

*Citation for SMA Lecturer 2005 Clinical Professor Chee Yam Cheng, delivered by Associate Professor Goh Lee Gan.*

## A Brilliant Mind

"I am honoured to give a citation for Clinical Professor Chee Yam Cheng, the SMA Lecturer for 2005. He is a good friend of mine and a member of the *SMA News* Editorial Board for the many years when I was the Editor. He was also a member of the *SMJ* Editorial Board from 1987 to 1995.

He is a remarkable colleague in many ways. His curriculum vitae runs to 12 pages, and that is in Arial font 8, not 11 or 12. I am therefore going to highlight only five things about him that are remarkable."

### BRILLIANT MIND

*Prof Chee has a brilliant mind.* He is outstanding, in my mind, as one of the few doctors who passed the Part I Professional Examinations in all the three major disciplines of Internal Medicine, Surgery, and O & G. He eventually chose Internal Medicine.

In school, he did well and won the ACS Old Boys' Association Meritorious Silver Medal, and the Gold Medal at the 'O' Levels and 'A' Levels respectively.

As an undergraduate, he was awarded the Bailey Memorial Medal, the Albert Lim Liat Juay Medal, also the Gordon Arthur Ransome Essay Prize for two years in succession. He graduated with MBBS Singapore in 1973, obtained the MRCP (UK) and M Med (Internal Medicine) (Singapore) in 1977 and completed training as a General Physician with a Colombo Plan Scholarship in Immunology at the Flinders Medical Centre in Adelaide, South Australia in 1980.

### CLINICIAN-ADMINISTRATOR

*Prof Chee belongs to the breed of clinician-administrators.* He is an enlightened clinician-administrator both in the Ministry of Health, at the level of the hospital, and now in the healthcare cluster as Assistant CEO (Clinical) of the National Healthcare Group. In recognition of his unstinting service to the government and the medical profession, he was given: the *Pingat Perkhidmatan Awan* (PPA); Certificate of Appreciation from the Ministry of Health; and the Long Service Award during the National Day Awards in 1999.

### KEEN TEACHER

*Prof Chee is also a keen teacher.* He received the Best Teacher Award in the Division of Medicine, Tan Tock Seng Hospital in 1999. He was appointed Clinical Professor in the Faculty of Medicine, National University of Singapore in 2000. He was the Master of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore from 1998 to 2000. Prof Chee is also recognised outside Singapore and

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is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh; the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons (Glasgow); the Royal College of Physicians (London); the Royal Australasian College of Physicians; the American College of Chest Physicians; the American Biographical Institute; and Cambridge University.

### **CHAMPION OF FAMILY MEDICINE IN SINGAPORE**

*Prof Chee is a champion of Family Medicine in Singapore.* He did the most important thing, which was to start a vocational training programme for Medical Officers through the rotating hospital posting scheme in 1988 as a pilot project. Today, thanks to this head start, we have 220 doctors who have M Med (Family Medicine) degrees.

For his contribution to the College of Family Physicians, Singapore, the College Council elected him to be an Honorary Fellow of the College in 1999, and he was the Sreenivasan Orator of the College for 2004.

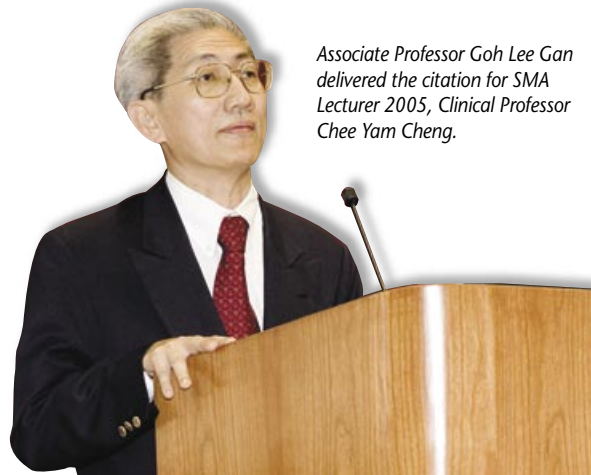
### **UNCANNY CHRONICLER AND FIGHTER**

*Prof Chee is unforgettable as a chronicler.* His reputation of being an uncanny chronicler of medical events and a candid camera of what is happening to the medical profession is just amazing. In his *Personally Speaking* columns in the *SMA News*, he did not mince his words. I think that must have been the

reason why he was invited by Dr Andrew Chew, the Director of Medical Services of the day to join the Ministry of Health as an administrator. His 15-part chronicle of the SARS outbreak in 2003 and 2004 is certainly a legacy to future Singaporeans of our experience of this new and vicious virus.

*Prof Chee is more than just a chronicler. He is also a fighter for the medical profession.* The Singapore Medical Association has aptly recognised him as the “Great Warrior of the Profession” in the Long Service Award given to him on 1 May 1999.

Ladies and gentlemen, with that note, it is my pleasure to invite Prof Chee to share with us his wisdom in today’s SMA Lecture, titled “Do no harm, do thyself no harm”. ■



*Associate Professor Goh Lee Gan delivered the citation for SMA Lecturer 2005, Clinical Professor Chee Yam Cheng.*