

# Preparing for Housemanship

By Dr Alfred Kow, Organising Chairman, 10<sup>th</sup> SMA House Officers Seminar

The **10<sup>th</sup> SMA House Officers Seminar** was held on **24 April 2004 (Saturday)** from 2pm to 5.30pm at Lecture Theatre 28 of the National University of Singapore. This year, the event attracted 175 HOs, which was 90% of the graduating cohort. The seminar has always been a significant event in the calendar of new medical graduates, and feedback has been that it was very useful in preparing them for their housemanship.

The event kicked off with a speech by Dr Lee Pheng Soon, President of the SMA 45<sup>th</sup> Council. He extended a warm invitation to the HOs to join SMA. He added that it was only with a strong representation of doctors in Singapore that SMA could fight for their welfare and stand for their views.

There were five HO-turning-MO speakers who came to share their practical experiences and tips on the following topics: "Morning ward round" by Dr Tan Hon Liang, "Changes" by Dr Adrian Kee, "Clerking new cases" by Dr Kao Shih-Ling,

"Night duty" by Dr Lim Choon Pin, and "How to be a good colleague" by Dr Neville Teo.

Dr John Chiam, a Registrar and Council Member of SMA, gave a short presentation, which he summarised, tongue-in-cheek, as: "How to survive your first year without having your head chewed off, ego flattened and specialisation prospects blacklisted for life."

Dr Lawrence Ng, the Medical Advisor of MPS, spoke on the common pitfalls in medical practice, and how to avoid claims and complaints.

After the plenary lectures, the HOs formed small discussion groups according to their postings. This allowed them to interact with their seniors, the outgoing batch of HOs, who shared their experience and the work culture at the various departments with the new doctors. It was certainly an excellent platform for the HOs to gain practical tips.

The seminar closed officially after the small group discussion ended.

## A WORD OF THANKS

The Committee expresses its utmost gratitude to all speakers and helpers for their time and effort in putting together this programme, the Medical Protection Society for their generosity, and the various pharmaceutical companies for sponsoring the goody packs, namely, Alcon, Bayer-Ag, Drug Houses of Australia, Eli-Lilly, Far East Drug Co, Hoe Pharmaceuticals, JDH Pharmaceutical, Medimedia Asia, NTUC Income, Pfizer, Roche, Schering, and Scigen Ltd. ■



Seniors sharing their experiences with the new House Officers.



### About the author:

Dr Alfred Kow (MBBS, 2002) is currently a Medical Officer with the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Tan Tock Seng Hospital.