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Dear Colleague,

SMA MEDICAL OFFICER & HOUSE OFFICER SURVEY 2003

Thank you for taking time to participate in this important survey. We apologize if you have received a similar copy via your office email. We are adopting a multi-faceted approach to reach out to as many Medical Officers and House Officers as possible.

The Singapore Medical Association (SMA) has always championed for the many and varied causes of its members – from the specialist in private practice, to the GP in the HDB heartlands, and, for the rights of the very essence and future of the medical profession in Singapore: the junior doctors.

In 1995, when the SMA undertook a similar project to gather feedback from the junior ranks, the outcome and subsequent action that emanated changed many things in the system – and, to a large extent, laid the foundation for some of the privileges (e.g. getting paid when one went on call) enjoyed by us, today.

But, much still needs to be done. Patients are more demanding today, and the practice of medicine is very different today, than what it was a decade ago.

With your feedback, the SMA hopes to be in a position to highlight the present shortcomings in the system – be it the pay, be it the stress, be it the system, be it anything – and continue to look after and speak out for the rights and entitlements of the junior members of our profession.

As you can see, the survey form does not require a name and is designed to be *anonymous*. Similarly, email responses will be treated *confidentially*, in the hope that we elicit the most sincere and candid responses.

Please do not send duplicate entries, if you have been reached in a separate way (e.g. by snail mail). We need the replies to be representative. At the same time, please help to spread the word amongst your colleagues to log onto their corporate email account and reply accordingly. The larger the response, the more we can say it represents how junior doctors feel.

We are here to try to make a difference, and your answers will help make that difference.

Once again, we thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely,

DR JOHN CHIAM (MBBS 1998)
Chairman, Medical Informatics Committee
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Chairman, Membership Committee
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Encs.