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.