



Today the Trinidad and Tobago Optometrists Association remembers another one of our Pioneers, Dr. Freddy Chang OD PhD, who passed away on the 17th November 2018.

Over the years, Dr. Chang, who spent his formative years in Trinidad, has given generously to the TTOA by way of providing lecturers for its annual conferences. He organized 2 transcribed courses with examination in Diagnostic and Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents (TPA) under the Southern California College of Optometry, Department of Optometric Education, in 2000 and 2007 as well as other conference weekends at the Hotel Normandie, and the Kapok Hotel.

Education was his passion and he ensured that optometrists were afforded the best lecturers he could recommend including the likes of Richard Tracy, David Potter, Gary Keck, Talmage Boisin, John Nishimoto, Lawrence Chong, Steve Gedde, Donald Budenz, Joseph Molinari, Colin E Chang, Yunhee Lee, Richard Weisbarth and of course for his esteemed self.

Freddy, as he was fondly called, always encouraged the TTOA in its journey for the advancement of the practice of optometry in Trinidad and Tobago, and to never give up.

The knowledge he imparted will live on in each of us who were fortunate to have met him and learnt from him.

We would like to share with you an article published in 2004 at one of the conferences he organized with TTOA as well as a memorial to him from the Southern California College of Optometry.

Article posted from 2004:



TTOA President Lauren Robinson, Health Minister John Rahael, TTOA Vice President Nigel St. Rose



The Trinidad and Tobago Optometrists' Association has over the last 5-6 years been hosting an annual weekend educational conference. These conferences would not be possible were it not for the invaluable patronage of Dr Freddy Chang OD. PhD.

Dr Chang has made it possible for the TTOA to host many well-known lecturers from the US and, as such has made this annual conference a much anticipated event both in the local Trinidad and Tobago optometric community as well as the wider Caribbean optometric community. This year we enjoyed attendance from various Caribbean countries such as Guyana, Barbados and Antigua. The Association again wishes to publicly thank Dr Chang for his help support and good humor. We really couldn't do it without you Freddy!!!

This year's conference was held at the Kapok Hotel, Port-of Spain, Trinidad W.I. and focused on Contact lenses. This course is COPE approved.

The Honorable Minister of Health John Rahael gave our opening address. Mr. Rahael touched on the importance of the primary care role of the optometrist with respect to the Trinidad and Tobago health system. He acknowledged that the health system needed to utilize the wealth of experience and knowledge that the optometric community possesses.

The first day's lectures focused on: Adverse reactions to Contact lens wear, Systemic Medication and Contact lens wear and Treatment of Contact Lens Complications.

These lectures were delivered by Dr Chang and Dr Molinari.

The second day's lectures focused on: Silicone Hydrogel lenses – Fitting, and Management, Contact lens materials and an update on Contact Lens Solutions. Dr. Wiesbarth was the main lecturer on this day.

The quality of the lectures given was excellent and covered a wide range of topics of interest to the Contact Lens practitioner.

SCO Remembers Dr. Freddy Chang

On Saturday, November 17, 2018, Dr. Freddy Chang, OD, PhD, passed peacefully, with his family by his side, at the age of 83.

Freddy was born on September 18, 1935 in mainland China to Lennox Chang and Ulan Lai. In 1970, Freddy completed his OD from the University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada followed by a PhD in 1976 from Indiana University. After a short stint as Assistant Professor at the University of Alabama Birmingham, he returned to a faculty position at Indiana University where he earned tenure and raised his family. While his accomplished career also included serving as Associate Professor at Southern California College of Optometry in Fullerton, California, as Chief of the Optometry Section at the Veterans Administration Outpatient Clinics in Los Angeles and La Jolla, California, and Director of Clinical Research at Vistakon in Jacksonville, Florida, he was proud to retire in June 2017 from Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, Tennessee after serving as professor for 15 years.



Freddy's contributions to the field of optometry as a highly published researcher and frequent presenter are significant, but his legacy lives on in the many students whose lives he touched. He loved teaching. It was truly his life's work and greatest passion. He once told a colleague, "If I teach the way I am supposed to, I'll be able to live on another 40-50 years through my students." He will forever be remembered as a favorite professor, respected mentor and colleague, generous friend, and beloved father and grandfather.

Freddy is survived by his children, David Chang (and wife Bee Ng) of Sunnyvale, CA, Warren Chang (and his children Caitlyn, Caroline, and Christopher) of Bloomington, IN, and Colin Chang (wife Joellan, and their sons Owen and Sam) of Bloomington, IN, wife Fleda Belcon-Chang of Memphis, TN, nine brothers and sisters, and many members of this community who have been like family to him over the last 15 years.



*Trinidad and Tobago
Optometrists Association
Conference
2002*



*Trinidad and Tobago
Optometrists Association
Diagnostic and Therapeutic
Pharmaceutical Agents
Certification Course
2007*

The Trinidad and Tobago Optometrists Association extends their deepest sympathy to Dr. Chang's family and friends as today marks 3 years since his passing.

References

Information shared from the Southern College of Optometry's website:

<https://www.sco.edu/sco-news/posts/sco-remembers-dr-freddy-chang>