

By Dr Raymond Chua, Honorary Secretary

News from SMA Council

1. SMA LIFE MEMBERSHIP

We would like to draw Members' attention to Article III, Section (i) of the SMA Constitution, which states that

"Life membership may be granted to: -

- a. **Ordinary Members who have been in continuous membership for at least five years, who have reached the age of 55 years and who have retired from active professional practice in Singapore; &**
- b. **Ordinary Members who have been in continuous membership for at least ten years, on payment of a sum equivalent to ten years' annual subscription at Ordinary rate."**

Ordinary Members who wish to apply for Life Membership can write in to the SMA Secretariat.

2. NEW CME ACCREDITATION POLICIES

To increase the quality of local CME activities, the Singapore Medical Council will be implementing two new policies regarding the accreditation of CME events.

With effect from 1 January 2006:

- a) All Category 1A ward rounds held primarily for service purposes will not be accredited. Only rounds held primarily for teaching purposes, that is, involving case presentations and group discussions, and hospital-wide conferences will be assessed for CME points. (Note: Co-organising of Category 1A CME activities with pharmaceutical/commercial companies is not allowed.)
- b) All Category 1B activities organised solely by pharmaceutical/commercial companies will not be accredited unless the activities are co-organised with CME providers such as restructured hospitals/institutions, private hospitals, professional medical societies and associations, and so on.

3. MESOTHERAPY – WITHDRAWAL OF BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

The SMA has confirmed with the Medical Protection Society (MPS) that the benefits of membership are not available for incidents arising from the use of Mesotherapy.

4. NEW FACE IN SMA SECRETARIAT

Ms Caroline Tan joined the SMA Secretariat on 12 October 2005 as Assistant Manager – Professional Development Services and Events Organising. Our best wishes go out to Ms Ng Wee Fong who is leaving us after five years of service.

APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEER PSYCHIATRISTS & PSYCHOLOGISTS

The Criminal Legal Aid Scheme (CLAS), administered by the Law Society since 1985, provides free legal representation to poor persons accused of crimes for which they wish to claim trial.

A few of these applicants for free legal aid may have a defence in law based upon their mental state or have good grounds to seek a withdrawal of the charge upon representation to the Attorney-General's Chambers. However, they cannot afford private psychiatric opinion for their defence.

Currently, CLAS has only one active volunteer psychiatrist and two psychologists who generously give of their professional time free-of-charge. The Law Society does, however, offer to bear the disbursement costs of a psychiatrist or psychologist.

CLAS requires a pool of at least 8 psychiatrists.

Interested parties can contact the Law Society's CEO Ms Yasho Dhoraisingam at 6530 0215 or ceo@lawsoc.org.sg ■