

By Dr Raymond Chua, Honorary Secretary

# News from SMA Council

## I. CME TALKS ORGANISED BY DRUG COMPANIES

At the AGM on 9 April 2006, SMA Members requested the Council to seek clarification from the Singapore Medical Council on the criteria for accreditation of CME talks. In particular, they wanted to know why talks organised by drug companies are no longer eligible for CME points, and were of the opinion that some of these talks were by very eminent speakers.

The response from the SMC CME Coordinating Committee is as follows: "The reason why the Singapore Medical Council and the CME Coordinating Committee have decided to reject all Category 1B activities organised solely by the pharmaceutical/commercial companies was because of the need to uphold the standard of CME activities. There has been feedback from participants on the lack of quality educational contents for many of the CME activities organised by such companies.

"However, these pharmaceutical/commercial companies are encouraged to sponsor and co-organise events with restructured hospitals/institutions, private hospitals and professional bodies (PBs) such as the Academy of Medicine, College of Family Physicians and the Singapore Medical Association provided that they do not unduly influence the contents of the events. Applications for CME accreditation for events which are co-organised with pharmaceutical/commercial companies can only be submitted by the hospitals/institutions and PBs."

## 2. DIALOGUE WITH SMA MEMBERS

The Dialogue scheduled on 18 July 2006 was cancelled as only one SMA Member had

signed up. Nonetheless, as the Member had raised an issue for discussion prior to the Dialogue, the matter was discussed during the Council Meeting and attended to.

The next Dialogue is scheduled on **28 October 2006 (Saturday), 2 pm at the SMA Conference Room**. In order to have a productive session, and in consideration of the time set aside by all participants, the Dialogue will only proceed if at least five Members sign up. The registration form will be sent out closer to the date.

In addition to these planned sessions, the SMA Council also welcomes feedback and queries by the usual channels: mail, fax 6224 7827 or email sma@sma.org.sg.

## 3. ANNOUNCEMENT

- a. As of 26 July 2006, SMA Council Member **Dr Tan Sze Wee** has been appointed Vice-Chairman of the Advertising Standards Authority of Singapore.
- b. **Dr Wong Chiang Yin** has been appointed in his capacity as the SMA President to be part of the Feedback Supervisory Panel, which will gather public views on how to better connect with Singaporeans. The new Panel will serve for a two-year term from August 2006 to July 2008.

## 4. CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to congratulate SMA Member **Dr Tan Min-Han** who has received the prestigious Merit Award from the Society of Clinical Oncology – for the second year running. The award was in recognition of Dr Tan's work on targeted therapies for kidney cancer treatment. Dr Tan is currently a clinician-scientist at the National Cancer Centre. ■

## LOGON NOW TO <http://smaforum.org/>

We are pleased to announce the re-launch of the **SMA Online Forum**. Discussion topics include:

1. Managed Healthcare
2. Medical Cases
3. Infectious Diseases
4. Hot Topics of the Day
5. Ethics & Professionalism
6. Continuing Medical Education
7. SMA Publications: SMA News, SMJ, Sensory
8. SMA Perks and Activities
9. Medical Marketplace
10. Medical Manpower

To begin, please register at <http://smaforum.org/phpbb/profile.php?mode=register>

Once your registration is approved, you can access the forum, view and make postings. Be assured that the forum is secure.



## The Singapore Medical Association Rainbow of Hope Doctors' Pledge 2006

The SMA will be holding a fundraising event for its adopted charity for the year – Club Rainbow. The objective is to raise donations to help fund various support functions of Club Rainbow. Doctors can make a pledge towards Club Rainbow on **6 November 2006**, Monday. All donations will qualify for double-tax exemptions. Please look out for the pledge form and more details in upcoming issues of the *SMA News*.

*Please also see Page 22 - The Passion of the Call by Dr Janice Wong, Medical Director of Club Rainbow.*