

Things to Come

By A/Professor Cheong Pak Yean, Editor



Back (left to right): Dr Terence Lim, Dr Daniel Fung, Dr Peter Mack
Front (left to right): Krysanja Tan, A/Prof Cheong Pak Yean, A/Prof Goh Lee Gan, Dr Chan Kah Poon
(Not in photo: Dr Tan Hooi Hwa)

The SMA News Editorial Board begins the year 2001/2002 with an Editorial Board of 10 members; we welcome Dr Peter Mack, as a new member to the Board. The Editorial Board recently held its work-plan meeting and we would like to acquaint members of things to come.

We continue to capitalize on the marvels of information technology (IT). Our entire editorial and pre-press processes are now done remotely. Articles are submitted by email and are bounced back and forth amongst members of the Editorial team and then between the Editorial Assistant and the publisher. The camera-ready PDF files are then sent for printing and at the same time posted on to the SMA-News website. However, occasional meetings in this broadband Internet era are still necessary to remind us that there are real persons behind those printed words.

Readers would probably have noticed that our recent issues have become thicker. This follows from our decision to increase number of pages for most issues to 20 pages as we are receiving good contributions from many of you. It remains the editorial

policy to limit each article to a maximum of 2 pages in order to maintain a good balance in content. We will work closely with the contributors. Readers may be pleased to note that unabridged versions of articles will be made



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Dr Lee Pheng Soon

available online at http://www.sma.org.sg/sma_news/newscurrent.html.

On content, we have brought back the "Council News" section, to keep members updated on important issues which concern SMA and the profession. Thus, in this issue we report on the maid examination for work permits and autoclave registration. Dr Yue Wai Mun, the Honorary Secretary of the SMA would host this section.

We have in our work-plan new feature articles. These are:

- a. A series which focuses on the entire healthcare team, such as nurses, pharmacists and social workers.

- b. "Materia Non-medica", a section on non-medical pursuits of doctors, such as doctors who are also writers, sportsmen or playwrights.
- c. "Do You Want To Be..." - A series on the career paths, mindsets and experiences of the various medical specialties.
- d. "The First Time" - A series on first encounters at work, such as first on-call and first surgery.

The Editorial Board is also working on a publication which will be a compilation

of past articles from SMA News and other newsletters, in the genre of "Narrative Medicine". These articles will look beyond the doctor's experiences in clinical diagnosis and treatment, focusing instead on his relationship with the patient and society. The publication would be like a novel angled towards the practice of medicine.

You may have noticed that we also publish photos of and brief notes on the authors of articles to put a face to the articles. To introduce the Editorial Board to the reader, we have pictures of the Editorial Board in this issue.

The SMA News depends on contributors. You may have news and views about things that excite or disturb you. Do write to us at the Singapore Medical Association, 2 College Road, Alumni Medical Centre, Level 2, Singapore 169850, or Fax: 224 7827, or Email: krysanja@sma.org.sg if you have an article to contribute or ideas to share. ■