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## Inaugural Seminar on Bioethics & Health Law 2001-2

Beginning January 2001, the SMA Centre for Medical Ethics & Professionalism (CMEP) is organising a series of seminars on Bioethics and Health Law on the second Thursday of every month from 5.30pm to 7pm, at the TTSH Theatre. The series will cover the entire spectrum of topics on bioethics and health law in a practical and clinically relevant manner for medical practitioners and other health care personnel.

The inaugural seminar, held on 11 January, was well attended by over 150 doctors, nurses and hospital administrators.

### SMA AND TTSH SIGNED MOU

The Singapore Medical Association (SMA) and Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH) entered into this collaboration with the objectives to organise continuing education activities, conduct research, publish and disseminate information on health law and ethics for the benefit of health care providers in Singapore.

Under the MOU, TTSH will provide facilities such as venue and equipment for event recording. TTSH will set up a mini-library of resources on Health Law and Ethics.

The SMA, on its part, will organise the programme, liaise with the Law Society of Singapore and other agencies to invite speakers, be responsible for circulating publications, maintain a register of participants and issue certificates of participation to participants who meet the requirements.

A committee comprising of representatives from both parties will manage and oversee the joint activities. This MOU will be for an initial period of 2 years from January 2001 till December 2002.

## "A journey of ten thousand miles begins with the first step"

### OPENING SPEECH BY PRESIDENT

At the inaugural seminar on 11 January, SMA President A/Prof Goh Lee Gan highlighted the following in his opening speech:

1. The shared vision of Prof Chee Yam Cheng, Chairman Medical Board, TTSH; Dr Luisa Lee, Chief Executive Officer, staff of TTSH, and the SMA leadership, which is to empower doctors in Singapore to understand and apply knowledge in health law and bioethics to guide them in their clinical practice and decision making.
2. The inspiration derived from the level of support from speakers, chairmen and organisers from both the medical and legal professions.
3. The interest of doctors, nurses and lawyers towards this joint effort of the TTSH and SMA as reassured

by the attendance at the inaugural seminar. It is just the beginning of the journey, but as someone has said, "A journey of ten thousand miles begins with the first step". The SMA and TTSH would like to make this CME journey with you.

### SPEAKERS AT THE INAUGURAL SEMINAR

Dr David Chan, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, NUS, gave an overview on bioethics; and Dr T Thirumorthy, Director of the SMA CMEP, introduced the fundamentals of medical ethics. Their presentations are printed in pages 4 and 5. ■

### Editor's Note:

Every session will be reported in subsequent issues. Next session: Topic 3 - "Understanding the Health Law" will be on Thursday, 8 March 2001 from 5.30pm to 7.00pm.

Venue: Tan Tock Seng Hospital Theatre, Level 1.



Signing of MOU. From left: representing TTSH, Dr San Win Min and Prof Chee Yam Cheng; and representing SMA, A/Prof Goh Lee Gan and Dr T Thirumorthy.



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