

## Correspondence:

# A unified post-graduate medical organisation in Malaysia

Dear Sir,

With reference to your Editorial of 2nd December 1973 regarding post-graduate medical education and examinations, I am in entire agreement about the need for a unified body to draw up suitable syllabuses, organize training courses and conduct examinations for post-graduate diplomas in the various specialities.

In a country like Malaysia, where there are only about 240 specialists and 2 medical schools, it would be better to have all the specialities to be under one organisation rather than having a multiplicity of small groups trying to conduct courses and examinations and granting diplomas. This would also prevent a serious brain drain from our medical fraternity by offering our up and coming, bright young medical officers a future for pursuing the speciality of their choice locally.

My proposal is that an Act of Parliament be passed known as the Academy of Medicine of Malaysia Act with ten Colleges or Faculties as they may be called constituted under the aegis of the Academy of Medicine. This would warrant the alternation of the Constitution of the Academy of Medicine in such a manner as to take in the ten Colleges or Faculties. The ten suggested are:

1. College of Surgeons
2. College of Medicine
3. College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
4. College of Dental Surgery
5. College of Anaesthesia
6. College of Pathology, Bacteriology and Medical and Laboratory Sciences
7. College of Social and Preventive Medicine
8. College of Radiology, Radiotherapy and Nuclear Medicine
9. College of General Practitioners or Family and Community Medicine
10. College of Psychological Medicine

It is important that we should take into the Academy of Medicine the College of General Practi-

tioners. In the first instance we should take all the members of the College of General Practitioners approved by their Council as members, but, in the future, they should be admitted only by examinations conducted by their College in conjunction with the Academy of Medicine. Taking them in will strengthen the Academy and will enhance the standard of general practice as a whole. Many Universities overseas have established chairs in general practice because to a certain extent general practice itself is becoming a speciality in its own right.

These Colleges would remain independent to run their various specialities according to their own constitution. I would like to suggest that when the Constitution of the Academy is to be amended the ten Presidents of the Colleges become Council members of the Academy and six others to be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Academy at which time the Master, the Scribe and the Burser would be also elected.

The Council of the Academy shall be responsible for conducting the examinations and helping the various courses especially, in regard to quality and standards. The respective Colleges would remain independent, but, there would be somewhat of a general control from the co-ordinating body of the Council of the Academy. The Academy can continue to hold its Bi-annual Congresses with the participation of all the Colleges. In this way, I am sure that we can unite all the Colleges and the Academy and the profession as a whole can speak with one voice. There are several details on methods of entry, type of awards etc. which can be discussed at a joint meeting. For example after obtaining the first and second part of the examination in the various Colleges, a Fellowship or Membership of the respective Colleges could be granted to the candidate. Following this the candidate would be required to serve in his or her speciality for three years, present a paper either at one of the bi-annual Congresses or recognised international meeting, following which

the A.M. could be conferred on them. With goodwill and the interests of the profession and the standard of medicine of our country at heart, it would not be difficult to formulate an Act, like the Academy of Medicine Act, wherein the power to control standards will rest with the Council of the Academy which would be elected by the medical profession.

Once such an Act is passed and a permanent secretariat is established, I am sure the whole project

would be a success and not only gain recognition in our country but, may also become a pattern, which other countries may like to adopt.

Yours sincerely.

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