

Father of Urology

Citation of SMA Honorary Member Prof Foo Keong Tatt, delivered by Dr Tan Eng Choon

Prof Foo Keong Tatt was born in Penang in 1941 and received his medical education in Singapore, graduating in 1965. He received his surgical fellowship from Edinburgh in 1971 and obtained further training in urology in Cambridge in 1977 and Mayo Clinic in

1980. He has devoted all his time and energy in the development of urology since his return to Singapore. Urology became a recognised specialty in 1988. Naturally, Prof Foo was appointed the Head of the newly established Department of Urology in Singapore General Hospital (SGH). He is currently a Senior Consultant and Advisor in the department after stepping down in 2001.

As an active clinician and researcher, Prof Foo has published more than 75 papers in renowned journals with more than 130 conference papers. He had served in many committees including those for specialist training and accreditation. He was also the associate Dean of SGH. He has been appointed visiting professorships in China and India and was actively involved in the international consultation committee for the management of benign prostatic hyperplasia and prostate cancer in drawing up guidelines and research programmes. During the last 10 years, he continued to work tirelessly conducting seminars, workshops and courses in different parts of Asia especially in the developing countries to help in the training of urologists and the promotion of urology as a specialty. He had trained many fellows from different parts of Asia who are now holding key positions in their respective countries. He had also received numerous awards including the National Day Public Service Award, Emeritus Consultant SGH, WuJiePing Medical Foundation Award and awards from various urological lectures.



I would like to highlight four areas in which he had contributed very significantly towards the development of urology in Singapore. Firstly, the establishment of urology as a specialty in Singapore; secondly, the training of generations of urologists who continue his good work and are now serving actively in various hospitals; thirdly, the

founding of the Singapore Urological Association, with him as its first President in 1986; and lastly as the Secretary General of the Urological Association of Asia for the last eight years and now as the Honorary Executive Director of the Association, he had helped to put Singapore on the map of urology in both Asia and the world.

As a result of his pioneering work and leadership, Prof Foo has always been regarded as the Father of Urology in Singapore.

For all his many achievements, Prof Foo has remained a humble and compassionate doctor, an approachable and kind teacher and a generous and good friend to many of us.

He is also a man of many talents and varied interests ranging from water-colour painting and playing the Chinese flute to ballroom dancing and snorkelling. A faithful husband and caring father, he is the epitome of a Chinese scholar and gentleman.

I would like to conclude by quoting two verses found in the Book of Proverbs in the *Bible* which I find aptly describes the man you have chosen most deservedly to confer this honorary membership tonight.

The first is: "Gray hair is a crown of splendor, it is attained by a righteous life."

The second is: "Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will serve before kings; he will not serve before obscure men."

Congratulations and it is indeed an honour for me to deliver this citation.

Thank you. ■