

SMA Strategic Planning Session 2001

William Osler said "To study medicine without textbook, is like sailing an uncharted sea; but to study medicine without going to the wards, is like a fisherman who has never been to sea."

Likewise, as SMA sails forward into the future, it needs a road map, a guide book, a beacon of light and a sense of reality (the sea of humanity).

It is towards this end, that the SMA Council organised a Strategic Planning Session on 1st July 2001. For one day, our council members and key members locked themselves up in our council chambers and brain-stormed all the important issues seeking answers to face the future and its challenges. Each committee presented its objectives and work-plans as well as budget for the coming year, and formulated its programmes accordingly. The council also deliberated at length on how we should work closely in cooperation with the public institutions, the media, our sister organisations and the consumer organisations. The workshop also came up with strategic plans, to provide relevant services and training workshops for our members, especially on issues of training and support areas.

Believing that we should all work as a team, we would like to share the deliberation of the strategic workshop with our members.

We have put up an ambitious plan. To achieve success, we need the cooperation, collaboration and contributions of our members (especially those with relevant expertise) to give their time and effort in the service of our profession and for the welfare of our patients.

We look forward to the future with hope and confidence. It is our responsibility to ensure that the next generation of doctors shall be greater than the past and in tune with the visions of the future. The implementation of these programmes will help us to achieve that goal. 'In the service of medicine, the sky has no limits.'

Below is the road map for implementation - Happy Journey!

SMJ Editorial Board

- Quality of articles will be improved through stricter editorial policies.
- The SMJ Award for "Best Original Paper" will be introduced to attract more quality publications.
- To increase the regional presence of SMJ.
- SMJ is available online at <http://www.sma.org.sg/smjcurrent.html>

SMA News Editorial Board

- Return of "Council News" to keep Membership updated on SMA issues.
- The number of pages has been increased to feature more articles.
- The Christmas issue will focus on the family.
- Publication featuring past and new articles in the genre of "Narrative Medicine".
- SMA News is available online at http://www.sma.org.sg/sma_news/newscurrent.html

Casemix & Guideline on Fees Committee

- The SMA publication "Guidelines on Fees" was published in 2000 and will be good for 5 years.
- The MOH Private Hospital Casemix Working Group has just completed its data collection and started to work out the balance billing for private hospitals. Implementation will be in the last quarter of 2002.

Community Health Education & Convention Organising Committee

- The Community Health Education website is available at http://www.sma.org.sg/concern_health/
- The SMA Annual Convention 2002 will focus on the elderly, such as medical and surgical problems, social and mental issues. It will also include topics such as educating the elderly about the use of the healthcare system and its resources.

Medical Informatics Committee

- Revival of the IT Hobby Group. Monthly sessions will be held on Sunday afternoons at the SMA Conference Room.
- To look into palm computing for

medical students and doctors through tie-ups with SPUG, NUS and the clusters.

- To look into more promotions for Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) such as Palm, Visor Handspring, Compaq iPaq and Sony Clie.
- More internet training for doctors.

Medical Officers Committee

- To look into converting medical lectures and notes into electronic formats and loading useful medical applications onto handhelds.
- To look into the expansion of the CPR Training programmes.

Membership Committee

- To look into the needs of members who are foreign doctors practising in Singapore, such as raising awareness of local practices.
- Launch of the Sensory magazine in September 2001. This is a new lifestyle publication which will provide members with lifestyle-related services and promotions.

Private Practice Committee

- To look into entity insurance cover for clinics.

Sports & Games Committee

- Upcoming activities include the 7-a-side football tournament, SMA Golf Championship and inter-professional games.

SMA-SNA CPR Training Programme Committee

- To look into providing standards beyond just training programmes.
- Collaborate with other institutions such as Ministry of Defence.
- To look into expansion of the training programmes through hiring full-time instructors and permanent facilities.

SMA Healthcare Course Committee

- Trainer courses will be held to train instructors for SMA's upcoming Communication Courses. These courses are intended to address the issues of drug wastage and litigation, and will

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focus on communication between
the medical profession and patients.

Ethics & Complaints Committees

- The Complaints Committee was formed to handle all medico-legal complaints and complaints regarding practice matters as expeditiously as

possible. Only complaints that involve ethical principals of medical practice will be referred to the Ethics Committee for deliberation.

Centre for Medical Ethics & Professionalism

- Currently working with Singapore Medical Council on the review of the SMC Ethical Code.

- To provide greater leadership in ethical issues.
- To help hospitals to set up their own ethics bodies.
- To look into the possibility of expanding to become a commercial provider.
- Publication of a malpractice book to be written by Professor S Y Tan, Professor of Medicine and Adjunct Professor of Law, University of Hawaii. ■