

PRIMARY EYE CARE IN SINGAPORE: LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

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It took me a few days to go through this voluminous book, and at the end of it, I must give credit to Prof Au Eong Kah Guan and the editors of the book for having undertaken such an enormous effort in compiling and putting together, in appropriate sections, all the articles in the 488-page book. This book is going to be an important reference for all eye care providers, including optometrists, opticians, nurses, students, ophthalmologists, volunteer welfare organisations and the community at large.

The various messages from the government, charity organisations and different specialist groups at the beginning of the book summarise their objectives and contribution to eye care in Singapore. The historical aspects of eye care services and their development over the years are well described and illustrated. It is nostalgic seeing those black and white photographs of the 1950s through 1970s. Of particular interest is the development of the Optometry Department at the Singapore Polytechnic, the Department of Ophthalmology at the Singapore General Hospital, and the articles on the various volunteer welfare organisations. The pictorial presentation of most of the articles makes this book easy reading and appealing to almost everyone.

Though the academic content is limited, it highlights contributions from numerous authors giving their views and experiences of their time. Articles on various ophthalmic subspecialties track the rapid development of subspecialisation in Singapore in the early 1990s. Contributions on the prevention of blindness, the guide dogs and the Singapore Association of the Visually Handicapped are particularly captivating. The book also deals with a wide spectrum of topics pertaining to eye care, from vision health of the greying Singapore population, to the impact on ageing by age-related eye diseases.

This book is a very comprehensive reference book and details the evolution of almost all aspects of eye care services in Singapore; a book so well illustrated, informative and easy to read, albeit a weighty book.

This book belongs to all Singapore Eye Care professionals. I congratulate Prof Au Eong and the editors on this monumental achievement in having this book published.

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