The Singapore Ministry of Health (MOH) aims to champion a healthy nation so that Singaporeans can live well, live long, and with peace of mind. In line with MOH’s commitment to medical excellence, and ensuring that Singaporeans have access to good and affordable health care, MOH and American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) began a collaborative arrangement in 2012 to develop an assessment system for medical specialists who have completed training in ACGME International programs in Singapore.

Through this partnership, locally relevant examinations were developed to support medical specialty assessment programs. The first examinations were administered in 2013, and 2016 marked the year during which specialty exams were administered in all 12 specialties involved in the collaboration. Those specialties included Anesthesiology, Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Ophthalmology, Otolaryngology, Pathology, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, Radiology, and Surgery.

The arrangement allows Singapore to develop a system of assessments incorporating relevant elements and standards of the ACGME and ABMS. These locally contextualized standards provide their physicians with a way of measuring the knowledge and skills necessary to deliver quality care, and also serve as markers of professionalism for these physicians.

“Our collaboration with ABMS and its Member Boards builds upon Singapore’s continuing efforts to enhance specialist training,” said Mabel Yap, MD, Singapore MOH Director of Education and Assessment. “This assessment process complements our structured formative training and allows us to better assess the competencies of our residents, either during or after completion of training.”