

By Dr Raymond Chua, Honorary Secretary

News from SMA Council

I. DIALOGUES WITH SMA MEMBERS

The third Dialogue with SMA Members was held on 17 January 2006 (Tuesday) at 6pm in the SMA Conference Room. Three members met with the Council, which was represented by Dr Raymond Chua and Dr Toh Han Chong. Concerns about the implementation of the Family Practice Register continued to surface. Members also gave feedback on preparations for avian flu. A report on the Dialogues will be given during the SMA Annual General Meeting.

2. LIFE MEMBERSHIP

We would like to draw Members' attention to Article III, Section (i) of the SMA Constitution, and in particular, the amendment (see underlined) which has been adopted with effect from 1 January 2006 (see earlier announcement in November 2005 issue):

"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 twenty 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.

3. MESOTHERAPY – WITHDRAWAL OF BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Further to our earlier announcement in the October 2005 issue of *SMA News*, we wish to bring members' attention to the following extract from the MPS Casebook, Volume 13, Number 4 (November 2005):

Lipostabil – Withdrawal of Benefits of Membership

The benefits of MPS membership will no longer be available in respect of the use of any phosphatidylcholine product in cosmetic treatment.

MPS has become aware that the safety of Lipostabil in cosmetic use is not established and the subcutaneous route of administration is specifically warned against in the manufacturer's information sheet. MPS understands that these views are not necessarily in accord with those of all doctors who provide this treatment. However, the safety and efficacy of a medicinal product is a significant factor when considering whether or not to offer patients a particular treatment.

It has therefore been determined that the benefits of MPS membership will no longer be available in respect of the use of any phosphatidylcholine product in cosmetic treatment. This exclusion takes immediate effect and will be subject to review should the position change. ■

NOTICE OF 46TH SMA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, 9 April 2006
2.00pm, Alumni Auditorium

1. Resolutions & Proposed Constitution Amendments

Resolutions and proposed constitution amendments should be made in writing and reach the Honorary Secretary by 12.00 noon on Thursday, 9 March 2006 at the latest.

2. Nominations of Candidates

Members are invited to submit nominations of candidates to fill the 8 vacancies in the Council. Nominations (using the prescribed nomination form) must be signed by 2 Ordinary/Life Members and contain a consent to act, if elected, signed by the person nominated and must reach the Honorary Secretary by 12.00 noon on Thursday, 9 March 2006 at the latest.

Please see this month's mailbag for more details on the 46th SMA Annual General Meeting and the nomination forms.