

News from SMA Council

By Dr Tham Tat Yean, Honorary Secretary

1. FEEDBACK TO MOH

With regards to feedback on healthcare issues, the SMA would like to remind members that they can also write to the **Corporate Communications Branch of the Ministry of Health** or email to **MOH_INFO@MOH.GOV.SG**, and copy their letters to SMA. When the MOH replies to them, members may wish to copy the replies to SMA. The SMA will then obtain the necessary permission to print these letters in the News, for the information of the medical community.

2. ONLINE DISCUSSION FORUM

The SMA Discussion Forum has been set up as a channel of communication/interaction for SMA Members to share your views and discuss. Since its commencement end April this year, we have seen relatively active discussion in several areas including of course "SARS and related topics". We believe members who had participated in the forum would agree you have had good interaction among yourselves.

The SMA has taken steps to ensure the site is only accessible to members through issuance of userids and passwords. For the site to remain a closed site where information are not divulged to unauthorised parties, we will need the cooperation of every member to help ensure it stays that way.

While the SMA regrets that some information printed in a lay press article recently appeared to be very similar to some comments posted in the discussion forum, we wish to say that no matter how much safeguard is instituted, it is impossible for us to prevent any authorised user from forwarding information

from the discussion forum to any unauthorised party, including the lay press. It is also not possible for us to prevent authorised users for allowing unauthorised parties to access the forum.

SMA is seeking advice, including legal advice, on how to safeguard the integrity and confidentiality of information in the online forum.

In conclusion, we would like to seek the cooperation of every member to play his/her part in ensuring the discussion forum will remain a site that is **"strictly restricted to SMA Members only"**.

3. DRUG INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

The Editor has informed us that the publication of the Drug Information Newsletter will cease as of 2003 due to multiple factors.

The SMA would like to put on record the appreciation of many Members of the Editor's past work. Many of us have over the years found the Bulletin very informative and directly useful to our personal practice.

4. CONGRATULATIONS

The Council would like to congratulate **Dr Lee Yee Chun** who was recently awarded the Wilkinson sword for topping the British Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC) examinations for the National Instructor (NI) qualification. This scuba diving trophy represents the highest rank of BSAC instructors. There are only 250 NIs throughout the world, and Dr Lee made history by becoming the first Asian to receive the award. ■