

By Dr Raymond Chua, Honorary Secretary

News from SMA Council

1. REFUNDS FOR SINGAPORE UNITED MEMBERS

On 22 December 2005, UNITED sent out refund cheques to 771 Singapore UNITED Members who had signed and returned the Deeds of Release before 15 December 2005. UNITED will be sending out a second set of cheques for Deeds of Release received after 15 December 2005 and before 31 January 2006.

UNITED has requested for our assistance to advise former qualifying members to ensure that the Deeds of Release (all five pages) are completed and returned before the **final deadline of 31 January 2006**, if you have not already done so.

2. DOCUMENTING DRUG ALLERGIES & MEDICAL CONDITIONS

The Medik Awas Card has been an SMA community service project since 1970. Patients can apply for a registration card and amulet (\$15 for card; \$20 for card and amulet) to document their medical allergies or medical conditions, but the application form must be endorsed by the attending medical or dental practitioner. The SMA has been receiving about 1,000 applications every year. The Medik Awas Card is now available in credit-card size.

Although it is not compulsory for patients with drug allergies or medical conditions to apply for the Medik Awas Card, having such an identification device is useful as the

patient can bring it wherever he/she goes and it serves to alert medical, dental and other healthcare personnel of any specific medical problems or allergies. This is especially crucial in medical emergencies.

Please drop by the SMA Secretariat to collect your supplies of Medik Awas forms or call Liena at Tel: 62231264 if you wish to receive the forms by post.

3. HEART SAFE SINGAPORE (HSS)


In an effort to reduce the high mortality amongst heart attack patients who collapse and die even before they arrive at any hospital, a group of doctors have gotten together to launch a project called 'Heart Safe Singapore'. Some areas for initial focus will include GP clinics, polyclinics, nursing homes and dialysis centres, as well as training issues with regards to CPR and the use of automated external defibrillators. Council Member **Dr Oh Jen Jen** represents SMA on the HSS Steering Committee.

HSS, together with SMA, also organised a seminar on 'Cardiac Arrest Management: The Essentials' on 7 January 2006, from 2-5pm at the COMB Auditorium.

4. MEDICO-LEGAL ISSUES IN RADIOLOGY

Arising from the Ministry of Health's request for SMA's comments with regards to referrals from TCM practitioners for X-ray services; as well as recent news reports on teleradiology and the outsourcing of radiology services; SMA has written to MPS for advice on medico-legal implications. The replies from MPS are reproduced on pages 7 to 9.



 醫藥警備 MEDIK AWAS	
Photo File No. 2000/ 12345A Identity Card No. S 1234567 J	Name Address ALLEGIC TO: Amoxicillin + Clavulanic (Augmentin) MEDICAL PROBLEMS: Atrial Fibrillation, Ischaemic Heart Disease, Benign Prostatic Hyperthrophy