The establishment of Women’s Chapter was not without controversy. Why not Male’s Chapter was always the question which was given to me. In turn similar to Young Fellow’s Chapter, I would ask, why not “Senior Fellow’s Chapter?” The first mentioning of such a group, like many parts of the world, was not without resistance. I, like many other women surgeons, have never seen myself to have too much differences compared to my male colleagues and have always worked well together. However, there are areas where there may be differences, such as the going through of pregnancy, and it is not unknown that a woman usually has two jobs, one at home and one at work. Moreover, we were a rarity in the past and the number of women surgeons are only beginning to increase over the past number of years. Hence rather than distinguishing ourselves from others, it was more of a way of getting a small group of us together to help guide a bigger group in the future. Moreover, we have advocated family based activities, look good feel good events and charity events so that we all learn that one can work hard as a surgeon, do well and yet still have a quality of life, this being one of the essentials to attract the pearls of the female medical students to join this big family.

Dr Ava Kwong (Chairlady)

Dr Lee Yee Man (Vice Chairlady)

The women’s chapter, I love this name because unlike young fellow chapter, where you will be disqualified after you reach certain age! The chapter is established at a good time, it comes with the influx of women doctors into the surgical career, and into different subspecialties. Among all the activities organized in these years, personally, I highly value the mentorship program. This is a good platform where women surgeons can share with the young trainees the experience on training, career paths and other life activities. I really hope that this program can be carried on for generations.
Being a female surgical trainee then a surgical specialist, I had always believed I was no different that my fellow male colleagues. I believe that we are no inferior to them in terms of academic achievement, professional knowledge & attainment. Actually I think that we are better in some aspects, say being more attentive to patient especially lady patients.

When approached for establishment of the Women Chapter, my first though was that: “Why self –discrimination?”

Over the years working with fellow lady surgeons & serving our small community of lady surgeons & trainees, I started to convince myself how meaningful the Chapter had been & will be.

I myself went through the basic / advanced training then examination which coincided in timing with my major life events, mainly marriage & pregnancy. I can recall in my days, College even did not have guidelines in counting the training fulfillment of a trainee’s maternity leave.

Ladies should not be jeopardized in training opportunities because of these beautiful life events.

With a strong community as our Chapter, our rights & benefits could be safeguarded. Nevertheless, what impressed me most is the “soft “aspect of the Chapter. The cosmetic make up course, jewelry course, are definitely ladies’ delight, to quote a few.

Being a surgeon was always my dream during school years; I was so grateful when it came true. When I started to learn to do operations, it was fascinating. As years go by, every female surgeon needs to go through different life stages and challenges. Women’s chapter is where we can share what we face and how we feel. I hope to meet more ladies in the future events.

We will be recruiting new members, those who are interested in serving our community, please email us!

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The establishment of the Women’s Chapter is an important milestone in the history of the College. The Women’s Chapter symbolizes the growing importance and number of female surgeons in Hong Kong.

Over the past few years, a series of community services and social activities were organized. The experience I enjoyed most was the “Mentoship programme”.

Seeing the growth of my mentee from medical student to house office, to basic surgical trainee in my same department really brought about a lot of joy!

I am looking forward to the growth of the Women’s Chapter, and to continue serving in the executive committee. We plan to have more involvement in community services and to continue serving fellow female surgeons in Hong Kong!

Since the inauguration of the Woman’s Chapter, I have changed my status from a surgical trainee to a fellow and finished my post-fellowship overseas training. Day by day, I learnt more about the role of a female surgeon, tasting the toughness and stressfulness. The expectations from seniors and patients are never low, yet female surgeons are gaining more recognition by fulfilling the professionalism and balance of life. Based on this, Woman’s Chapter always tries to highlight all the aspects female surgeons treasure for, in addition to excel their surgical skills. The barbeque activity in 2009 offered a great chance for family outing, while hiking in Tai Tam Country Park emphasized the importance of putting effort in achieving good health. Last but not least, we understand that staying young and beautiful is every woman’s wish and this accounted for the organization of talks relating to skin care and jewelry. For me, being part of the committee added colours to my surgeon’s life and participating in all those activities has been fun and enjoyable.

We will be recruiting new members to join the Committee soon, those who are interested in serving the committee please email us!

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