

# News from SMA Council

*By Dr Yue Wai Mun, Honorary Secretary*

## 1. FOREIGN MAID WORK PERMIT CHECK-UP

The Foreign Maid Work Permit Check-up Advisory to practising doctors is still being finalised in consultation with the Ministries of Health and Manpower. The use of blood HCG as an alternative way of testing for pregnancy will be recommended. Further information will be circulated soon.

## 2. AUTOCLAVE INSPECTION AND REGISTRATION

The Registration and Inspection of autoclaves in the medical and dental clinics has been discussed extensively with the Ministry of Manpower (MOM). Multiple representations have been made by the SMA Council on behalf of members. MOM has decided that the existing requirement for the registration of autoclaves in medical and dental clinics under the Factories Act will be enforced in the interest of safety. However, certain

approved table top autoclaves will require simplified test procedures.

The opinion of some professional engineers is that it may be more worthwhile to get a new autoclave than to try and register one that has been in use for more than five years. The SMA is looking into securing bulk purchase rates. Information on prices of approved models, testing/registration and maintenance charges can be found on the SMA website at <http://www.sma.org.sg/autoclave>.

## 3. SMA COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

The SMA Council held a Strategic Planning Session on 1 July 2001 to discuss the activities for the year. Future directions of the SMA were also discussed. The subject will be discussed in the President's Forum.

## 4. MEETING WITH DMS

The SMA Council Members met the Director of Medical Services on 19 May

2001. The DMS gave a brief overview of three of MOH's current initiatives, which are the establishment of disease management plans for high burden diseases; a clinical quality framework; and a more structured, streamlined and rigorous specialist/family practitioner training system. Other subjects raised were family medicine training of bonded medical officers in public hospitals; notification of infectious diseases; mediation; foreign maid examination; foreign trained doctors; status of TCM practitioners and acupuncture.

## 5. SMA SEMINARS AND COURSES ON HEALTHCARE AND ETHICS

SMA Practice Seminar titled "Surviving Managed Care" is scheduled for Sunday, 9 September 2001 from 2-5.30pm. The SMA-TTSH Course on Healthcare Ethics Consultation will be conducted in conjunction with the SMA Annual Ethics Convention 2001. The Course consists of 6 tutorials held between August and

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October and a two-and-a-half-day workshop held from 1-3 November 2001. More details of the courses are available on the SMA Website at <http://www.sma.org.sg/whatsnew/>

SMA will be holding the SMA-Bayer Clinician-Patient Communication Faculty Development Programme in July/August 2001. These Train the Trainers Sessions will equip participants with the knowledge, experience and materials necessary to eventually conduct the Clinician-Patient

Communication Workshop for other healthcare providers in Singapore.

## 6. CONGRATULATIONS

a. Congratulations to the following who were appointed Associate Deans of their respective hospitals:

- Dr Khim-Nian Sin Fai Lam (Alexandra Hospital)
- Dr Low Boon Yong (Changi General Hospital)
- Clinical Assoc Prof June Lou (KK Women's Children's Hospital)

- Clinical Assoc Prof Foo Keong Tatt (Singapore General Hospital)
- Clinical Prof Low Cheng Hock (Tan Tock Seng Hospital)
- b. Congratulations to Professor Walter Tan on being re-elected the Master of the Academy of Medicine.
- c. Congratulations to Associate Professor Cheong Pak Yean on being elected the President of the College of Family Physicians, Singapore. ■