



MANAGEMENT STANDARDS FOR GENITAL HERPES

The SMA organised a symposium on genital herpes on 9 July 1995 at the Sheraton Towers. The speakers were Dr Cheong Wai Kwong, consultant dermatologist in private practice and Dr Robert Nicol Traquair Thin, consultant physician, Department of Genitourinary Medicine, St Thomas Hospital, London. The symposium was chaired by Dr T Thiru Moorthy, consultant dermatologist in private practice. About 150 doctors attended the symposium which was sponsored by Glaxo Wellcome Singapore. **Dr Au Kab Kay** reports on the highlights of the symposium.

The Increasing Epidemic & Current Management Standards

Dr Cheong began by speaking on the epidemiology of genital ulcer disease (GUD). GUD forms about 10% of all STDs in Singapore. With the decline in the incidence of chancroid and syphilis, genital herpes has become the commonest cause of genital ulcer disease (GUD) in Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and Hong Kong. In Singapore, it accounts for 71% of all cases of GUD and has overtaken chancroid as the main cause of GUD. The percentage of sexually transmitted diseases (STD) due to genital herpes has increased over the years from 1.4% in 1981 to 8.6% in 1994. The annual rate of infection is about 10%, the risk being higher in females than males (17% vs 4%) and higher in females (32%) without HSV1/HSV2 antibodies. Transmission is almost exclusively sexual and is higher from contacts with more frequent recurrences. Previous HSV1 infection confers partial immunity against HSV2 infection.

Accurate diagnosis involves a high degree of suspicion as the clinical features could be atypical. Serological tests are not useful in confirming symptomatic genital herpes or detecting asymptomatic HSV genital infection. A single positive herpes serology test is only an indication of past herpes infection as more than 50% of our adult population are seropositive due to past non-sexual-

ly transmitted herpes (usually HSV1) infection. A positive serology, be it type 1 or type 2, is not an absolute indication of genital herpes nor confirmative of a sexually-transmitted disease. Currently available serological tests in Singapore do not accurately distinguish between HSV1 and HSV2 infection. Viral isolation by cell culture is the gold standard for diagnosis of genital herpes. It is a simple office procedure to take a swab of the ulcer and store it in Hank's medium at 4°C for not more than 24 hours.

The treatment of genital herpes involves general measures like analgesia, saline wash and specific antiviral therapy. The efficacy of oral acyclovir in the treatment of initial genital herpes has been established over the past 15 years. However, it does not prevent recurrent disease. Abortive therapy is prescribed to patients with infrequent recurrences who can start therapy at the commencement of symptoms. Suppressive therapy with acyclovir for 6 months may be considered in patients with more than 6 recurrences per year. Before commencing suppressive therapy, it is advisable to confirm the diagnosis by viral isolation.

Future Management Directions

Dr Thin spoke on the future modalities in the treatment of genital herpes. The aims of antiviral therapy

in genital herpes are to prevent recurrences, shorten the clinical course of recurrent attacks and minimise viral shedding. Oral acyclovir has been the gold standard in the treatment of genital herpes but its main drawback lies in its low oral bioavailability which requires frequent dosing. Valaciclovir (Valtrex®), the L-valyl ester of acyclovir, has been found to produce an absolute bioavailability of acyclovir of 54%, permitting a less frequent dosing schedule. Clinical trials on 2,926 patients have shown valaciclovir to be as effective as acyclovir in the treatment of recurrent genital herpes and suppression of virus shedding. Valaciclovir is currently undergoing Phase 3 trials to evaluate its efficacy in suppressing genital herpes.

Acyclovir-resistant HSV is a growing problem in immunocompromised patients, particularly those with HIV infection. Although intrave-

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Editorial

THE YOUNG ONES

The Medical Officers' Committee of the Singapore Medical Association has been active in organising activities such as the House Officers' Seminar and career talks for the doctors in training. Its latest piece of work was a survey of our younger doctors' perceptions of working hours, pay and training. The report appears in this issue of the Newsletter.

The response rate was 16%. This needs to be taken into account when the results are studied. The results may be representative of the silent majority or it may not be. Perhaps the majority has felt it pointless to fill in the questionnaire because the working conditions, pay and all are a rite of passage.

The disquiet of the respondents however, even though limited by the response rate may need some attention. The work environment has certainly changed. There is a bigger array of tests to order. Patients' expectations are now higher and medical decisions are more complex. In some hospitals, patients no longer stay in one ward to be under the noses of the ward doctors but may flow into various corners of the hospital. As such, having to keep track of these patients can be quite a job. Years ago, when this system of filling up beds was introduced in one large Government Hospital, one consultant confided in me that he refused to walk long distances to see the "flowed away" patients. The house officers probably cannot do that.

Then the ethos and guidance of the consultants too may have changed. One of the areas asked in the survey was training. The results are not uniformly good. The economic imperative of the restructured hospitals may be a constraint. Should one teach or see more patients so that the bottom line will be better? Now that the medical students cannot do many practical procedures until they graduate, it means that they need supervision for such procedures. Could they not learn these in the undergraduate days as was the case in the good old days of the 1970s and earlier?

Then there is the pay. The cost of living is increasing quite rapidly in Singapore. One is now certainly finding it hard to set aside enough money for a down payment

President's Column

SMC ETHICAL CODE

The new edition of the SMC Ethical Code seemed to have generated little interest. The SMA solicited feedback from its members in last month's mailbag but received few responses. My belief is that many doctors have not yet bought a copy of the Code to make a thorough study of it. It is imperative that members are fully conversant with all aspects of the Code. There is no excuse for a doctor to plead ignorance if he or she infringes it.

Of particular interest to general practitioners is the introduction of the green cross and the prohibition of illumination of signboards. It is also expected that the restriction on the use of organ names for signboards will generate unhappiness among some specialists.

SMA needs to collate feedback on the Code. Some members may want clarification on certain points while others may disagree on certain issues. With more feedback from members, SMA will be in a better position to conduct a meaningful dialogue with the SMC. All suggestions are welcome and those that merit consideration will be submitted to the SMC.

Please send your views, comments, suggestions or recommendations by post or fax (224 7827) on the reply slip enclosed. **TKS**

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for a house, a car and other important things in life. On top of that there is a hefty university tuition fee to pay off. The pay that the house officers get may not buy him much.

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report on survey on the CONCERNS OF YOUNG DOCTORS IN SINGAPORE, 1995

Introduction

The SMA Medical Officers' Committee was formed in December 1994 to address issues concerning young doctors in Singapore. Young doctors have expressed dissatisfaction over their salary, working hours and career opportunities. To determine the extent of these problems, a survey was conducted by the Committee in February 1995. This paper highlights the results of the survey, together with recommendations to solve the problems.

Method

The postal questionnaire survey was sent out to all doctors who were granted provisional or full registration by the Singapore Medical Council between 1990 to 1994. There were two parts to the questionnaire. Part I contained closed-ended questions with graded responses, requesting for respondents' level of satisfaction with salary, quality of teaching, working hours, chances of getting postings of choice, chances of obtaining a traineeship and long term plans. Part 2 consisted of open-ended questions to enable respondents to express their thoughts freely on their answers to Part 1 and to make additional comments.

Results

A total of 1263 survey forms was sent out and as on 2 May 1995, 210 replies were received, giving a response rate of 16.6%. Of the 206 respondents who indicated their designations, 23 (11.1%) were house officers (HO), 102 (49.6%) were medical officers (MO) and 81 (39.3%) were trainees (MOT) or medical officers specialists (MOS) (Table 1).

Table 1 Designation of Respondents

Designation	Number (%)
House Officer	23 (11.1)
Medical Officer	102 (49.6)
Trainee / MO Specialist	81 (39.3)
TOTAL	206 (100.0)

The majority (81%) of respondents felt that their salary was below average or poor. None perceived it to be above average or better (Table 2). Almost three-quarters of respondents found their working hours too long (Table 3).

Half of the respondents perceived the teaching provided to be average or better. Only 9% felt that the teaching was good (Table 4).

Table 2 Perception of Salary

My Salary is	Number (%)
Poor	69 (33.2)
Below Average	100 (48.1)
Average	39 (18.8)
Above Average	0
Good	0
Great	0
TOTAL	208 (100.0)

Table 3 Perceived Working Hours

My Working Hours are	Number (%)
Too Short	1 (0.5)
Just Right	52 (25.4)
Too Long	152 (74.1)
TOTAL	205 (100.0)

Table 4 Perception of Teaching Provided

The Teaching Provided is	Number (%)
Poor	26 (12.7)
Below Average	76 (37.2)
Average	76 (37.2)
Above Average	8 (3.9)
Good	18 (8.8)
Great	0
TOTAL	204 (100.0)

There was a general perception that it was difficult to obtain postings of choice and traineeships. Only 15% of respondents felt that their chances of getting a posting of choice were above average or better (Table 5). This was affirmed in the finding that 94% of respondents were in favour of an MO posting exchange service coordinated by the SMA. Likewise, only 11% of respondents felt that

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their chances of being awarded a traineeship were above average or better (Table 6).

The three main issues which respondents felt were important to them and would like to be addressed were hours of work (42%), salary (40%) and night-call allowance (32%). Other issues mentioned include career prospects, traineeship glut, quality of supervision/teaching, postings and manpower administration (Table 7). In Part 2 of the survey, respondents elaborated on these issues, offering constructive comments and suggestions. The majority took into consideration the interests of both the government and the individual, recognising financial and manpower constraints.

Discussion

We recognised that with a response rate was only 16.6%, we were unable to draw conclusions from the remaining 83.4%; whether they were the silent majority who were contented with the present situation or those who were indifferent towards postal surveys. Nevertheless, the results confirm that the murmurs of disquiet often heard in doctors common rooms are not merely anecdotal but are a reflection of young doctors' sense of insecurity and frustration.

The **low morale** of the young doctors was palpable. This seemed to stem from the increasingly hostile environment under which they worked. Patients are now more demanding and litigious. Senior doctors, hospital administrators and Ministry officials were perceived not to be supportive of young doctors, leaving them to defend themselves in times of trouble.

Long working hours in many hospital departments remain the norm. The propensity to make mistakes when fatigued and the intolerance of hospital administrators to these mistakes have made this issue the foremost concern amongst young doctors. Working 80 to 100 hours a week and 30 hours at one stretch twice a week in certain departments is unacceptable in the context of a developed country's health care system. We feel that this situation requires *Urgent* attention.

Low pay was highlighted by the majority (81%) of respondents. With the recent media focus on revision of civil service salaries to match that of the private sector, young doctors felt that their salaries should be comparable with their contemporaries in other professions who were working shorter hours and earning more. Many felt that the call allowance for MOs should be revised as the current rate of \$40 for the first four calls of the month has not been adjusted to reflect increased cost of living since it was introduced two decades ago. Some have pointed out that at this rate, Macdonald's part time waiters earn more per hour. In contrast to the unwillingness to revise this allowance, the consultation fee scheme for senior doctors has been regularly revised to meet their expectations. In Hong Kong, the recent salary revision for doctors employed by the Hong Kong Hospital Authority applied across the board. In Malaysia, the revision in 'off

Table 5
Perception of Chances of Getting Desired Postings

<u>My Chances of Getting My Posting of Choice are</u>	<u>Number (%)</u>
Poor	53 (26.6)
Below Average	60 (30.2)
Average	56 (28.1)
Above Average	18 (9.0)
Good	11 (5.5)
Great	1 (0.5)
TOTAL	199 (100.0)

Table 6
Perception of Chances of Getting Traineeship

<u>My Chances of Getting My Posting of Choice are</u>	<u>Number (%)</u>
Poor	28 (13.3)
Below Average	54 (25.7)
Average	56 (26.7)
Above Average	8 (3.8)
Good	11 (5.2)
Great	4 (1.9)
No Response/Not Interested	49 (23.3)
TOTAL	210 (100.0)

Table 7
Key Issues Discussed

<u>Key Issues Discussed</u>	<u>Issue 1</u>	<u>Issue 2</u>
Salary	50	34
Overtime Allowance	37	31
Hours of Work	50	39
Manpower Distribution in Wards	6	10
Quality of Training/Supervision	10	19
Career Prospects/Traineeship Glut	26	15
Postings of Choice	10	7
Time for Study/Courses	1	3
Others	13	16

hours allowance' benefitted *both* senior and junior doctors.

Another area of concern was **career advancement and training**. Related issues on the lack of teaching, the unfair allocation of the doctors' postings, the lack of career direction and poor career prospects were also brought up. Most of those who voiced these concerns were non-trainee MOs – the largest category of medical officers. We felt that this group of doctors were the most neglected.

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SMA-MO Posting Exchange Information Service

The much awaited MO posting exchange information service is finally in place. The service has been started to facilitate MOs to get a posting of their choice through mutual exchange with other MOs. The service in no way whatsoever replaces or supersedes any part of the procedure that is already in place and available to MOs as set by MoH. The SMA-MO Posting Exchange Information Service merely provides an information service.

How Does It Work?

5 Easy Steps:

- 1) Come to SMA and fill in your particulars. Alternatively call us up at 223-1264 or fax at 224-7827 with the following particulars:-
 - a. Name
 - b. Status (ie. MO/MO trainee/MOS and if MO trainee/MOS please state speciality)
 - c. Contact tel / pgr no:
 - d. What year MO in the next posting (ie. posting you want to exchange)
 - e. Posting given to you
 - f. Posting you desire (please give 2 choices)
 - g. Are you an SMA member?
 - h. Sex
 - i. Are you a Singapore Citizen
 - j. Are you a NUS graduate
 - k. If male and Singapore Citizen, have you completed your National Service liability?
2. Come frequently to check the register for possible complimentary exchanges
3. Call up prospective MOs to discuss the possibility of an exchange
4. If the exchange is agreed, obtain an exchange form from respective hospitals. Fill up particulars and obtain approval from various

These are busy but exciting times for the MO Committee. Many projects have been completed, are in progress or are in the pipeline. From time to time, an MO Committee Update column will appear in the SMA Newsletter to inform members of the latest happenings.

parties concerned as per MoH procedure.

5. Once finalised; call up SMA so that we can cancel off your name from the register and prevent further phone calls/pages coming to you looking for an exchange.

Meeting with MMA'S SCHOMOS

A meeting between the SMA MO Committee and the SCHOMOS (Section concerning house officers, medical officers and specialists) Executive Committee was held on 28 July 1995 in Johor Bahru. Dr Wong Tien Yin led the SMA delegation of four. The objective of the meeting was for the MO Committee to familiarise itself with the roles and functions of SCHOMOS and to explore ways in which it could achieve its goals more effectively. During the meeting, the SMA delegation learnt about the achievements of SCHOMOS over the years. Through its regular dialogue sessions with the Minister of Health, Director-General of Health and other senior government officials, SCHOMOS has gained the support of the Cabinet and the Ministry of Health and made significant breakthroughs in advocating the interests of government doctors. Some of these are:

- a. Incentives to help retain doctors in the public service. These include promotion to Senior Timescale on completion of 5 years service and the recognition of housemanship as part of government service;
- b. Approval for out-of-hours allowance for doctors going on call after office hours;
- c. Extra allowance for doctors in certain states covering duties for colleagues who are on long leave or where posts are vacant; and
- d. Quarters for rental for government doctors in more expensive cities such as Johor Bahru and Kuala Lumpur.

Another meeting with SCHOMOS,

this time with members of the SMA Council, will be planned to be held in Singapore in due course.

Medical Officers' Informal Get-Together

An informal tea session was held on 12 July 1995 for junior doctors who indicated their interest in the MO Committee in the MO survey conducted in February 1995. Dr Wong Tien Yin, chairman of the MO Committee, outlined the objectives of the MO Committee and listed the projects that the Committee will embark upon this work year. These include:

- a. Organising a two-part seminar on "How to set up a medical practice". This will be held on 10 September and 17 September at the Alumni Auditorium.
- b. Organising a career talk in December after the 'A' level examinations for junior college students and their parents in conjunction with NUS to give them a realistic view of what is involved to be a doctor and to dispel some of the common misconceptions about doctors and medical practice.
- c. Liaising with the Singapore International Foundation (SIF) to introduce a programme under the Singapore Volunteers Overseas (SVO) scheme for young doctors to work in developing countries on humanitarian mis-

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Medical Officers' Committee Update

sions;

- d. Introducing a 'mentor' scheme to help overseas-trained doctors to adjust to the local system of medical practice; and
- e. Appointing representatives to the MO Committee from each hospital to collate feedback and suggestions from junior doctors.

Dr Wong also highlighted the following achievements and projects of the MO Committee during the previous work year:

- a. The highly successful SMA-Alumni House Officers' Seminar held on 29 April 1995. A record number of newly-graduated doctors joined the SMA after the

seminar, bringing the SMA membership to an all-time high of 59% of the total number of doctors in Singapore;

- b. The survey of the concerns of junior doctors, the results of which are published in this issue; and
- c. The new series of articles in the Medical Officers' Column, entitled 'Degrees Apart' and 'Worlds Apart'.

The MOs who attended the session were pleased that there was finally a Committee within SMA to function as a feedback channel for junior doctors. A few of them expressed their interest in joining the MO Committee.

Dr Au Kab Kay
Honorary Secretary

nous foscarnet can be given to overcome this problem, it is toxic. A safe alternative needs to be developed for use in this setting.

Neonatal HSV infection is one of the most feared consequences of genital herpes and may result in life-threatening complications. Controversy surrounds the optimum management of pregnant women with a history of genital herpes. If the first episode of genital herpes occurs in late pregnancy, caesarian section should be considered within 4 hours of membrane rupture. There is very little information available on the effect of acyclovir on the foetus when inadvertently administered in pregnancy, but the limited data do not suggest a risk to the foetus. Acyclovir in the last week of pregnancy in women with a history of recurrent genital herpes appeared to significantly reduce the rate of caesarian section in a European study.

A vaccine would be the ultimate solution for protection against primary HSV infection or to prevent recurrences. Phase 3 trials on the gD2 vaccine have shown that 2 doses of the vaccine significantly decreased the number of recurrences compared to placebo.

The survey has shed light on the many pressing issues facing young doctors today. The uniformity of the responses underscores the point that these issues are not new revelations but long standing grievances and contentions. We felt that there is a lack of feedback channels available to young doctors. While we do not dispute the necessity of the 5 year bond, we felt that this bond contributed partly towards the apparent lack of attempt by the Ministry to solicit feedback from young doctors. It appeared that feedback from senior doctors is taken more seriously because they are the ones with bargaining power.

There is a pressing need to address the concerns of young doctors. We cannot afford to have a generation of discouraged and disillusioned doctors. We hope that the survey is not a one-off project but a platform for ongoing dialogue between young doctors and the Ministry.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to members of the SMA Council for their constant support and advice. We also thank **Dr Au Kab Kay** for analysing the data and proof reading the text.
Wong Tien Yin, Wong Hon Tym,
Wong Chiang Yin, Yue Wai Mun
on behalf of SMA MO Committee

Finally, there are the working hours. Are the time hallowed long hours a rite of passage, so that one is trained to reach the higher levels of endurance or are the hours needless punishment? **GLG**

National Healthy Lifestyle Campaign 1995

In conjunction with this year's National Healthy Lifestyle Campaign, the Food and Nutrition Department of the MoH will be organising a Nutrition Programme from 3 September to 1 October 95. The month's activities will promote the use of the Healthy Diet Pyramid as a guide to achieving a nutritionally balanced diet.

SMA members who wish to obtain a copy of the background paper on "A Balanced Diet - the Pyramid Way" may do so by contacting the Food & Nutrition Dept, Institute of Health at Tel: 322-2587 or SMA secretariat.

CONGRATULATIONS NATIONAL DAY AWARDS 1995

*The Distinguished Service Order
(Posthumous)*

The late **Dr Ong Swee Law**

The Meritorious Service Medal
Prof Chao Tzee Cheng

The Public Service Star
Dr Chew Beng Keng
Dr Lim Hwee Leng
Dr Earl Lu Ming Teh
Dr Benedict Tan Chi Loong

*The Public Administration Medal
(Gold)*

Dr Wee Keng Poh

*The Public Administration Medal
(Silver)*

Dr Clarence Tan Tiong Tee

The Public Service Medal
Lt Col (Dr) Ang Yong Guan
Dr Lau Waun Kei
Dr Lim Swee Keng
Dr Tan Kuan Hoo
Dr Thung Liong Hooi

Medico-Legal Column



Courts Rule No Relationship Existed

The doctor-patient relationship can be established simply by implication. Stated another way - the acts of the doctor and the patient imply the creation of a professional relationship and the doctor then owes that patient a duty of care. This situation most commonly arises where a doctor or his staff gives a patient medical advice over the telephone or agrees to provide a prescription for a patient without requiring a consultation.

It is not uncommon for a patient to consult with their general practitioner by phone. The fact that the conversation did not take place in the consulting room does not relieve a doctor of his/her obligations. The content of the conversation is obviously the major factor in determining whether a doctor-patient relationship has in fact commenced. **If any comment is given by the doctor or his employees about the nature of treatment, then such a relationship is established. A similar situation may occur when a prescription is provided. Even though the practitioner may not have seen or spoken to the patient, the doctor-patient relationship has commenced.** In recent times, there have been several Coroner's Inquests in Australia involving complications which have arisen as a result of this practice. In each of the cases, prescribing without consultation has drawn widespread criticism.

A telephone conversation which did not give rise to a doctor-patient relationship was the central issue in a litigated case in Texas. A pregnant female, who was a tourist to the area, telephoned the accident and emergency department of a regional hospital and spoke to a nurse. She complained of bleeding and uterine contractions. The nurse spoke to a staff specialist who instructed the nurse to advise the lady to ring her

own doctor at home to determine what he wanted her to do. The patient alleged that the nurse told her that she would have to go to the doctor in her own home town. The court held that the statement of the nurse over the telephone did not constitute an acceptance of the case as the instructions provided did not detail any specific treatment to the plaintiff.

In another case in the United States a woman developed a sudden severe headache with vomiting. Her husband telephoned a staff specialist at the local hospital and asked that she be admitted for a check-up. The doctor asked whether the lady had a family doctor and what his diagnosis had been. This was in accordance with the normal procedures adopted by the hospital. He instructed the husband that his wife could not be admitted unless the family doctor made the necessary arrangements. The lady subsequently suffered a cerebral haemorrhage with resultant brain damage. The court however concluded that the doctor never rendered medical treatment to the patient but had merely informed the patient's husband of hospital policies.

Recently the Court of Appeals of Michigan held that a telephone call from a patient seeking a second opinion from the patient's previous neurosurgeon did not create a doctor-patient relationship.

The plaintiff had been diagnosed as hydrocephalic when she was six months old. A shunt was inserted to drain excessive fluid and this procedure was performed by a paediatric neurosurgeon who was associated with a particular medical centre. Periodically examinations were performed on the child in the outpatient department at the paediatric neurosurgery clinic for some years. Subsequently, the child's mother trans-

ferred her neurological care and all medical records from the centre to a neurosurgeon whose offices were closer to the family's home.

The child attended her current neurosurgeon with a complaint that she could not see. After a skull x-ray and a CAT scan it was concluded that the shunt had become disconnected but that this disconnection was unrelated to the child's vision disturbance. The doctor recommended that the plaintiff seek a second opinion from the medical centre.

That day the child's father called the original neurosurgeon's office at the centre and discussed the events with a secretary, whom he knew was not a member of the medical staff. An appointment was made for one week later. At the visit, the doctor diagnosed an elevated intracranial pressure, and recommended emergency surgery. However, the plaintiff suffered permanent and almost total loss of vision.

After commencing a civil action, all elements of the patient's claim were settled out of court except the allegations against the medical centre. The medical centre argued that no doctor-patient relationship existed between it and the patient on the day that she first attended her local neurosurgeon because of loss of vision. The patient and her family argued that a telephone call to schedule an appointment with a provider of medical services gives rise to a doctor-patient relationship that could serve as the basis for a claim of medical malpractice.

The court stated that this case was different to other matters brought before it in the past where the plaintiff's had sought and received medical advice over the telephone. Here, the patient's father admitted that he did not seek or expect medical advice when he first called the medical centre. Additionally, the family had terminated its relationship with the defendant several years earlier and had arranged to have the medical records transferred. This action, according to the court, had severed the doctor-patient rela-

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SMA Cardmember Privilege Services

The offer of discounts and promotions by the retail outlets listed below to SMA members does not constitute SMA's recommendation or endorsement of these products.

ANTIQUES

Kwok Gallery Pte Ltd
545 Orchard Road #03-01
Far East Shopping Centre Tel: 235 2516/235 4042
VIP discount

AUTOMOBILES

S M Motors Pte Ltd
(Sole Distributor for VOLVO Cars)
249 Alexandra Road Tel: 473 1488
Additional \$1,000 discount on each Volvo car for SMA members. Please produce card before purchase. Contact Mr Tan Joo Huat.

BEAUTY

Blush – The Beauty Salon
#03-06 Orchard Emerald, 218 Orchard Road
Tel/Pgr: 738 1092 / 407 5613
10% discount off each visit for Maria Galland facial/body treatment.

Carrie Makeup & Hair Studio (NEW)
402 Orchard Road #04-16
Delfi Orchard Tel: 732 2665
10% discount for facial & hair services (not including wash and blow dry, bridal packages & courses)

Faceworks (NEW)
176 Orchard Road #03-44
Centrepont Tel: 235 9559
10% discount on all hair & beauty services such as hair cut, shampoo/blow dry, perm treatment, facial and make up etc (not including hair & beauty products)

BOUTIQUE

La Perla Boutique (lingerie/swim fashion)
#01-08 The Promenade Tel: 732 3091
10% discount on purchase of \$150 and above.

The Lingerie Shop
#01-09 The Promenade Tel: 737 8252
10% discount on purchase of \$150 and above.

Mare Intimo Boutique
#03-228 Marina Square Tel: 336 7995
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Resort Wear
#01-10 The Promenade Tel: 732 5457
10% discount on purchase of \$150 and above

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(Mr Lim Jit Eng or Miss Wong Wee Ling)
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Qureshi's (NEW)
176 Orchard Road #05-12 Tel: 235 1523
#B1-12 Tanglin Shopping Centre Tel: 732 0587
30% discount on all Persian & Pakistani carpets (not including Indian woollens and cotton dhurries)

DICTIONARY SYSTEMS

Phillips
Philirama (Showroom)

Plaza Singapura #03-01
Orchard Road Tel: 337 3103
10% discount for all Phillips Dictation Systems (include pocket memos, transcription or dictation systems & accessories). 15% discount for a special package consisting of a pocket memo & a transcription or dictation system and accessories.

DISCOTHEQUE

The Warehouse
New River View Hotel, 382 Havelock Road
Tel: 732 9922
10% discount (Complimentary cake upon celebrating special occasion in the outlet.) For dancing or theme parties.

ENTERTAINMENT

Charmer's Cocktail Lounge
River View Hotel Level 3
382 Havelock Road Tel: 732 9922
10% discount (Complimentary cake upon celebrating special occasion in the outlet.) Cantonese Pub.

IL Giardino Restaurant & Lounge
River View Hotel Level 3
382 Havelock Road Tel: 732 9922
10% discount (Complimentary cake upon celebrating special occasion in the outlet.) Mandarin music spun by hotel's resident DJ.

Singstation Theme Karaoke (NEW)
Plaza Hotel, Beach Road Tel: 298 0011
10% discount after Happy Hours (not valid for promotional periods)

Victoria Bar
Basement 2, The Cockpit Hotel
10% discount (not valid for promotional periods)

The Warehouse KTV
Next to River View Hotel
382 Havelock Road Tel: 732 9922
10% discount (Complimentary cake upon celebrating special occasion in the outlet.)

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– Up to 100% financing (owner-occupied)
– Competitive interest rates
– Variable Repayment Scheme
– Free processing, property valuation etc
PERSONAL OVERDRAFT
– Up to \$ 50,000 at Prime + 2% p.a.
– Waived administration fee for first 2 years
For more details, call Ms Koh Kwee Lin

FLORIST

Green Gween Group (Head Office)
(Interflora Florist)
583 Orchard Road #B1-31
ForumTel: 235 5445 / 235 0962
#01-78 United Square
101 Thomson Road Tel: 256 9090
10% discount for purchases made by cash payments only

Far Horizon Nursery & Landscape (Pte) Ltd (Landscape Designers & Contractors, Florist)
1 Joan Road Tel: 252 5897
10% discount for purchases made by cash payments only

Tendrils Pte Ltd
165 Tanjong Pagar Road #02-23, The Amara
Tel: 224 8269 Fax: 225 1433
15% discount for all orders, inclusive of phone-in credit card orders

FURNITURE

Scan-Furniture & Associates
Blk 1014 Eunos Avenue 5 #01-32 Tel: 747 2993
7% discount on custom-made furniture with provision of back-up service

Suntracks Trading Company
Blk 106 Clementi St 12 #03-56 Tel: 779 1893
10-15% discount for Rombic drawer (not valid for promotional periods). Special packet discount given for custom-made furniture and renovation works.

Le Mercier's
21/27 Orchard Boulevard
Parkhouse Tel: 734 3425
20% discount for all furniture, lighting and decorative accessories (except items on special offer)

GIFTS & HANDICRAFTS

The Angel Shoppe
9 Penang Road #02-06 Park Mall
Tel/Fax: 337 9833
15 – 20% discount storewide except fixed price, sale & promotion items

Camelot
390 Orchard Road #B1-01/02 Tel: 732 9862
(Mr Lim Jit Eng or Miss Wong Wee Ling)
Corporate discount for crystalware from MOSER & BOHEMIA crystalware.

Royal Doulton (NEW)
290 Orchard Road #02-41
Paragon by Sogo Tel: 738 3932
10% discount

Royal Selangor (NEW)
328 North Bridge Road #01-27
Raffles Hotel Arcade Tel: 334 1183
10% discount. Please call 268 9600 to inquire about 9 other locations.

Cardmember Privileges Service
Cont'd from Page 8

HAIRCARE

J F Lazartique
541 Orchard Road #01-03 Liat Towers
(also at The Promenade & Shaw Centre)
Tel: 732 8559
10% discount for all haircare products and treatment products

HAIR SALONS

REDS Hair Salon
#01-512 Rochor Centre; Tel: 296 7460
#021-19-01 Changi Airport; Tel: 545 7070
#04-15 Delfi Orchard; Tel: 734 4373
#03-08 Excelsior Hotel; Tel: 337 4343
#02-26 Parkway Parade; Tel: 344 5454
#B1-52 Takashimaya; Tel: 735 5711
15% discount off all hairdressing services (except wash and blow dry and selected hair-care products)

HEALTH & FITNESS CENTRE

Meeting Point Fitness Centre
Blk 505 Bishan Street 11 #01-438
Singapore 2057 Tel: 354 0717 (Irene or Jill)
25% discount off Gold Card Total Fitness and Joint Membership Entrance fees. All SMA members are entitled for a one-day free trial.

HEARING AIDS

Welfare Hearing Services Pte Ltd
Blk 2 Balestier Road #01-703, Balestier Hill
Shopping Centre Tel: 250 8198 / 250 8798
5% discount for new hearing aids of all models.
10% discount for hearing services. Special trade-in scheme for old hearing aids except for accessories such as ear moulds and batteries.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Damal Lagoon Resort & River Majestic
P O Box 3159, 93762 Kuching, Sarawak, East Malaysia Tel: 082-24 7777 Fax: 082-42 5858
Singapore Sales Office Tel: 298 0344
35% discount off tariff rates for all room categories.

The Cockpit Hotel
Oxley Rise/Penang Road Tel: 737 9111
Corporate room rates given

The Emperor Hotel (Malacca)
123 Jalan Munshi Abdullah
75100 Malacca Tel: 06-240777
20% discount off all published room rates with breakfast. RM\$120.00 Superior (double) room with breakfast

Gold Coast Hotel
No. 1 Castle Peak Road, Castle Peak Bay
New Territories, Hongkong
Reservation Hotline: 852 452 8888
30% discount off all room categories. All reservations must be made in advance by letter or telephone. Bring SMA Membership card for identification

Hotel Imperial Singapore
1 Jalan Rumbia Tel: 737 1666
Corporate Rates given

Le Meridian Phuket
815 Moo I-Tambol Karn, Amphur
Muang, Phuket, Thailand

Tel: 66-76340 480-5 Fax: 66-76340 479
Special Meeting Package

Le Meridian Rialto
495 Collins Street Melbourne
Victoria 3000 Australia
Tel: 6103 620 9111 Fax: 6103 614 1219
Business Proposal – early check-in/late check-out, full breakfast, room upgrade, free provision of one suit/dress. AUD 195.00 single / AUD 210.00 double

Orchard Hotel Singapore
442 Orchard Road Tel: 734 7766
Corporate rates given

The Pan Pacific Hotel
7 Raffles Boulevard Tel: 336 8111
Corporate room rates & the Corporate Value Added Tariff Plan

River View Hotel
382 Havelock Road Tel: 732 9922
25% discount on hotel accommodation

JEWELLERY

Diamond Craft
Thomson Plaza #01-52
301 Upper Thomson Road Tel: 454 1588
77% discount on all jewellery items; cost to cost workmanship for 916 gold ornaments by Italian or Hong Kong craftsmen. GST absorbed.

MATERNITY BOUTIQUE

Modern Mum
#02-153 Marina Square (Tel: 334 3359)
#02-25 Parkway Parade (Tel: 344 6802)
10% discount on all purchases.

MEDICAL PRODUCTS

Caversham Trading Pte Ltd
#06-34E Cairnhill Court 20 Cairnhill Circle
Tel: 732 1518 / 721 6292
20% discount off the retail price of \$10 per box of LATEX EXAMINATION GLOVES and one free box for every carton (10 boxes) bought.

Kenda (S) Pte Ltd
1 Tai Seng Drive 4th Floor
DHL Air Express Centre Tel: 283 8696
10-30% discount for Blood Pressure Monitor, Pulse Oximeter, Spirometer, Adult Incontinent Diapers, Sensitester, Kaneson Expressing & Feeding Bottle

Medas
6 Weyhill Close Tel: 479 5643 (Mr Willaume)
10% discount on all products of Med Italia Interventional Tray (Standard Custom Kits)

OFFICE EQUIPMENT & STATIONERY

LaserCare Asia-Pacific
2 Leng Kee Road #03-07
Tel: 475 4715 (Danville Lim or G Morgan)
TONER CARTRIDGES at special discounted prices. MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS FOR PRINTERS also at discounted price.

Premium Marketing Services
Blk 2 Joo Chiat Road #05-1133
Joo Chiat Complex Tel: 748 2522; Fax: 748 2722
FAX MACHINES (Telecoms approved). SHARP FAX FO-130 at \$798 plus free gift. SHARP FAX FO-222 at \$1,120 plus free gift. (2-year warranty by SHARP principle against manufacturing defect.)

Qtech Queing System
Tel: 253 9098 Mr Lim Chee Chong
\$900 per system

Stage Professional
69 Boon Keng Road Tel: 296 3939; Fax: 296 7979
ELECTRONIC SIGNBOARDS & ELECTRONIC SENSOR WATER TAPS/SHOWERS at 20% discount.

OPTICAL SHOPS

Atlantic Optical
#04-56/57 Peninsula Plaza Tel: 336 1936
Jurong East MRT Station #01-04
10 Jurong East St 12 Tel: 569 9133
20% discount on all prescribed sunglasses, spectacles & contact lenses except RAYBAN sunglasses & contact lens solution.

First Eye Care
#01-10 Golden Shoe Complex (Tel: 533 7883)
#02-46 Chinatown Point (Tel: 534 0615)
#01-07 Orchard Hotel Shopping Arcade (Tel: 732 1266)
#01-11 Plaza Singapura (Tel: 338 0613)
#03-72 Far East Plaza (Tel: 732 3180)
#01-03/04 Siglap Centre (Tel: 443 9835)
#03-03 Orchard Point (Tel: 734 5649)
20% nett discount for all spectacle frames & sunglasses; 10% nett discount for all contact lenses & prescription lenses. Further discounts can be accorded as and when individual retail outlets deem fit.

Top Team Optics
#02-17 Far East Plaza Tel: 737 0217
15% discount

Welfare Optics
Blk 2 Balestier Road #01-703, Balestier Hill
Shopping Centre Tel: 250 8198 / 250 8798
20% discount for all prescription spectacles, sunglasses and contact lenses except Rayban sungalsses and all contact lenses solution. Further discount can be accorded as and when possible

PHOTO-DEVELOPING

Standard Photo (Singapore Colour Centre)
All Counters
15% discount on developing and printing minimum 20 prints (not valid for promotional activities and prints at special prices.)

PUBLICATIONS

BUSINESS JOURNALS
Business Week International
Worth Management Pte Ltd
553C Balestier Road Tel: 252 7696; Fax: 252 2484
20% discount

COMPUTER JOURNALS
Byte
Worth Management Pte Ltd
553C Balestier Road Tel: 252 7696; Fax: 252 2484
20% discount

MEDICAL
DIMS, Medical Digest, Medical Progress & other individual titles
MIMS Asia
#13-00 LKN Building Tel: 223 3788
10% discount on DIMS MediClub Subscription Membership Fee. 10% discount on subscription rates for individual titles.

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Cardmember Privileges Service
Cont'd from Page 9

RESTAURANTS

AMERICAN

Minton The Restaurant (NEW)
290 Orchard Road. #02-42 Paragon by Sogo
Tel: 738 3368
10% discount.

BARBEQUE SEAFOOD BUFFET

Travellers' Palm Terrace
at The Cockpit Hotel Tel: 737 9111
10% discount (not valid for promotional periods).

CHINESE

Celebrity Oriental Restaurant (NEW)
1 Maritime Square #02-138, Harbour Promenade,
World Trade Centre Tel: 272 9158
15% discount on all items.

Chinatown Restaurant

Sichuan Cuisine at Hotel Imperial Singapore
1 Jalan Rumbia Tel: 737 1666
10% discount on ala carte items.

Dragon Palace

at The Cockpit Hotel Tel: 737 9111
10% discount (not valid for promotional periods).

House of Blossom (NEW)

Marina Mandarin, 6 Raffles Boulevard
Marina Square Tel: 338-3388
For every \$100 spent a Gift Certificate worth \$15
(multiply of every \$100 up to a maximum of 2%
redemption) is redeemable for the next visit.
Valid for three months from the date of issue (not
applicable for special promotions, discounts and
festive periods).

Royal Palace Restaurant Pte Ltd (NEW)

3 Killiney Road #B1-02 Winsland House
Tel: 732 8787
10% discount on ala carte items.

INDIAN VEGETARIAN

Bombay Woodlands Restaurant
19 Tanglin Road #B1-01/02
Tanglin Shopping Centre Tel: 235 2712
77 Marylebone Lane London WI Tel: 486 3862
37 Panton Street London SW1 Tel: 839 7258
402 High Road Wembly Middlesex Tel: 902 9869
10% discount for outlets in Singapore & in the
United Kingdom. 25% discount for take-aways.

INTERNATIONAL

Brasserie Tatler (NEW)

6 Raffles Boulevard Marina Square Tel: 338-3388
For every \$100 spent a Gift Certificate worth \$15
(multiply of every \$100 up to a maximum of 2%
redemption) is redeemable for the next visit.
Valid for three months from the date of issue (not
applicable for special promotions, discounts and
festive periods).

Cafe Plaza (NEW)

Plaza Hotel, Beach Road Tel: 298 0011
10% discount on ala carte orders. (not valid for
promotional periods)

River Garden Coffee House (24 hours)

Lobby Level River View Hotel Tel: 732 9922
10% discount (Complimentary cake upon
celebrating special occasion in the outlet.)

Seasons Restaurant (NEW)

190 Orchard Boulevard
Marina Square Tel: 831 7250
Complimentary dessert with every main course at
dinner time (not valid on special celebration days;
X'mas Eve & Day, New Year's Eve & Valentine
Day.)

Travellers' Palm

at The Cockpit Hotel Tel: 737 9111
10% discount (not valid for promotional periods).

JAPANESE

Ginga Japanese Restaurant

Level 3 River View Hotel Tel: 732 9922
10% discount (Complimentary cake upon
celebrating special occasion in the outlet.)

Shima-Marui Fisherman Island (Restaurant & Pub) (NEW)

30 Raffles Place B1-04/06 Caltex House
Tel: 532 0507
30% discount on full bottle sales, free bottle-keep
service; 30% discount on all beverages after 3.00
pm; free use of KTV room for a minimum of 4
persons between 3 pm - 7 pm; 30% discount on
KTV rooms for rental from 7 pm, no cover charge
for member & guests; 20% discount on set dinner
and a la carte menus during dinner (for selected
items only); 30% discount on beverage and full
bottle orders during dinner; free use of private
rooms for a minimum of 6 persons during lunch
& dinner

MEXICAN

Chico's & Charlie's

#05-01 Liat Towers Tel: 734 5785
10% discount for cash payments only (not valid
for set lunch and Happy Hour).

NORTH INDIAN

Maharaja Boat Quay (NEW)

41 Boat Quay Tel: 535 0122
Orchard Maharaja Restaurant (NEW)
25 Cuppage Road, Cuppage Centre Tel: 732 6331
Maharaja Clementi Restaurant (NEW)
53/55 Sunset Way Tel: 463 0001
10% cash discount, 8% for credit card & 5% for
charge cards (not including catering & delivery
services)

Rang Mahal

at Hotel Imperial Singapore
1 Jalan Rumbia Tel: 737 1666
10% discount on ala carte items.

SEAFOOD

Seafood Theatre Restaurant (NEW)

Plaza Hotel, Beach Road Tel: 298 0011
10% discount on ala carte orders. (not valid for
promotional periods)

Pacific Grill (NEW)

44 Lorong Mambong Tel: 462 5626
15% discount on ala carte menu. (not applicable
for promotional items and beverages.)

SZECHUAN

River Palace

Level 2 River View Hotel Tel: 732 9922
10% discount (Complimentary cake upon
celebrating special occasion in the outlet.)

VIETNAMESE

Sal-Gon Restaurant

#04-03 Cairnhill Place Tel: 235 0626
10% discount on A La Carte only.

Mekong Village

Singapore Tennis Centre Tel: 242 4525

10% discount on A La Carte only.

SPORTS & GOLF SHOPS

L2S Sports

#02-12 Pearls Centre Tel: 224 5071
15% discount on all purchases except items on
offer

Pro Golf Specialists

#03-37 Plaza Singapura
#01-39 World Trade Centre
15% discount on own agency line of golf
equipment and accessories.

Sports Planet Pte Ltd

Kallang Squash & Tennis Centre Tel: 346 7768
10% discount on badminton rackets; 15%
discount on tennis & squash rackets, shoes, bags
& re-stringing services; 10-15% on golf (HEAD)
items; 15-20% on sportswear.

TAILOR

Edwin Wong Tailors

#02-31 Far East Shopping Centre Tel: 235 7129
10% discount; Guaranteed tailoring; A special
offer of \$50 per trousers made with remnants of
materials available.

TELEPHONE SYSTEMS

Tellgraph Business Systems

203 Henderson Road #10-06
Henderson Industrial Park
Pgr: 608 2032 (Alson Tay)
10% discount for CENTRAL CONTROL EQUIP-
MENT and KEYTOUCH TELEPHONE.

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

Microkid Computer Centre

#03-05 Orchard Emerald
218 Orchard Road Tel: 732 2256
10% discount for computer/application courses
and tuition classes.

TRAVEL AGENTS

Award Travel Pte Ltd

302 Tiong Bahru Road #03-01
Tiong Bahru Plaza Tel: 273 3511
Agent for Insight Travel. 5% discount on tours &
air tickets.

Malaysia & Singapore Travel Centre

#06-27 Tanglin Shopping Centre Tel: 737 8877
5% discount on air fare (international sector only
& on outbound tours); 10% discount on inbound
tours.

Neptune Travel

#03-01A Cecil Court Tel: 221 9655
Up to 10% discount on GSA tour packages,
campervans and car rentals; Airline tour packages
varies either on dollar discount or up to 5%
discount.

Slime Travel

#04-01 Goldbell Towers
Scotts Road Tel: 738 3822
Air ticket - full economy fare 7% (international
sector only); 5% discount on hotel; Tours -
variable discounts; no discount on special fare.

TOURS

SINCAR Travel & Tours

#15-00 Cable Car Towers 3 Maritime Square
Tel: 277 9634 (Catherine Chia)
Corporate rates for 3-hour guided Sentosa
Discovery Tour: 2-hour guided Sentosa Discovery
Tour & Port Discovery Tour

Garfield Says

P O S S E S S E D

Prologue

The living room wasn't big and the furniture consisting of a coffee table, a cane sofa set and a pot of plastic orchid was moved back against the wall to create a space in the centre, in the middle of which a boy of perhaps ten to twelve was half sitting and half squatting. His father and mother were kneeling on either side of him, heads down, eyes closed and hands clasped together in a posture of prayer and supplication.

There were another dozen or so people in the room. They were standing in a circle surrounding the three members of the family and a man dressed in a frock of a priest was leading them in a ritual. They were all very intense, their eyes never once wavered from their concentrated gaze upon the boy, none so powerfully than the young man, who was the boy's uncle. He was particularly impassioned. His muscles were all tensed up, making his body appear almost rigid. The veins on his temples were so engorged that they looked as if they were going to burst any moment. His eyes were red and swollen, his hair ruffled and perspiration was pouring down his brows. The man's a zealot for sure.

It was extremely hot and humid inside the room. The windows opening into the common corridor were closed in order to keep out prying eyes. Inquisitive neighbours were indeed standing outside, curious to find out what was going on. The ceiling fan was not moving, perhaps it wasn't functioning or perhaps forgotten. It wouldn't have made any difference because those present were so absorbed with the task at hand that they were oblivious of any discomfort.

The boy looked bewildered. There was no knowing what was running through his young mind, but one thing was certain, he wasn't in control of himself, others were in

charge of him, and he'd resigned to it. Now and then, he would stare vacantly at some of the people who surrounded him, or steal a glance at his parents, but mostly his eyes were fixed on the floor. Occasionally he would bite his nail or twist his thumb. He was, in effect, an actor without having to perform, yet his presence was central and essential to the show.

The priest was into his element now. He was speaking in tongue, holding the Holy Book in one hand and the Cross in the other. His chanting and demeanour had a mesmerizing effect on the rest. Their faces glistened with sweat and illuminated an unnatural pale greenish colour by the fluorescent lights overhead. They had shut their eyes and their lips quivered while chanting in unison with their leader. All of them appeared to be in a deep trance. The atmosphere's eerie and unearthly.

The ritual continued, slowly at first, then the tempo increased, rising in a crescendo and finally with an outburst of shouts of "Hallelujah", reached its pinnacle. Then it ended. The priest cradled the boy's head in his arms. The rest, physically and emotionally drained sat down exhausted, and someone opened the windows to let in the fresh air.

The priest took a chain with a pendant of a Cross from the uncle and put it over the boy's head and in a soft soothing voice said, "May He delivers you, protects you and be with you always." The boy, naive and innocent and probably not understanding what had been going on or its significance, answered, "OK."

The priest helped the parents to their feet and told them, "It's all over." They were crying. They kissed the hand of the priest and turning to the uncle said, "Thank-you very much for your help and for making all the arrangement. We will be eternally grateful." "Bless the Lord," he replied.

The Mother's Visit

"Doctor, can you help us?" the woman asked.

"Yes, if I can. What's it about?"

"It's about my son. He is not well. We have booked a holiday trip and have to cancel it. We need a medical certificate."

"In order to get a refund?"

"Yes Doctor, we aren't rich people. Such bad luck."

"That's easy, but one small problem."

"What's it Doctor?"

"How do I know that your son is sick?"

"You can trust us Doctor. We are your old patients. We wouldn't lie to you."

"In that case, bring him to me."

The Grandmother's Visit

Later in the day the grandmother came to the clinic.

"Doctor, we are your old customers. You look after three generations of us. Please lend us a helping hand. Do us a small favour. My grandson is really not well."

"Tell me the truth then."

After a long interval and with tears in her eyes, the old lady replied reluctantly, "Doctor, if you really want to know, I suppose I have no choice, but it's not something we like to tell others. The truth is my grandson was possessed and had just been exorcised. We don't feel safe to allow him to travel just yet and we don't expect the travel agent to accept our explanation."

"Please tell me everything and don't leave out any details."

"It was on a Sunday night, Doctor. My grandson came home from a picnic not feeling well. He started to have bouts of vomiting. At first he threw out the food he had taken and later the vomiting became so severe that he threw out bile and even some blood too. He was pale and shivering. Soon he became so weak that he could hardly stand up. All the nearby clinics were closed and we brought him to the hospital.

At the hospital they told us he

Cont'd on page 12

had food poisoning. They gave him an injection. After resting there for an hour, they sent him home with some tablets. The vomiting subsided, but then out of the blue something happened that was so unusual and unexpected that it made us suspect that it wasn't just a case of simple food poisoning. My grandson for no apparent reason began to behave in a very strange manner. Let me describe to you.

We were very exhausted when we returned from the hospital, but the good thing was the boy's feeling better and we were preparing to sleep. Then it happened. All of sudden he began to twitch his head. At first we thought he was playing a fool and we asked him to stop his nonsense, but the twitchings increased in intensity and frequency instead. Soon we realised that he wasn't doing it voluntarily. Something was wrong. Poor boy, he actually couldn't help himself, he had no control over the movements. We tried to hold his head but it didn't help. It was as if there's an evil force residing inside him manipulating his head.

The attacks became worse, occurring once every few seconds, and appearing more terrifying. His head and neck would jerk backwards, suddenly and violently. We were really scared by what we saw, especially when these were accompanied by the wrinkling of his forehead and the rolling of his eyes upwards, as if he was trying to spy at something beyond the horizon. We panicked when we saw his jaw rotating and his tongue darting in his mouth like a serpent striking at its prey. Doctor, I asked you, is this natural? Can food poisoning affect a person in this matter?

But we were lucky, my other son who lives next door heard the commotion and came over. Now, this son of mine is special. He is a deeply religious man and one whom you might call a psychic. He can sometimes see beyond the

physical world. He took one look at his nephew and immediately held him close, knelt down and started to pray. The rest of us, anxious, seized with fear and not knowing what else to do, followed likewise. Half an hour later, the attacks began to subside and from then on until day-break, he had four or five more episodes, but each less severe than its predecessor. All this while, we held on to him and prayed. A few days later we invited a priest to have him exorcised.

Doctor, not that we have no faith in medical science but what I personally witnessed was so weird and extraordinary, it's super-natural. I'm sorry we didn't tell you earlier. We were afraid you wouldn't believe us. I hope you'll understand now and help us."

"Sure I understand, and I believe it happened, and I think I can help too. In fact I think I can help a lot, but let me make a call first." I phoned the hospital. I was really glad that I had taken the trouble to ask and listen to the history, which is often so vital a part of medical practice, and which I have to admit I frequently neglect.

"I have very good news. The medical certificate you want is irrelevant and unnecessary. Instead I want you to bring the whole family to see me, your grandson, his parents and uncle. I have something

very important to tell all of you. I won't say it now, it's better to wait for the rest."

"Doctor, does this mean that you're not issuing the certificate?"

"Didn't I just said that it's irrelevant and unnecessary. Please believe me. It's closing time soon, get them here."

Epilogue

But they didn't turn up, not the next day either or subsequently. It had been two months since. I had wanted to tell them that they were mistaken and that the devil had not visited. I had wanted to circumvent the possible development of any unhealthy psychological sequelae. I had wanted to tell them about the side effects of Stementil.

garfield

Medico-Legal Column Cont'd from Page 7

tionship and therefore, the telephone call could not have been part of an already existing relationship. The court saw the plaintiff's actions as an attempt to widen the duty of doctors to include potential patients and it declined to take this step. The decision is in keeping with the outcome of other cases in the USA which centred on the issue of "second-hand" telephone contact.

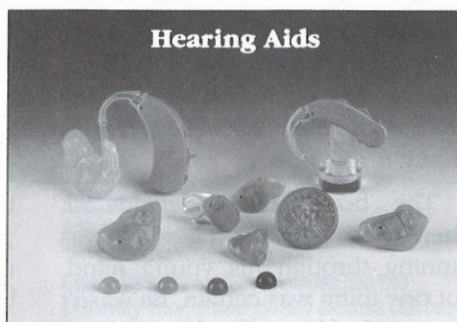
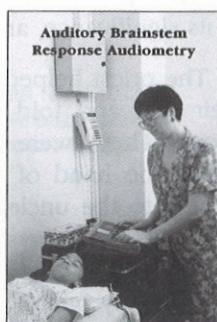
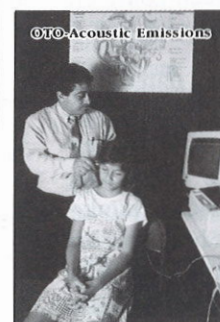
By Maree Bellamy

CHUNG AUDIOLOGY & ASSOCIATES Pte Ltd

304 Orchard Road #04-54
Lucky Plaza
Singapore 0923
Tel: 737 0230 / 737 0231
Fax: 738 6816

6A Napier Road #02-26
Gleneagles Hospital
Singapore 1025
Tel: 474 0688
Fax: 474 0788

Audiologists: Dr Chung Siew Min Ph.D. (Audiology), London
Mr Ronald Burgess B.Sc., Dip (Audiology), Australia



WE PROVIDE:

- Full Audiometric testings for babies to adults
- Management of hearing-impaired babies to adults with hearing aids, counselling and auditory training
- Management of complaints of Noises in the ears or head (Tinnitus)

SMA CLASSIFIED ADS

RENTAL / TAKEOVER

Clinic space available for rental at Mount Elizabeth New Medical Centre. Immediate occupancy. Area: 1,200 sq ft. Please ring: 733-4466 (Theresa).

For Immediate rental/takeover: Established clinic supported by lady doctor in a good location. Clinic has good frontage, fully furnished including computer programme. Please contact Thomas Pgr 305-4304/722-5778.

Gleneagles Medical Centre Clinic space available immediately for rental to specialist. Interested call Shirley Tel: 475-7995 or Fax: 475-9861.

Consultation room available for rent at Mount Elizabeth Medical Centre. Please ring: 737-8069.

Wanted Medical Practitioner to share clinic space with very well established Dental surgery at Arcade #05-01, Raffles Place. The Arcade is connected to Raffles Place MRT and car parks are available. Please contact Dr Cheng at Tel: 222-3637/Fax: 223-4470.

Well established clinic in Clementi requires doctor on profit sharing basis and eventual takeover or rental.

Please contact Mr Yap at tel: 274-1933 (after 7.15 pm)

Shop space for sale/rent. 721 sq ft. shop space at Serangoon Central, near bus terminal, the new wet market and future MRT station. Great potential for operating clinic, presently infant care clinic. Interested, please contact Jamie Ang at 526-9353 (Pgr) or 385-1939 (direct line).

Space available for rental at GP Clinic in Bukit Batok for (1) Specialists in the following disciplines - Eye, ENT, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, etc. (2) Paramedical services eg. Laboratories. Please contact Mr Wong at Pager: 306-0493.

Clinic Space Available. 200-300 sq ft. of space available in Thomson Road shop unit for a specialist medical practice. Interested please call Adeline at 251-9634.

2 Adjoining units
at Gleneagles Medical Centre for rental.
Immediate occupancy.
Call Kok Whye Tel: 224-9633 X 23.

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Welfare HEARING SERVICES PTE LTD

"Better Hearing For All"

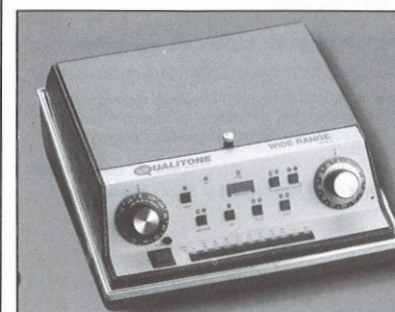
Specialise In Hearing Healthcare & Speech Equipment

Blk 2, Balestier Rd, #01-703, Balestier Hill Shopping Centre Singapore 1232.

Tel: 250 8198, 250 8798

Products / Services :

- Audiological Services
- Hearing Aids
- Audiometers
- Tympanometers
- Silent Booths
- OAE Equipment
- Cochlear Implants
- FM Systems etc.



Qualitone Diagnostic Audiometer Model WR-A Portable Version

- Pure Tone Frequencies from 125 - 8000 Hz
- Capability for all standard Pure Tone Air, Bone and Masking Tests
- Warble Tone
- Electronic Frequency Selection with Digital Readout
- Patient Signal
- Portable is Housed in Impact-Resistant Lightweight Case.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Well established clinic in Clementi requires doctor on profit sharing basis and eventual takeover or rental. Please contact Mr Yap at Tel: 274-1933 (after 7.15pm).

Medical Clinic in Jurong requires an Assistant Doctor, preferably with D.F.D. qualifications. Please contact Mrs Loo at 251-3121 / 265-6077.

Thomson Medical Centre has a vacancy for a Resident Doctor. Applicants should be registered medical practitioners preferably with hospital experience in OBGYN, paediatrics and neonatology and A&E. Interested applicants are requested to write/fax in giving full details of their academic qualifications, working experience, expected salary and telephone number together with recent passport-sized photograph to: The Chief Executive Officer, Thomson Medical Centre, 399 Thomson Road, Singapore 1130. Tel: 256-9494 Fax: 253-4468

EQUIPMENTS/SOFTWARE FOR SALE

REFLOTRON. Available for Sale, a 3-year old Reflotron

PROFESSIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS


Ivy Yap Gastroenterology & Liver Clinic
#15-01 Mt Elizabeth Medical Centre Singapore (0922)
Tel : 732-9958 Fax : 732-4589 24 Hrs : 535-8833

Date : 16/8/95

Dear Colleagues & friends

This is to inform you that I have resigned from the position of Associate Professor in Medicine of National University of Singapore and Senior Consultant Physician & Gastroenterologist of National University Hospital. As of 17th August 1995, I shall commence private practice at #15-01, Mt Elizabeth Medical Centre. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your friendship and the kind support and would be most pleased to be of continued service to both you and your patients in my new practice.

Yours sincerely


Dr. Ivy J.E. Yap
Consultant Physician and Gastroenterologist

machine. The Reflotron is fast and reliable, suitable for use in any outpatient clinic. Use Reflotron for immediate results : * Glucose * HDL/LDL * Cholesterol * Triglycerides * Uric Acid * SGPT/SGOT. For more information and enquiries, please call Linda Lim at Tel: 359-8157.

ULTRASOUND machine Hitachi EUB-25 for sale - \$8,000 negotiable. Please phone 472-6188 or view at #06-11 Gleneagles Medical Centre during office hours.

For Sale: Windows 95 IBM PC clinic management system. 90-days free trial and trade-in specials. Next-generation design ensures learning within 1 hour without manuals. Comprehensive 10 modules, fully auto-customizable options and multimedia add-ons. For free guide on selecting computer systems, call 244-1231.

CORRIGENDUM

SMA Newsletter - June 1995 under
"Professional Announcement"

Dr Leong Hin Seng, Leong Surgery
Tel: 235-5905, 466-5869

(The contents of the advertisements/professional announcements in this newsletter are circulated without amendment by the SMA as a service to its members.)

NOTE: Advertisements/letters together with the relevant payments are to be submitted to the Singapore Medical Association, 2 College Road, Level 2 Alumni Medical Centre, Singapore 0316.

ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES: call Hwee Ping 2231264.

Ear, Nose, Throat, Sinus & Dizziness Centre

DR LOH KOK KIT

8 August 1995

Dear Colleagues

COMMENCEMENT OF PRIVATE PRACTICE

I wish to inform you that I have resigned as Associate Professor and Senior Consultant, Department of Otolaryngology, National University Hospital to commence private practice at the following address:

Ear Nose Throat Sinus & Dizziness Centre
3 Mount Elizabeth
#13-11 Mount Elizabeth Medical Centre
Singapore 0922
Tel: 2358286, Fax: 2351028
Answering Service: 5358833

In addition to general Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery, my subspecialty and interests are:
1. OTOLOGY
2. NEUROTOLOGIC and SKULL BASE SURGERY
3. ENDOSCOPIC SINONASAL SURGERY

A comprehensive service for management of all EAR and related conditions is available. This spectrum of OTOLOGIC and INNER EAR Surgery includes the different surgical treatment of conditions associated with Vertigo, Facial Nerve Surgery, Transplant and Implant Surgery (e.g. "Bionic Ear" and Hearing Device Implant), Skull Base Tumours and Acoustic Neuromas, Congenital anomalies and Conventional Middle Ear Surgery.

Voice management combining Videoendoscopic diagnosis and Laryngoplastic Phonosurgery is another feature.

During my years as Consultant at National University, Singapore General and Tan Tock Seng Hospitals, I have enjoyed the opportunity to introduce some Otolologic Implant and Inner Ear Surgery and Laryngoplastic Phonosurgery to Singapore.

I wish to thank you for your support and look forward to further enhance my service to you in my practice.



Yours sincerely

DR LOH KOK KIT
FACS, FRCS, FICS, FAMS, MBBS

Dr Leslie B K Kuok
MBBS (S'pore) FRCS (Edinburgh)
FRCS (Glasgow) FAMS

Consultant Plastic & Reconstructive Surgeon
President, Singapore Association of Plastic Surgeons
Visiting Consultant, Singapore General Hospital

3rd August 1995

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to inform you that I have resigned from my position as Consultant Plastic and Reconstructive surgeon in Singapore General Hospital to commence private practice with effect from 15th July 1995.

My new practice addresses are:

LESLIE KUEK PLASTIC SURGERY
Gleneagles Medical Center
Suite #03-04
6 Napier Road
Singapore 1025
Tel : 472 2972 Fax : 472 5323


Blk 79 Toa Payoh Central
#01-79
Singapore 1231
Tel : 250 2700 Fax : 258 5597

In addition to the usual practice of Plastic and Aesthetic Surgery, my special interests include microvascular reconstructive surgery relating to:

- 1) Breast Reconstruction
- 2) Extremity Reconstruction
- 3) Head & Neck Cancer
- 4) Facial Paralysis

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your kind support in the past and look forward to be of continued service to you and your patients.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Leslie Kuok
MBBS (S'pore) FRCS (Edinburgh)
FRCS (Glasgow) FAMS

Leslie Kuek
Plastic Surgery

Gleneagles Medical Center
Suite #03-04
6 Napier Road
Singapore 1025
Tel 472-2972
Fax 472-5323

Blk 79 Toa Payoh Central
#01-79
Singapore 1231
Tel 250-2700
Fax 258-5597

Answering service
535-8833

 **Raffles SurgiCentre**
For Your Total Specialist Healthcare

Dr Stephen Lee Teck Soong
Consultant ENT Surgeon
MBBS (Mal), FRCS (Edin), FRCS (Glas)
FAMS, AM (Mal)

18 August 1995

Dear Colleagues

I wish to inform you that I have left my practice at Mt Elizabeth Medical Centre and am now based at Raffles SurgiCentre.

I was an Associate Professor and Acting Head in Otorhinolaryngology, University Hospital, Kuala Lumpur till March 1993. I commenced private practice at Mt Elizabeth Medical Centre in April 1993 and have also held an appointment as a Visiting Consultant in the National University, Singapore.

I will be available for consultation at Raffles SurgiCentre and can be contacted at:

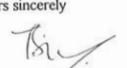
Raffles SurgiCentre
Level 3, Specialist Centre
182 Clemenceau Avenue
Singapore 0923

Tel: 3315850/3315860 Fax: 3315859
24 Hrs Service : 3343333
Ans. Service : 5358833

My subspecialty interests include Sinus, Voice and Middle Ear Surgery.

I appreciate your past support and look forward to be of service to you and your patients

Yours sincerely


Dr. Stephen Lee Teck Soong

Raffles SurgiCentre Pte Ltd 182 Clemenceau Ave Singapore 0923
Correspondence: Orchard P.O. Box 1 Singapore 9123
Telephone 334 3333 Facsimile 334 5688

KOUR SURGERY
柯南偉泌尿外科
Specialist Urology Practice

Dr. Kour Nam Wee
MBChB(Edin) FRCS(Glasg) FAMS(Urology)
Consultant Urological Surgeon
柯南偉醫生
泌尿專科顧問

3 Mount Elizabeth #09-09/10
Mount Elizabeth Medical Centre
Singapore 0922
Telephone : (65) 7345355
Emergency : (65) 5330088
Facsimile : (65) 7335900

August 15, 1995

Dear Friends & Colleagues

NEW UROLOGICAL PRACTICE

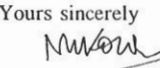
I have pleasure to inform you that I have started my practice in Urology at

KOUR SURGERY
#09-09/10
MOUNT ELIZABETH MEDICAL CENTRE
SINGAPORE 0922
Tel : 734 5355
Fax : 733 5900
Emergency : 533 0088


My practice will be in association with Dr. Jimmy K. S. Beng.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your past support and look forward to be of service to you and your patients.

Yours sincerely


Dr Kour Nam Wee MB,ChB FRCS FAMS(Urology)

KOUR SURGERY KOUR SURGERY KOUR SURGERY KOUR SURGERY KOUR SURGERY KOUR SURGERY
柯南偉泌尿外科 柯南偉泌尿外科 柯南偉泌尿外科 柯南偉泌尿外科 柯南偉泌尿外科 柯南偉泌尿外科

 **Raffles SurgiCentre**
For Your Total Specialist Healthcare

Dr Pang Shiu Ming
Consultant Dermatologist
MBBS (HK), MRCP (UK)
FHKAM (Medicine)
Dip. Derm. (London)

18 August 1995

Dear Colleagues

I wish to inform you that I have joined Raffles SurgiCentre as a full-time Consultant Dermatologist.

I have been practising Dermatology in Hong Kong since 1980. I started private practice in 1985 and became a Honorary Consultant Dermatologist in Baptist Hospital, Hong Kong. I was also a Consultant in Laser Dermatology in St. Teresa's Hospital, Hong Kong.


I will be available for consultation at Raffles SurgiCentre and can be contacted at:

Raffles SurgiCentre
Level 3, Specialist Centre
182 Clemenceau Avenue
Singapore 0923

Tel : 3315850 / 3315860 Fax : 3315859
24 Hrs Service : 3343333
Ans Service : 5358833

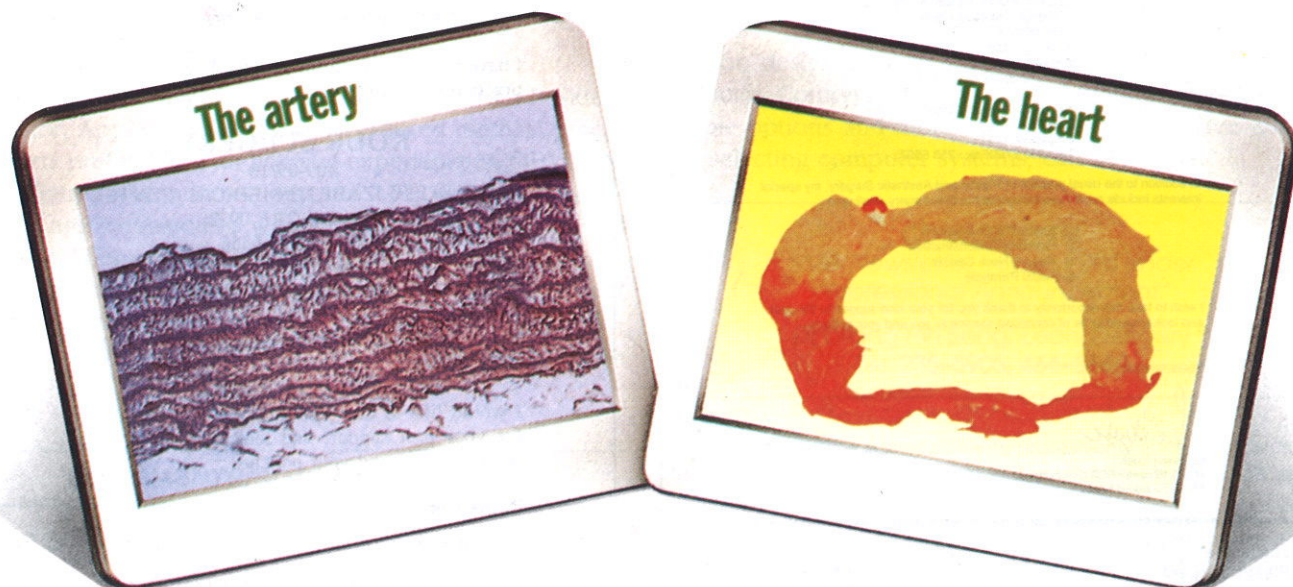
I hope to be of service to you and your patients.

Yours sincerely


Dr. Pang Shiu Ming

Raffles SurgiCentre Pte Ltd 182 Clemenceau Ave Singapore 0923
Correspondence: Orchard P.O. Box 1 Singapore 9123
Telephone 334 3333 Facsimile 334 5688

Scoring an ACE in cardiovascular remodeling



1 tablet daily

COVERSYL[®] 4mg

PERINDOPRIL

in hypertension and heart failure...

...cardiovascular remodeling is a key pathogenic feature. Coversyl 4 mg actively combats cardiovascular remodeling by correcting the structural and functional alterations of the heart and artery.^{1,4}

Coversyl 4 mg is a true once daily ACE inhibitor with guaranteed antihypertensive efficacy right up to 24 hours post dose.⁵ In heart failure, Coversyl 4 mg (half-a-tablet) offers a safer start to treatment thanks to an absence of significant hypotensive first-dose response.⁶

With its original properties, Coversyl 4 mg is a high-performance ACE inhibitor in both its indications.

1. SIHM I et al. *Eur Heart J.* 1993; 14(suppl): 63 - 2. LEVY BI et al. *Circ Res.* 1988; 63: 227-239 - 3. ASMAR RG et al. *J Hypertens.* 1988; (suppl 3): S33-S39 - 4. MICHEL JB et al. *Circ Res.* 1988; 62: 641-650
5. MORGAN TO et al. *Am J Hypertens.* 1993; 6: 116 A - 6. MAC FADYEN RJ et al. *Br Heart J.* 1991; 66: 206-211.

Coversyl is a long-acting ACE inhibitor. **International nonproprietary name:** Perindopril. **Indications:** Essential hypertension. Congestive heart failure (adjunctive therapy). **Dosage and administration:** Hypertension: 4 mg once a day in the morning. If necessary, the dose may be increased to 8 mg after one month of treatment. Coversyl should be taken before food. Congestive heart failure: Coversyl should be started under close medical supervision at a starting dose of 2 mg in the morning. This may be increased to 4 mg once blood pressure acceptability has been demonstrated. **Elderly patients:** start treatment at 2 mg daily. **Contraindications:** Children. Pregnancy. Lactation. Patients with a history of hypersensitivity to Coversyl. **Precautions:** Assess renal function before and during treatment where appropriate. Renovascular hypertension. Surgery/Anesthesia. Renal insufficiency: the dose should be cautiously adjusted in accordance with the creatinine clearance (refer to complete data sheet). Symptomatic hypotension is rarely seen, but is more likely in volume-depleted patients, those receiving diuretics, or with the first two doses. In diuretic-treated patients, stop the diuretic 3 days before starting Coversyl. A diuretic may later be given in combination if necessary; potassium-sparing diuretics are not recommended. Combination with neuroleptics or imipramine-type drugs may increase the hypotensive effect. Serum lithium concentrations may rise during lithium therapy. **Side effects:** Rare and mild, usually at the start of treatment. Cough, fatigue, asthenia, headache, disturbances of mood and/or sleep have been reported. Less often, taste impairment, epigastric discomfort, nausea, abdominal pain, and rash. Reversible increases in blood urea and creatinine may be observed. Proteinuria has occurred in some patients. Rarely, angioneurotic edema and decreases in hemoglobin, red cells, and platelets have been reported. **Composition:** Each tablet contains 4 mg of the tert-butylamine salt of perindopril. **Presentation:** Packs of 30 and 300 tablets of Coversyl 4 mg (scored). Refer to data sheet for complete prescribing information.



LES LABORATOIRES SERVIER

SINGAPORE: Asiamed Pharmaceutical Products (S) Pte Ltd
Franchise Servier International B.V.
510 Thomson Road, SLF Building,
#09-02 Singapore 1129
Tel: 2500377

MALAYSIA: Zuellig Pharma Sdn. Bhd.
Wisma Zuellig, Lot 8, Seksyen 13,
No. 9, Jalan Bersatu 13/4
46200 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, West Malaysia
Tel: 03-7551866