

## **Formation of the College of Pathologists, Academy of Medicine Malaysia**

Professor Dr. L.M. LOOI, MD, MIAC, FRCPath, FRCPA, FAMM, FASc

*President, College of Pathologists, Academy of Medicine Malaysia*

We are deeply appreciative that 1999 and 2000 have been very eventful years for us. At the Annual General Meeting of the Malaysian Society of Pathologists (MSOP) in 1998, the mandate was given to the Council to pursue the possibility of merger of the Society with the Academy of Medicine of Malaysia (AMM). Consequent to several meetings between the MSOP and AMM Councils, resolutions were put to the general body of the MSOP at the Extra-ordinary General (EGM) meeting held on 29 April 1999 to merge the Society with the Academy to form the College of Pathologists, Academy of Medicine Malaysia. The College of Pathologists will then be the sole professional body representing specialist pathologists in Malaysia, and will join the fraternity of Medical Speciality Colleges under the Academy of Medicine of Malaysia. It shall be governed by its own Rules and Regulations under the constitution of the Academy of Medicine, Malaysia, elect its own Council, and retain its own emblem and Journal. At the EGM, members unanimously confirmed the results of a postal ballot taken which indicated that 140 (80%) of 175 members with voting rights were in favour of this merger. There were no votes against the resolutions. On 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1999, the College of Pathologists was formed by the Council of the Academy of Medicine, a simple beginning to a historical event for the medical speciality profession. In addition to those who were already members of both the MSOP and AMM at that time, 165 ordinary members of the MSOP were converted to ordinary members of the AMM. 28 Trainee and 8 Associate Members of the MSOP were offered Candidate and Associate Membership of the AMM respectively. 81 members of the College of Pathologists (CPath) were inducted into the AMM at a ceremony held in conjunction with the 33<sup>rd</sup> Malaysia-Singapore Congress of Medicine in August 1999 at the Sunway Lagoon Resort Hotel, Petaling Jaya. It is hoped that all remaining CPath members will be inducted at the 35<sup>rd</sup> Malaysia-Singapore Congress of Medicine in August 2001.

Pathology in Malaysia has taken a bold step forward at the turn of the millennium. The Malaysian Society of Pathologists had served as the voice and umbrella of our family of pathologists for 24 years. To disband such a thriving and well-loved body was a very emotional moment for many of us who have found guidance and fostered lifelong friendships under its wings. However, the mandate is clear and the hopes of the members are towards a broader platform. The College has the potential to be an even more vibrant and authoritative body. We reaffirm the many aspirations and plans formulated under the Malaysian Society of Pathologists, in charting the path for the Pathology Profession and further strengthening our ties with pathology professional bodies and Colleges abroad. We are deeply appreciative of the good wishes received from our sister bodies in Singapore - the Chapter of Pathologists of the Academy of Medicine Singapore and the Singapore Society of Pathology-, and the Royal College of Pathologists, United Kingdom on the formation of our College and their assurances of continual ties with us. The Bhagwan Singh Fellowship programme of the Royal College of Pathologists, UK is now continued with our College, as are the Becton-Dickinson Awards.

The First Annual Scientific Meeting of the College and 10<sup>th</sup> Combined Malaysia-Singapore Pathology Conference held in Penang from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1999 was a landmark event that blended the traditions of the old with the new and the hopes from our past with those for the future. Besides activities unique to Pathology, we will from hence be engaged in all

commitments of the AMM, including the specialist register, formulation of consensus on practice guidelines, postgraduate education and continuing professional development. I am pleased to announce that this year, our annual scientific meeting will be part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> MOH-AMM Scientific Conference and International Congress of Medicine in the Tropics, scheduled for 1-4 November 2000.

This volume of the Malaysian Journal of Pathology is the first to be published under the College of Pathologists, Academy of Medicine. The emblem of the College, reflecting its origin from the MSOP is reproduced for the interest of members. In keeping with tradition, abstracts of papers presented at Annual Scientific Meetings of the College will continue to be published in the Journal.