

First Joint M.Med (O&G)/ MRCOG Part 2 Oral Assessment Examination in Singapore

KH Tan

In 1963, after much hard work by our O&G fraternity in Singapore, O&G Training Posts in KK Hospital was first recognized by Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) for MRCOG examinations.¹ In the early 1970s, the MRCOG Part One Examination was held alternatively in March in Kuala Lumpur and in September in Singapore.²

A milestone for the O&G Fraternity in Singapore has now been achieved with the conduct of the First Joint M.Med (O&G)/ MRCOG Part 2 Oral Assessment Examination in Singapore on Monday, 8 May 2006. Singapore became one of the only two centers (alternate with Hongkong half yearly) outside of London to conduct the international MRCOG Final Part 2 Oral Assessment Examination. The examination venue was in KK Women's and Children's Hospital.

The Chief Examiner was Prof William L. Ledger, Chair of the Examination Committee of RCOG. The Hongkong Examiners were Prof Tony Chung Kwok Hung and Dr Pang Chung Pui (observer). The Singapore Examiners were A/Prof Ho Tew Hong (M.Med (O&G) Chief Examiner), Dr Jothi Kumar, Dr Mahesh Choolani, A/Prof Mary Rauff, Dr Kelvin Tan Kok Hian, CI A/Prof Tay Sun Kuie, A/Prof PC Wong and CI A/Prof George Yeo; with both Prof Kuldeep Singh and Dr Lai Fon Min as observers. Dr Michael G. Murphy, Secretary of the Examination Committee of RCOG, was also here in Singapore to help with this first joint examination.

The examination was synchronized with that simultaneously held in London and a telephone discussion with the Co-ordinator, Dr Antony Hollingworth, of examination panel in London was conducted during the Examiners' meeting prior to the Oral Assessment, to facilitate final clarifications by examiners from both London and Singapore on the examination questions and marking system for each of specific questions just before the examination. The

Oral Assessment panel stations were set up, complete with a few enlisted actresses (5 + 1 reserve) for role playing, in Staff Lounge of KK Hospital. There were a total of 11 (8 from Hong Kong and 3 from Singapore) candidates from Hongkong and Singapore.

The conduct of the examination went smoothly and every well. The Chief Examiner was very pleased. This was testimony to the hard work by the staff of Division of Graduate Medical Studies, NUS and O&G fraternity (including College of O&G Singapore and the Singapore RCOG Representative Committee). The O&G fraternity of Singapore has been conducting the RCOG Part II Examination Course in Singapore annually since 2001 and there have also been several briefings and training sessions conducted for the Singapore examiners by RCOG since 2005. These no doubt contributed to the success of the conduct of this conjoint examination in Singapore. In addition all the three Singapore candidates (Dr Tan Eng Loy, Dr Khoo Chong Kiat and Dr Ng Ying Woo) who took this conjoint examination locally did well and passed, obtaining their MRCOG and M. Med (O&G) qualifications in one (historic) sitting.

The Singapore M.Med (O&G) exam will be held twice a year, every May in Singapore and November in Hong Kong. The next session for the Joint M.Med (O&G)/ MRCOG Part 2 Oral Assessment is scheduled to be held in Hong Kong on 13 November 2006. This is another milestone for the M.Med as it (Singapore M.Med. degree with the MRCOG) will be awarded to Singapore candidates with the presence of a Singapore (RCOG- appointed) Examiner in the Hong Kong exam centre. For this upcoming session, the M.Med Committee has appointed Prof Kuldeep Singh as our Singapore Examiner to examine in Hong Kong. It is estimated that we would have 3 Singapore candidates to attempt this exam in Hong Kong.

Acknowledgements

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REFERENCES

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2. Sheila LB Duncan. *Relationship of the Development of the O&G Speciality in Singapore and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. In: Tan KH & Tay EH, editors. The History of Obstetrics & Gynaecology in Singapore. Obstetrical & Gynaecological Society of Singapore and National Heritage Board, Singapore. P570-574. 2003*



Examiners' Meeting prior to the Oral Assessment examination



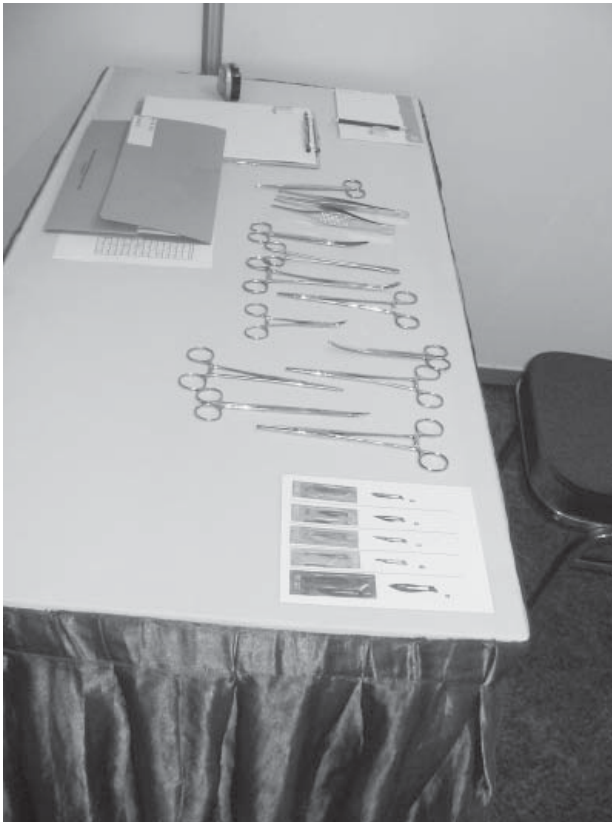
Examiners:

Sitting (from left): Prof Tony Chung Kwok Hung, Dr Michael Murphy, Prof William L Ledger, A/Prof Ho Tew Hong, A/Prof Mary Rauff

Standing (from left): Dr Mahesh Choolani, Prof Kuldip Singh, CI A/Prof George Yeo, Dr Jothi Kumar, Dr Pang Chung Pui, CI A/Prof Tay Sun Kuie, Dr Kelvin Tan Kok Hian



The Oral Assessment panel stations



The Oral Assessment panel station on instruments