OBITUARY



In memory of Dr. Ho-yin Choi (蔡浩賢醫生) (1939 - 2014)

I was saddened to hear the news of Dr. Choi passing away on 11 July 2014.

The death of Dr. Choi brought profound grief to members of the Hong Kong College of Family Physicians.

Dr. Choi graduated from the Diocesan Boys' School HK and then finished the M.B.,B.S. in the Monash University, Melbourne as one of the first batch of medical graduates. He then returned to HK to start his own private solo general practice in To Kwa Wan, Kowloon. During this time, he joined the HK College of General Practitioners (then re-named as the HK College of Family Physicians) during the early formative stage of the College as one of the Council members in 1977. He had been entrusted the important tasks as Chairman of the Board of Education and Editor of the College i organizing the first series of evening video sessions at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, proof reading the articles for the journal, and helping to promote academic and social interactions with the Department of Medical and Health Services and the medical faculty of HKU under the capable leadership of Dr. Peter CY Lee.

Dr. Choi's proudest contribution to the College was the design of the College Logo which we are still using. He was meticulous in making the various components of the logo into right scale, proportion and perspective. Also he paid special attention to the colour schemes of the logo to make it attractive and distinct. Components have their special meaning to fit in with the objectives of the College.

During his term of service of the College, I had been most fortunate to work with him and other founder Council members of the College to struggle for our survival. We spent endless nights at Wanchai discussing many different issues on how general practice in HK could be better respected by the local community and the other medical disciplines. Dr. Choi was so enthusiastic and energetic that he never failed to attend any council meeting. In all the meetings, he was the most outspoken one and was very insistent on his principles. I enjoyed his way of talking with reasons, though I did not always stand on his argument. For personal reason, Dr. Choi left HK College Council in 1984 and resided in Melbourne.

Later Dr. Choi returned to HK to start his career as CEO of a health group, 'Community Health Centre'. responsible for health maintenance of staff of a number of commercial corporations. He was quite a successful health administrator and efficient clinician. A few years later he was found to have cancer which he had fought for the past 17 years, refusing to give up. He had all kinds of therapies and surgeries in HK and Melbourne and he bravely faced the disease with strong fighting spirit. During this time of struggle, he had never ceased to work in his office till a few months ago, he was too weak to work due to multiple metastasis.

Dr. Choi had a very strong personality. Anything deviated from truth would invite heated arguments. He was stubborn but respectable for his righteousness. His love for life and never give-up spirit shed a shining example to all of us to continue living, no matter how hard and bitter life may be. I admire his courage and attitude.

We lost a sincere friend and the College lost a fighter. We miss him forever.

Dr. Stephen Foo Censor and Past President

Family Physicians