

# **Training of Family doctors in OAP**

Professor Edmond Chiu

- There is no specific programme in Australia for the training of family doctors in OAP.
- One short programme in 1997 by the Academic Unit for Psychiatry of Old Age, University of Melbourne in conjunction with the local Division of General Practice.

- Request by the Division of General Practice to Upskill GPs in OAP when the AUPOA arrived at St. George's Hospital.
- 37 GP participated in training in the use of the Mini Mental State Examination to screen for cognitive impairment.
- Subsequent referrals to the Memory Clinic showed that they applied the MMSE with accuracy.

- 16 GP undertook upskilling programme over a 7 week period.
- Six weekly evening didactic lectures (3 hours per evening with light dinner), covering the major mental disorders in Old Age.
- Half day clinical placement in the In-patient unit, participating in clinical work. Some had their own patients in the Unit.

- Clinical telephone discussion of their patients- both in-patients and those referred to Outpatient clinic.
- Availability over the phone to discuss other patients in their practice.