procedures and guidelines. The Academy’s committee on the NSR held a meeting with members of the Malaysian Medical Council and the Ministry of Health officers to further discuss the National Specialist Register’s procedures and guidelines on 4th April 2016. The meeting has requested the Medical Council to endorse the list of recognised specialties, list of recognised training institutions and recognised qualifications. It is essential for the Specialty Subcommittees to constantly review these lists and provide feedbacks to the National Credentialing Committee. The meeting also recommended the processes to facilitate specialists’ attachments to public and private hospitals for supervised assessment. The revised procedures and guidelines will be displayed on the NSR website once it is endorsed by the Medical Council.

The Academy Council has agreed to the appointment of Dr Sabariah Jaafar as the Manager of the NSR. Dr Sabariah brings along her many years of experience in specialist training and specialist credentialling in the Ministry of Health. A total of 7060 specialists have registered with the NSR. 3892 from public service and 3168 from private sector. In view of the increasing workload at the NSR secretariat, a proposal to adopt e-registration and e-filing is being studied.

**Report of the Board of Management (BOM)**

As you may be aware, to facilitate the construction of Duta-Ulu Kelang Expressway (DUKE 2), there has been compulsory acquisition of 667.98 sq meters (7,190 sq ft) of the Academies land by the government. The BOM has received the compensation from the acquisition of the land, and this amount has been placed in fixed deposits in the Joint Colleges Development Account for the time being. Upon re-development, the main access/entrance via Jalan Tun Razak will be maintained. However, it is anticipated there may be some inconvenience at certain stages of the road works. An alternate access to the Academy will be made available using the Jalan Maran road. The BOM is also studying proposals to upgrade the library room, the common function room and the car park area.
THE STORY OF ANAESTHESIA IN THE MALAY PENINSULA

J. George Lomaz and B. E. G. D’Bras.

B. Hopkins, E. Morrison, E. G. Hudson,

The earliest anaesthetists included D. A. the 1950’s, included anaesthetic services. The Colonial Medical Services, which later became the Malayan Medical Service in Colonial Medical Services, which later became the Malayan Medical Service in World War ended in September 1945. The anaesthesia emerged soon after the return Substantial and documented story of in this part of the world.

Thus, began the story of victory over pain record time of just about seven months. Such a method was first demonstrated successfully using ether at the operation theater, now famously called the “Ether Dome” of the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston on October 16, 1846 by William Morton. The Boston Medical and Surgical Journal carried this news in its October 21, 1846 edition. Three months later, the news reached the port city of Liverpool in England, and the first ether anaesthetic was administered in Britain on December 19, 1846, for a dental extraction in Gower Street, London.

Penang, then a remote outpost of the British Colony, received this news when the ship carrying the London newspapers docked in the Penang harbor on March 12, 1847. The local newspaper, The Penang Gazette and Straits Chronicle, reported this in its March 20, 1847 edition. Soon after this, on April 28, 1847, an assistant surgeon at the Malacca Hospital, by the name of A. J. Ratton, administered ether to a Malay soldier whose right hand had been blown off by a gun and needed an amputation. This feat was recorded for posterity by the Singapore Free Press on April 30, 1847. It was indeed remarkable that a medical procedure done on the other side of the world had successfully been performed in the Malay Peninsula in a record time of just about seven months. Thus, began the story of victory over pain in this part of the world.

It had long been a significant problem in medical science to devise a method of mitigating the pain of surgical operations. The anaesthetic services were provided mainly in the west coast hospitals in Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh, Penang, Malacca, Johor Bahru, and in Kuching in Borneo (Sarawak). Another prominent colonial medical officer who later would be well-known for his contribution to respiratory physiology and anaesthesia was J. F. Nunn. His anaesthetic device for delivering Cyclopropane and oxygen, known as Nunn’s bag, was widely used by the anaesthetists in the Malayan hospitals in the early 1950’s till the advent of the universal Boyle’s anaesthetic machine.

The Story of Early Anaesthesia

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The Beginning.

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Substantial and documented story of anaesthesia emerged soon after the return of the British to Malaya after the Second World War ended in September 1945. The Colonial Medical Services, which later became the Malayan Medical Service in the 1950’s, included anaesthetic services. The earliest anaesthetists included D. A. B. Hopkins, E. Morrison, E. G. Hudson, J. George Lomaz and B. E. G. D’Bras.

It could be said that anaesthesia as a specialised discipline began on a serious note only after the World War Two and it was after the independence in 1957 that many local doctors were sent abroad to be trained in anaesthesia.

The Liverpool Connection

Bhupalan went to Liverpool in 1956 and excelled there by winning the Nuffield Prize in the Part 1 examination of the Fellowship. His contemporaries in Liverpool became Consultants in the British National Health Service and one of them, Thomas Cecil Gray, became Professor of Anaesthesia in University of Liverpool. The close relationship established by Bhupalan, A. Ganendran and Cecil Gray paved the way for other Malayan and later Malaysian doctors to be trained in anaesthesia in Liverpool. Among these, included Law Gim Teik who followed after Bhupalan. Law distinguished himself as a mentor to many others, first in Penang and later in Kuala Lumpur. Among his trainees included Alexius Delilkan who became the Professor of Anaesthesiology in the University of Malaya after Ganendran migrated to Australia.

Liverpool perhaps trained most of the early anaesthetists and this relationship continued even after the retirement of Cecil Gray in 1976 when John Utting took over the Chair in the University of Liverpool. The others who had gone through the portals of the University included Lim Say Wan, Robert Liew Pak Chin, Tan Poh Wah, Kam Chin Aik, Mohamed Namazie, (all ASTS trainees from University Malaya), M. C. Poopathy, Goh Kay Wah, M. K. Subrahmanyam, Boey Khoon Loong, S. Radhakrishna, Vishar Kumar (from the Ministry of Health), and several others.

Besides Liverpool, London also received a fair number of Malaysian doctors to undergo training in anaesthesia. Among the doctors sent there included Alexius
University of Malaya Department of Anaesthesiology

When T. J. Danaraj established the Faculty of Medicine in the 1960’s, he brought several of his colleagues from Singapore to man the infant faculty. When A. Ganendran was invited to come to Kuala Lumpur to the faculty, he with great insight, placed several audacious conditions that included an independent department not attached to the surgical department, unheard of in this region at that time and eventually a Chair in Anaesthesiology, another first. He wanted the department to be of equal status as other clinical departments with adequate office space and clerical staff, clinical research laboratories, and trained laboratory technicians. All these conditions were agreed upon and the academic staff-training scheme (ASTS) was formulated to populate the departments in the faculty. Several medical officers who had been working in the anaesthesiology departments in other government hospitals were recruited and sent abroad for training.

Through the tireless effort of A. Ganendran and his fledgling academic staff, the department in the University of Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC) acquired full recognition by the Faculty of Anaesthetists of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in 1968 as a training centre for the entire course. Both Part 1 and Final examinations were held in Kuala Lumpur alternating with Singapore. One of the trainees under the ASTS Lee Choon Keet was the first to obtain an Australian qualification. He was awarded the prestigious Cecil Gray Prize for the Final FFARACS examination.

The department became very well established under able leadership of A. Ganendran, Alexius Delilkan and later Gracie Ong. The quality of training was of high standard and when the time came for the examinations to be localised, it was well poised to take on the role as a leading centre of excellence.

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) Department of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care

The second academic anaesthesiology department was set up in the 1970’s and was initially based in the Faculty building adjacent to the Kuala Lumpur General Hospital and sharing its clinical facilities. The founding head of the department was Abdul Hamid Abdul Rahman who recruited several young doctors to join his department as permanent staff or on secondment from the government hospitals. They included Ahmad Ismail, C. H. Lee, A. Sappany, Puvaneswari, Albert Tan, Nurul Huda Tan, Rusli Arshad, Peter Tan, Indran Muthiah and Karis Misiran. Other senior anaesthetists were invited to assist in teaching and training.

While some of these trainees were sent abroad after an initial stint in the UMMC and Kuala Lumpur General Hospital, some others completed their training locally and sat for the FFARACS examination in Kuala Lumpur or Singapore.

Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) Department of Anaesthesiology

This department was set up in 1982 and also carries out undergraduate teaching and post graduate training.

Faculty of Anaesthesiologists, College of Surgeons of Malaysia (CSM)

As nearly all the early medical specialists in various disciplines were trained in Britain and obtained Fellowship of the Royal Colleges, it was only a matter of time that the Malaysian specialists decided to form similar Colleges in Malaysia. The College of Surgeons formed in Malaysia had a Faculty of Anaesthesiologists. The Colleges however, were not allowed to obtain full registration as academic organisations but were given temporary registration under the Societies Act to carry out continuing medical education and promoting the science and art of medicine.

The aim of the Faculty of Anaesthesiologists was to set standards of training, oversee curriculum development and conduct postgraduate examinations in anaesthesia as it was felt that the Australian College would withdraw their recognition in the future and local examinations would have to be conducted. After a national symposium on post graduate training in anaesthesia held in Kuala Lumpur Hospital on June 28, 1975, the Faculty together with the Department of Anaesthesiology in UMMC, developed a curriculum and format for training and examinations. In 1976, the Faculty co-hosted the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australian Anaesthetic Society, and the profits from this meeting provided the seed money for the activities of the Faculty.

The Faculty had a Dean, Secretary and a Treasurer, an Education Officer and three to five Council members. The Dean was also one of the Vice Presidents of the College of Surgeons.

Unfortunately, the Colleges Bill that was tabled in the Parliament in the late 1970’s was withdrawn and the Faculty lost its momentum and became dormant except for occasional meetings and annual general meetings to elect office bearers.

Post Graduate Masters Programme in Anaesthesia

The UKM department headed by A. Sappany was given the task of planning the conduct of the four-year Master of Medicine (Anaesthesiology) programme after the Colleges Bill which would have allowed the local medical colleges to conduct post graduate examination was withdrawn in the Parliament after the first reading. Rusli succeeded A. Sappany and it was during his short-term as head of the UKM department that the first batch of post graduate students were admitted in 1985. Goh Choon Seng and later Karis Misiran, carried out the transformation of the local examination successfully together with the assistance from the staff of the Department of Anaesthesiology of University of Malaya, the Departments of Anaesthesia of the Royal Melbourne Hospital, and the Royal Women’s Hospital, Melbourne. Two years later, the University of Malaya started its Masters programme and both these universities held common examinations for a while but conferred their respective degrees.

When USM started its programme, it took a different trajectory from the other two universities. However, it was felt that it would be preferable for all universities to have common examinations. A conjoint committee was formed under the Ministry of Education and after much careful
deliberations, mutual understanding and compromises, all three agreed to common examinations and a directive given to other universities that were contemplating post graduate training in anaesthesia to follow the common format. The Universiti Putra Malaysia and the International Islamic University that came in later, adopted this format and today it can be said all anaesthesiology training for the Masters degree follow a common curriculum and format. In 2014, the UKM changed the name of its masters degree to Doctor of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care.

College of Anaesthesiologists
With the failure of not achieving independent existence by lawful statute, the two medical colleges namely the College of Physicians and the College of Surgeons and their Faculties decided to merge with the Academy of Medicine of Malaysia, which had been founded in 1966. This gave the opportunity for the Faculty of Anaesthesiologists to step away from the shadows of the surgical colleagues and venture out on its own as a Chapter of Anaesthesiologists in 1995. Chang Ham Loong became the first president of the Chapter. In 1999, the Chapter was accorded the full collegiate status and came to be known as the College of Anaesthesiologists, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia. At long last, the specialty of Anaesthesiology achieved its rightful position in the spectrum of medical specialties after an initial failure in 1986.

Since then, the College has grown in strength though the membership in terms of numbers is significantly lower than its sister organisation, the Malaysian Society of Anaesthesiologists, which had been formed much earlier by the pioneer Malaysian anaesthetist Joseph Manavalan was posted to Sabah. Since then, others had continued to provide the services in these vast states with less than adequate access to healthcare compared to the Peninsula Malaysia.

The Story of Intensive Care
While there had been designated beds in the larger hospitals for seriously ill patients requiring constant care, the need for intensive care unit (ICU) was a prerequisite to do open heart surgery. This was first done in the UMMC. The first comprehensive intensive care unit was opened there on January 18, 1969. The next unit was officially opened in Johor Bharu on February 23, 1969 by Sultanah Aminah. Other units were set up in the 1970’s and 1980’s in the larger public hospitals in Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Kota Bharu, Kuching and Alor Star. The unit in Kota Bharu is noted for its contribution to management of neonatal tetanus. When private hospitals began to be set up in the 1980’s, some private hospitals planned purpose built intensive care units. The Ipoh Specialist Centre was perhaps the first private hospital to have a full fledged functional intensive care unit in 1981 with qualified intensive care nurses and a whole range of equipment to look after critically ill patients including neurosurgical patients a few years later.

There has been a rapid expansion of intensive care services since 1980’s and a census conducted in 2010 revealed that there were 167 ICUs in 127 hospitals, which provided 1147 ICU beds across the nation. There was an even spread between the public and private sectors. Nearly 99% of the units in public sector provided Levels 2 and 3 care while this was 79% for the private sector.

The anaesthesiologists who provided critical care, together with the referring doctors, head all the intensive care units. Intensive care has developed by leaps and bounds in the last two decades with specialists, both anaesthesiologists and non-anaesthesiologists, undergoing post fellowship training in intensive care.

With the advancement of critical care and the increasing numbers of specialists trained in intensive care, there was need for credentialing of intensivists. A separate sub committee for Intensivists credentialing was created under the main specialties of anaesthesiology and general medicine. There are now uniform standards for entry into the sub-specialty of intensive care register in the National Specialist Register.

The Present
Today, the College is involved in many activities that are of importance to the specialty. It took over the development of clinical practice guidelines (CPG) from the Malaysian Society of Anaesthesiologists and has published several of them. These CPGs have been well-recognised and are used by both the public and private hospitals. The Safety Standards in Anaesthesia originally published in 1993, is now in its 4th Edition and the Malaysian Society of Quality in Health uses these standards for accreditation of anaesthetic services in hospitals.

The College participates in training of anaesthesiologists by virtue of its membership in the Conjoint Committee for Anaesthesia established by the Ministry of Education. Four of the senior members of College sit on the sub committee for anaesthesiology in the National Credentialing Committee which manages the National Specialist Register.
Continuing professional development (CPD) remains the raison d’etre of the College and together with the Society, carries out activities to enhance CPD through various special interest groups. The half-day annual scientific meeting which had only 10 to 30 participants in the sixth and seventh decade of the last century has now grown into four-day conference including several concurrent pre-conference workshops attended by several hundred participants.

The research activities have not been forgotten and are gaining momentum in the anaesthetic departments in the universities and the public hospital. The requirement for a dissertation for conferment of the Masters degree has been the impetus for this. The standard of presentations of these research projects in oral and poster sessions during the annual meeting has significantly improved. Selected young investigators are provided research grants by the Society and the best presentations are awarded the Young Investigator Award, the MSA Award and the Best Poster Presentation Award.

The Future

The College is well poised to take on additional responsibilities especially in the areas of sub-specialty training and CPD. With the amendment of the Medical Act 1971, it has now become incumbent to maintain documented clinical competence for the renewal of annual practicing certificate and maintaining the registration in the National Specialist Register. The College has been given the task of recommending standards for these and will devote substantial time and finance to develop these.

It is envisaged that in time to come, intensive care will become a specialty on its own right and there may be other sub-specialty like pain medicine, which will be recognised and accorded recognition.

It would be fitting to paraphrase the words of Abraham Lincoln in his Gettysburg Address to conclude this short story of anaesthesia and the victory over pain and to pay tribute to the pioneers of anaesthesia in the Malay Peninsula.

“It is rather for us, the living, we here be dedicated to the great task remaining before us — that, from those who have set the foundation, we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion— that we here highly resolve, these great souls shall not have done what they did in vain; that we, shall have a new birth of will, wisdom and courage to continue the vision of our predecessors”

A. A. THOMSON, The Great Cricketer

This essay on the saga of anaesthesia and victory over pain in the Malay Peninsula is an abridged version of the Chapter on Anaesthesia written by this essayist in the “History of Medicine in Malaysia, Volume II Pg. 15-31 (Publisher: Academy of Sciences of Malaysia, ISBN 978-983-42545-1-3)” The sources of information contained here have been duly acknowledged in the original version. The story of early anaesthesia in Sarawak was contributed by John Chew and certain facts were verified by the essayist by referring to the original book “Memoirs of Francis Thomas McDougall” by Charles John Bunyon, (Publisher: Longman, Green and Company, London, 1889. Digitized by Google from the original in The New York Public Library).

Additional information on intensive care was obtained from the recently published book, “Supporting Life: The Journey of Intensive Care in Malaysia” (Publisher: Malaysian Society of Intensive Care, 2015)

The terms anaesthesia and anaesthesiology though used interchangeably today, the term anaesthesia was originally used in the early days. The first use of the term anaesthesiology was when the Department of Anaesthesiology in UMMC was set up and since then, all other anaesthesia departments in hospitals across the country adopted this usage.

The essayist wishes to thank all those who read the manuscript and provided valuable comments and changes, and Sushila Sivasubramaniam, President of the College of Anaesthesiologists, for having confidence in me to write this essay.

Appendix

List of Anaesthesiologists who have served as principal office bearers:

Faculty of Anaesthesiologists, College of Surgeons of Malaysia

The documents relating to the activities of the Faculty are sparse due to loss of these documents.

As far as it is known, the following have served in one way or the other in the course of time from late 1960’s when the Faculty was formed till the Chapter of Anaesthesiologists in the Academy of Medicine of Malaysia was created in 1995.

A. Ganendran, Dean of the Faculty
A. E. Delilkan, Dean of the Faculty, Education Officer
Sylvian Das, Dean and Secretary of the Faculty
Lim Say Wan, Education Officer
Mohamed Namazie Ibrahim, Secretary of the Faculty

Chapter Anaesthesiologists, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia

Pro-tem Chairman
1995-1996 S. Jenagaratnam
1996-1997 Chang Ham Loong
1998-1999 K. Inbasegaran

Presidents
1995-1996 S. Jenagaratnam
1997-1998 K. Inbasegaran
1999-2001 Patrick Tan Siew Khoon
2001-2003 Lim Thiam Aun
2003-2005 Ramani Vijayan
2005-2007 Chan Yoo Kuen
2007-2009 Mohamed Namazie Ibrahim
2009-2011 Mary Cardosa
2011-2013 Norsidah Abdul Manap
2013-2015 V. Sivasakthi
2015- Sushila Sivasubramaniam
THE PIONEERS

Before the Second World War, the only specialist in obstetrics and gynaecology was an Australian lady doctor by the name of Marjorie Jean Lyon, who had qualified with the Membership of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (MRCOG) in London, in 1934, and the FRCS Edinburgh in 1936. She joined the Malayan Medical Service on 30th July 1937 and was stationed in Johor Bahru in 1942 at the time of the Japanese advance. She was evacuated from Singapore but her ship was bombed and she was interned in Sumatra. After the war ended she practised with the Malayan Medical Service until 1950, then returned to her native Western Australia and retired in 1970. She died in 1975.

In addition, there had been a few British and Malaysian doctors, including Salleh Abdul Hamid of Johor, who held the Diploma of the Royal College or DRCOG, but they confined themselves mainly to obstetrics and non-operative gynaecology. Another recognised post-graduate qualification in obstetrics was the Licentiate in Midwifery from the Rotunda Hospital in Dublin, which was held by Joseph Aeria in Penang and Awang Hassan in Johor. S. Kanapathipillai and V. J. Seevaratnam also acquired this qualification after having been sent there by the colonial government and served as O&G specialists in Penang and Perak in the immediate post war years. Other specialist qualifications included the Master of Midwifery, the Society of Apothecaries (MMSA), and the Master of the Art of Obstetrics (MAO) from Dublin. This was the specialist qualification held by Derek Llewellyn-Jones, when he was appointed Consultant at the GHKL, in 1956, before he went on to obtain the MRCOG that same year.

Llewellyn-Jones was destined to play a leading role in initiating a training programme for young Malaysian doctors, who aspired to become obstetricians and gynaecologists. It was solely through his efforts that the obstetric and gynaecological unit in the GHKL, became the first unit in Malaysia and Singapore to be recognised by the RCOG as being adequate for six months of obstetric training that would go towards the mandatory two years of training required by them. It was Llewellyn-Jones’ pioneering work, based on meticulous annual departmental reports, submitted to the RCOG, that persuaded the College to grant partial recognition of local training and arrange for Malaysian doctors to complete their training in UK hospitals and sit for the Membership examination. As more Malaysians returned from the United Kingdom with the MRCOG; they established their own units in Malaysian government hospitals. These units were in turn assessed and recognised for training by visiting teams from the College. This was the catalyst that increased opportunities for a greater number of trainees and ushered in the beginning of a new chapter in Malaysian health care.

The other catalyst was the establishment of the University of Malaya (UM) teaching hospital in Kuala Lumpur in 1965, and the full accreditation by the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in 1970 of its department of obstetrics and gynaecology headed by T. A. Sinnathuray who was Professor at that time. It was the first Malaysian hospital to be so recognised. The Foundation Professor of the Department was Donald Chan Pui Chee who obtained his MRCOG in 1958. I. S. Puvan (1966) and D. K. Sen (1962) were also on the academic staff as Associate Professors.

THE OBSTETRICAL AND GYNAECOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MALAYSIA

The Obstetrical & Gynaecological fraternity has been fairly proactive and even before the days of the formation of the Academy of Medicine of Malaya in December 1966, a Society was set up. The Obstetrical & Gynaecological Society of Malaysia (OGSM) was set up in 1963. The first President was Dr. S. Lourdenaden who was then the head of one of the two units which had been set up in the newly opened Kuala Lumpur Maternity Hospital in 1963.

The founding fathers had their first meeting on 13th April 1963 at the General Hospital, Johor Bahru, to formally establish the Society. The Pro-Tem Committee was appointed and comprised of Dr. S. Lourdenaden (Chairman), Dr. R. S. McCoy (Secretary and Treasurer), Dr. P. T. Arasu, Dr. Ariffin Ngah Marzuki, Dr. J. D. Llewellyn-Jones and Dr. E. C. Pink. The 1st Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at the newly opened Maternity Hospital Kuala Lumpur (MHKL) on the 1st August 1964. It was chaired by Dr. S. Lourdenaden and the nine member quorum was joined by Dr. T. A. Sinnathuray and Dr. T. H. Lean as observers from the Singapore Society. A decision was made to forge closer ties between the two Societies with the goal of forming a Malaysian Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society.

This hope was documented in the 1964 Annual Report wherein the final entry stated “This report will probably be the second and last report of the Society, which will soon enlarge and encompass the states of Singapore, Sabah and Sarawak”.

continued on page 8
The AGM on 16th April 1965 even proposed that the President of the Society be “alternated between Malaya and Singapore until such time more members enrolled from the Borneo Territories”. This hope was manifested with the unanimous election of Professor Walter Tow Siang Hwa from the University of Singapore as President for the 1965/66 session.

When Singapore became an independent Republic on 9th August 1965, it was decided that the two societies would have to part ways and function separately in their respective territories. Our Society was renamed as The Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Malaysia (OGSM) and was registered on 11th May 1965.

The requirement by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) for a candidate to work in recognised training posts in Obstetrics and Gynaecology for two years before he or she would be eligible to sit for the RCOG membership examination, ensured that there would be adequate supervision and training. In addition, these accredited posts in the UK offered good exposure to best practices and the current state-of-the-art practice. Ties were established with various centres in the UK and periodically Malaysian doctors have been working in these centres. There are established links with Aberdeen, Oxford, Edinburgh and Nottingham.

Naturally, with these established ties with prominent centres, the OGSM enthusiastically pursued with Continued Medical Education (CME) programmes locally and organised scientific meetings and teaching conferences. The first Annual Scientific Meeting was held in 1971 and this was renamed as a Congress in 1990. The first international conference that OGSM organised was the 6th Asian Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (AFOG) which was held from the 20th to 27th of July 1974 at the Federal Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. The 16th Asia and Oceanic Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (AOCOG) was again held in Kuala Lumpur in 1998 at The Palace of the Golden Horses. On the 3rd to 6th of June 2015, OGSM once again hosted the 24th AOCOG at The Borneo Convention Centre in Kuching, Sarawak. In 1998, OGSM successfully won the bid to host the prestigious 18th FIGO World Congress in 2006. At that time, it was hailed as KL’s biggest ever Congress, the 18th FIGO held from the 5th to the 10th November 2006 had 6,503 registered delegates, 727 accompanying persons from 149 countries. There were a total of 958 exhibitors. The 6th AFOG in 1974 made a profit of RM16,872.55. The 16th AOCOG in 1998 generated an after tax surplus of RM549,550.00. The FIGO event in 2008 exceeded all expectations and earned a surplus of RM2.4 million for the Society.

An inaugural meeting of members of the Academy of Medicine, who are obstetricians and gynaecologists, was held on the 12th September 1993 at the Pantai Medical Centre, Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur. A total of 15 members attended this inaugural meeting. Dato’ Dr. R. S. McCoy was elected as Chairman of the interim committee and Dr. Ong Hean Choon was the Secretary. The other members of the interim committee were Dato’ Dr. Johan Thambu, Dr. P. Boopalan and Dr. Abdul Aziz Yahya. In 1994, the number of members of the Chapter was 53.

Dr. P. Boopalan took over as the Chairman of the Chapter in 1997 and he was followed by Dato’ Dr. Johan Thambu in 2005. The current strength of the College stands at a total of 167 members out of which there are a total of 42 Fellows. The number of life members is 48.

The Chapter of the College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology became the College of O&G in 1999. The College today has a total membership of 167 of whom 42 are Fellows. All the members and fellows of the College are specialists in Obstetrics and Gynaecology unlike the Society which has both specialists, trainee specialists and non-specialists as its members. All the members and fellows of the College are members of OGSM and many of them have been in one way or another been instrumental in building up the Society to the level that it has been built up to. In contrast, the OGSM has a total membership of 1250, with three full-time secretariat staff and owns its premises.

The scope of activities and cooperation between the Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Malaysia (OGSM) and the College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia (COGAMM), is that these two organisations are independent but exist to further the interests of the Profession and their members. There is considerable overlap in the stated objectives of the Society and that of the Academy. As far as possible, there should be no area of conflict between the two organisations. There should be broad agreement about the main areas of coverage by either organisation. Any overlap should be encouraged only if it serves to enhance the interests of the Profession as a whole. Activities already being carried out should continue as at present.

In essence, the OGSM will continue to organise the Annual Congress and with the Social activities along with it. It will also undertake public education as part of its corporate social responsibility programme. The College of O&G would be responsible for credentialing activities, for consensus development and for quality assurance activities. These two organisations exist to champion the best in women’s healthcare and to support doctors to achieve excellence in their practice of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.
The Academy of Medicine of Malaysia (AMM) has entered the 50th year of its journey since its inception. Established in 1966, the AMM, formed with the amalgamation of various colleges, represent the interest of the diverse medical specialists in the country.

To celebrate this significant milestone, AMM together with the College of Emergency Physicians, will host the 50th Malaysia-Singapore Congress of Medicine & 3rd AMM-AMS-HKAM Tripartite Congress, incorporating the 1st Emergency Medicine Annual Scientific (EMAS) Meeting on 19th to 21st August 2016, at Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. The three-day scientific meeting with the theme, “A Multidisciplinary Approach in Strengthening the Chain of Survival” will include leading experts across all disciplines who will deliberate on significant issues, provide insights into the latest scientific knowledge and facilitate the translation of this knowledge into daily clinical practice.

The Golden Jubilee Oration will be delivered by our Royal Patron DYMM Paduka Seri Sultan Perak Darul Ridzuan Sultan Nazrin Muizuddin Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Azlan Shah who graciously agreed to officiate the opening of the Congress. The Opening Ceremony will also be attended by Yang Berhormat Datuk Seri Dr S Subramaniam, Minister of Health Malaysia, and is expected to attract a large participation, including Presidents of Overseas Academies and Colleges.

We are delighted to invite all participants to attend the glittering Gala Dinner on 20th August 2016, fit for the magnificent celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Academy, at Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. The theme for the night will be “A Night of Glitter”. The red carpet moments will be captured for your viewing pleasure down the memory lane. We will have the “Oscar moment to recognise the contributions of influential people in the Academy. Fuel up the night with a pre-dinner reception while reminiscing old friendship and it would be also a perfect time to make new ones. Spectacular entertainment will accompany the glorious dinner and the night will end with dancing to the stars. Wear your fanciest ball gown and smart suit for the party of the year. Book your tickets, mark your calendar and be there to party with us! We promise you a night to remember.

A souvenir book outlining 50 years progress and achievements of AMM and the different colleges within the Academy, will be published to commemorate this important event.

Please mark these dates in your calendar and join us to celebrate “AMM@50”.

GOLDEN JUBILEE GALA DINNER
“A Night of Glitter”
20th August 2016, Saturday

1930 – 1945 Arrival of VIPs and Guests
1945 – 1950 Arrival of Guest of Honour
1950 – 1955 Video show on the AMM milestones
1955 – 2000 Speech by Professor Dr Rosmawati Mohamed, Chairperson, Organising Committee
2000 – 2030 Dinner commences
2030 – 2100 Speech by Guest of Honour
2100 – 2130 Academy Award “Red carpet moments” (Honouring Past Masters of the Academy of Medicine of Malaysia)
2130 – 2140 Speech by Professor Dato’ Dr P Kandasami, Master, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia and Exchange of Gifts
2140 – 2230 Toast to the Academy of Medicine of Malaysia
2230 End of Function