



*Make
it a
Glamorous
Night*



*80th
Annual Dinner
and Dance*

of

The Penang Medical Practitioners' Society

on 24th November, 2012

at G Hotel Ballroom, Penang



Message from President of MPCAM



MPCN stands for **Malaysian Primary Care Network**. It is a Facebook closed group meant for medical doctors and started by a non-medical personnel, **Mr. Alex Wong**, in 2009 for a simple reason: to gather all medical professionals together on one site. He saw the need to gather all Doctors who have Facebook accounts to join a closed group as he had seen how fragmented the profession was and how isolated general practitioners and medical specialists were since they had no ready avenue or time to discuss and share common skills, knowledge and problems. There was also the side bonus of reuniting old classmates and colleagues and getting to know and make new friends in our widely dispersed medical fraternity.

It began innocently enough and MPCN began to grow with a slow steady crawl. Even at the early stages of its formation, it was already a success, since many doctors had found a place to chat and release some of their pent up emotions and stress, sharing the problems faced daily and the daily grind that is the usual lot of being a medical doctor.

Then came the **famous 1Care** scare in 2011. **Dr John Ng** was the earliest to notify all medical

professionals and the public of this possible menace to all concerned in the **taknak1Care** Facebook page. More and more information was actively discussed and soon, the scare had started a new movement and awareness of the need for unity in our fragile medical fraternity. The profession was fragile because we were disunited, fragmented and isolated. We are easily bullied and hassled by the ongoing health policies which have been implemented without our knowledge or a general consensus approval, and had been stealthily incorporated into our profession. A control rod had been inserted in the guise of **Private Healthcare Facilities and Services Act and Regulations 2006** by Ministry of Health. It was partly the general practitioners' and doctors' fault that this Medical Act was not tackled during its conception and implementation. We were too busy working attending to the needs of our patients and attending to our own personal needs, wrapped up in our professional cocoon and basically shutting off the rest of the world. After it had been forced upon all of us, it was too late to do anything about it and still it hurts and troubles us till today. **That was a grave mistake, a mistake that we shall not repeat.**

What we have started now is just the tip of the iceberg. There is a need for social media to be utilised for our **UNITY** and the need to spread awareness of the urgency for a Solidarity action against all the current problems that have gone uncontested, from the hidden nest of pitfalls from Managed Care Organisations and unregulated Third Party Administrators which enslave and abuse our brethren, unethical practices from Pharmacies and certain Private Pathology Laboratories and many more undesirable elements. All this had been out of our visual fields and radar, even though some of us were aware of these problems, we could not do anything about it as we were a **disunited and voiceless bunch of weak Professionals**. Many of the existing medical associations had been formed over the years and we have been asked why there is a need for another one. We would like to inform all existing medical associations that this newly founded society has an edge which other existing associations lack severely and we seek not to rival the existing Medical association but to complement ALL in our country.

What we have in MPCN is the immediate response, direct and fast interactive session that is ongoing every second in our FaceBook group. Responses will be heard and dealt with speed not seen in any existing association. From there, we can deal with problems with a collective response from all our members and we have done so here centrally in Kuala Lumpur and Selangor. We intend to spread this to all our other states as we have members from all over Malaysia and we can communicate easily, every day, every hour, every second to and with our members. News is shared and quickly dispensed. Events were notified and put up as soon as they were conceived and many find this an extremely convenient and easy way to enlist participation. The method is also green and eco-friendly to our environment. Online Continuing Medical Education is now a viable option to be done in virtual time and it will prove useful and convenient for those who do not have the luxury of free time and cannot spare the time to leave their patients and their clinics. Rumours can be confronted and dealt with at once. The whole idea of getting all these doctors into one online

24hour Facebook site is now paying off already.

Due to the need for **UNITY** among doctors in every field, irrespective of whether they are Private General Practitioners or Specialists or Public Service doctors, we have been officially registered by the Registrar of Societies as **MPCAM (Medical Practitioners Coalition Association of Malaysia)**. We welcome all our brethren in the name of **UNITY** and from there we will like to extend our philosophy of **UNITY** to all other existing medical associations out there in Malaysia to join hands and minds to forge a **true Malaysian Doctors UNION**. That will be our sole mission and most important aspect of **MPCN** existence. That **UNION** will protect our welfare in the harsh business oriented environment of today's world. It will be a representative single strong unified **VOICE** for all doctors in all our effort to be understood by the general population of Malaysia that **WE** can enhance and strengthen public healthcare in liaison with our **Ministry of Health** and our regulatory body **Malaysian Medical Council**. All this can be achieved by one single move that is already much delayed by ourselves. There should be no more procrastinating, no more trapping ourselves in our own world, no more wrapping ourselves in the false security of our professional cocoon. It is time to be involved in the very essence of the meaning of being a medical doctor. It is time to become Socially Responsible for our noble profession so that our general public will appreciate us more.

This will be all for the betterment of our nation's Healthcare from all the sacrifices we have made over the years from the time as Medical students in university or college days until **NOW**. My dear brothers and sisters of our Nation's medical fraternity, thank you for reading and hopefully for understanding our plight and need.... **FOR UNITY!!!!**

We Shall, We Will and We Can...

Semper Fidelis....

Dr. Jim Loi

General Practitioner,

President of MPCAM.....18th October 2012.