

Citation for Prof Woo Keng Thye

By A/Prof Evan Lee

I have the honour and privilege to present Prof Woo Keng Thye, MBBS, M. Med. FRACP, FAMS, Emeritus Consultant, Department of Renal Medicine, Singapore General Hospital (SGH) for conferment of Honorary Membership of the Singapore Medical Association.

Professor Woo is one of the most distinguished nephrologists in Singapore. He is an eminent clinician and teacher, ardent clinical researcher, passionate patient advocate, author and poet. He has played a pivotal role in the development of the practice of Renal Medicine in Singapore and internationally.

Prof Woo was born in Ipoh, Malaysia. He had his early education at St Michael's Institution, Ipoh. He came to Singapore for his medical studies and graduated from the University of Singapore in 1969. He subsequently obtained the Masters of Medicine in 1973 at the top of his cohort and was awarded the Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of Physicians (Nephrology) in 1979. He was awarded the Colombo Plan scholarship in 1978 to study Nephrology at the Royal Melbourne Hospital in Melbourne, Australia.

Prof Woo first joined the Department of Renal Medicine, SGH in 1975 as a registrar and is now an Emeritus Consultant in the same Department. As he rose through the ranks of the Department and the hospital, he has held the positions of Head, Department of Renal Medicine from 1989-2002, Chairman of the Division of Medicine, SGH from 2000-2003 and Emeritus Consultant since 2003. In 2000, he was made a Clinical Professor of the National University of Singapore.

In his chosen specialty of Nephrology, he has been widely recognised for his leadership. He has been the President of the Singapore Society of Nephrology (1978-1990, 1994-1996), a member of the Council of the Asian Pacific Society of Nephrology and the International Society of Nephrology, and a member of the Board of Directors of the National Kidney Foundation Singapore. He was the President of the 3rd World Congress of Nephrology which was held in Singapore in 2005. He has led or has been a member of more than 50 professional societies, associations, editorial boards and committees.

Professor Woo has authored more than 190 scientific publications in medical journals and textbooks. He is internationally acknowledged as an expert in IgA nephropathy. From 2003-2006, he was Chairman of the National Research Council. In addition to his scientific works, he has authored and published 10 literary works of poetry and fiction.

He has also received numerous honours and awards in recognition of his work and contributions. He received the SGH Best Researcher award in 1996 and the SGH Best Teacher award in 2001. He was awarded the Galloway Memorial Lectureship by the Academy of Medicine, Singapore in 1984, the 1st Tan Sri Abu Bakar Lecture in 2001 by the Malaysian Society of Nephrology, the 3rd College of Physicians Lecture by the College of Physicians of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore in 2006, and the SMA Lecture in 2007.

For his contributions to Singapore, he was awarded the Public Administration Medal (Silver) in the National Day Awards of 2002.

Prof Woo Keng Thye has in the last three decades guided and nurtured the development and growth of Nephrology in Singapore. He is widely respected for his integrity, vision and leadership by all who work with him. He embodies the highest ideals of his chosen profession. Although he has received many honours for his many achievements, in his heart, he has always remained a doctor. He has always maintained the highest standards of clinical care, made imparting skills, knowledge and values a personal mission and pursued clinical research always as an essential tool to further the well being of his patients.

Mr President, I have the honour to present to you Emeritus Consultant Professor Woo Keng Thye for the conferment of Honorary Membership of the Singapore Medical Association. **SMA**

