



Singapore
Medical
Association



SMA

STRONGER TOGETHER
58th ANNUAL REPORT 2017/2018

ABOUT SMA

The Singapore Medical Association (SMA) was formed in 1959, and is the national medical organisation representing the majority of medical practitioners and medical students in Singapore.

SMA's slogan, 'For Doctors, For Patients', reflects its recognition that the doctor-patient relationship lies at the heart of any scientific revelation, technological innovation, policy decision and business practice that affects healthcare, as well as its commitment to protect this relationship.

Our Motto

Jasa Utama, 'Service before Self'

Our Objectives

- To promote the medical and allied sciences in Singapore
- To maintain the honour and interests of the medical profession
- To foster and preserve the unity and aim of purpose of the medical profession as a whole
- To voice its opinion, and to acquaint the Government and other relevant bodies with the policies and attitudes of the profession
- To support a higher standard of medical ethics and conduct
- To enlighten and direct public opinion on the problems of health in Singapore
- To publish papers, journals and other materials in furtherance of these objectives



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The SMA slogan, “For Doctors, For Patients” recognises that the doctor-patient relationship is the fundamental unit of interaction between doctors and patients, and lies at the heart of what we do. This unique relationship has stood the test of time and should be protected for its inherent value. In particular, I wish to highlight three key points of our work over the past year. We will continue our efforts in these matters to better serve doctors and patients.

A UNITED PROFESSION

In the past year, we have seen many challenges to the healthcare profession, such as changes to healthcare policy, advances in technology and communication, and innovative business practices, which all affect the way doctors interact with their patients. These changes cannot be at the expense of the values and ethos that we hold as important in the practice of good medicine. SMA continues to be actively engaged in advocating for the best healthcare system for Singapore, for the benefit of both doctors and patients.

One of our efforts involved working with the other Professional Bodies (PBs) – the Academy of Medicine Singapore (AMS) and the College of Family Physicians Singapore (CFPS). The entire medical profession has

shown great unity amid the challenges of the past year, particularly the three PBs, which displayed remarkable solidarity and collegiality. On different occasions, we came together to discuss issues at hand, for instance business practices involving third-party administrators (TPAs), then returned to our respective councils to seek consensus and membership support.

In January 2017, the 2016 Singapore Medical Council (SMC) Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines (ECEG) came into force, except for one clause. In a separate letter, SMC gave practitioners until 1 July 2017 to comply with Guideline H3(7), which prohibits doctors from paying TPAs “fees that are based primarily on the services the doctors provide”. This clause was to address the problem of fee splitting in the market, which was

tarnishing the professional image of doctors. The date extension allowed doctors time to look into their terms of contract and modify or exit existing arrangements with TPAs so as not to breach this clause.

SMA, together with CFPS and AMS, held several rounds of meetings with the Ministry of Health (MOH) and SMC. After receiving feedback from members, we met with insurance companies and TPAs on 16 March 2017 in a joint session. The three PBs recommended that in order to comply with the ECEG, TPA contracts should adopt a fixed administrative fee that can be tiered (based on the complexity of the administrative process and for cost recovery for running the scheme) and that the previous percentage calculation should be dropped. We followed up with a joint advisory on

11 April 2017, stating that doctors should not commit to contracts with percentage fees.

The three PBs worked hard over the following months to answer a flood of inquiries from practitioners and TPAs, and to help them comply with the new requirements. We are pleased to note that industry players took active steps to review and change their terms of contracts and financial arrangements, so that medical fees are now more transparent to patients.

OUR FUTURE DOCTORS

SMA continues to support the future of our profession. In 2017, we met with student leaders and the wider student bodies on numerous occasions, organised the first SMA National Medical Students’ Convention with students of the three medical schools, and supported some of their community projects and medical students in financial difficulty. This allows their journey in medicine to be guided by the generations of doctors before them, so that values can be passed on to the future generation of doctors.

Singapore has more than 13,000 registered doctors as of 31 December 2016. This number has grown from ten years ago, when there were a total of 7,400 doctors registered to practise in Singapore and only one medical school.

The medical profession continues to be highly regarded, with some of our brightest talents choosing to study medicine either locally or in overseas universities recognised by the SMC. Students being admitted to the medical profession are also increasingly diverse, coming from different backgrounds. *The Straits Times* has reported that more polytechnic students are securing places in medical schools at National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University.

At the same time, tuition fees for a medical degree have been rising. For Singapore citizens, they

are up to four times more than for a non-medical degree, ranging from \$127,000 to \$172,200 over five years. The SMA Charity Fund (SMACF) continues to ensure that medical students from low-income families are given some relief from the financial burden of medical education. Last year, we awarded bursaries and financial assistance to needy medical students from all three medical schools. SMACF has disbursed more than \$1 million in financial bursaries to medical students from needy families since 2013, some of whom have a per capita income of less than \$1,000 per month.

OLD GUIDELINE, NEW BENCHMARKS

Rising healthcare costs in Singapore is a concern for SMA, and we continue to work with different stakeholders to conceptualise solutions that could keep healthcare costs affordable for those who need them.

SMA has always maintained that a guideline for doctors’ charges is in the best interests of society because of information asymmetry and to protect patients, who are more vulnerable when ill. Patients may not have the ability to make comparisons, especially if they need specialist care, and a doctor’s fee is usually not the most important factor on the patient’s mind when making a choice. A fee guideline is one way to keep prices transparent and fair. SMA’s Guideline on Fees was withdrawn in April 2007 on the advice of our lawyers that it might be deemed anti-competitive by the Competition Commission of Singapore, shortly after the Competition Act came into effect in 2006.

In October 2016, the Health Insurance Task Force published recommendations on the management of health insurance costs in Singapore. These included the need for medical fee benchmarks or guidelines, “to address the issue of information asymmetry by providing stakeholders access to information

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on appropriate charges” and “to mitigate cases of overcharging”.

SMA continued to engage stakeholders and met separately with the Life Insurance Association Singapore as well as the MOH Finance Division, supporting the reintroduction of a fee guideline in some form. In November 2017, the Health Minister announced that the MOH intended to introduce professional fee benchmarks in 2018. With a benchmark in place, doctors will once again have a guide for their fees, and this will provide more transparency for patients and the public. SMA will provide representation in the fee benchmark committee, which will be one main focus of our work in the coming years.

Once again, it was my privilege to serve the profession and this Association as your President. The work of the Association is important and its influence on society is not insignificant. We seek your strong, continued mandate and membership as we help our doctors to provide the best for their patients in 2018 and beyond.

Dr Wong Tien Hua
President

From left to right:

Adj Prof Tan Sze Wee
2nd Vice President

Dr Wong Tien Hua
President

Dr Tan Tze Lee
1st Vice President



HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

2017 has been a fruitful year for SMA as we sought to better serve our members and support our patients with the help of our secretariat.



From left to right:

**Dr Anantham
Devanand**
Assistant Honorary
Secretary
Dr Lim Kheng Choon
Honorary Secretary

FOR PATIENTS

As a profession, it is important to speak up on behalf of our patients to protect their autonomy. MOH recently announced its intention to replace the current Private Hospitals and Medical Clinics Act with the new Healthcare Services Bill (HCS Bill), targeted for enactment in 2019. The HCS Bill will regulate not only mainstream healthcare services providers, but also non-premises-based providers such as telemedicine service providers. We encourage our members to be familiar with the changes and to provide feedback via MOH channels. SMA has communicated our concern that the proposed format of implementation would result in loss of patient privacy and thus patient autonomy, as it does not allow the patient to choose to exclude details of visits to healthcare institutions from the National Electronic Health Record database. We are happy to know that MOH has changed its position concerning this matter.

To support vulnerable patients, the SMA Centre for Medical Ethics and Professionalism (CMEP), together with the Office of the Public Guardian, developed an online learning programme to help our doctors assess the mental capacity of persons with intellectual disabilities (PWIDs). We hope to develop a comprehensive report that will assist in the future care of PWIDs by the court-appointed deputy and caregivers.

OUR SECRETARIAT

Many of SMA's achievements would not be possible without the leadership of Dr Lee Yik Voon (Executive Director) and Mr Martin Ho (Chief Administrator), and our tireless secretariat. It gives me great pleasure to introduce four of them in this annual report (see page 24).

Dr Lim Kheng Choon
Honorary Secretary

the current practice environment and be ready to provide feedback when the Medical Registration Act or SMC processes come under review.

For our membership, we initiated new benefits to support your practice of good medicine. The SMA Clinic Assistant Train and Place Programme trained more than 100 mostly unemployed persons in basic clinic assistant skills and knowledge. More than half of them have been successfully placed in our members' clinics. Future plans include developing an intermediate course so that clinic assistants can continue to develop while adding value to your medical practice. Another new initiative is the SMA eMarket, an online marketplace portal that aims to improve the procurement process for the medical profession. It was designed with feedback from SMA members to help them find solutions to support their practice needs. With one set of login information, members can now access their membership portal and the SMA eMarket.

FOR DOCTORS

Recognising the rapidity of new advances, SMA devoted resources and publicity in 2017 to educating our membership about the influx of technology and its impact. We held a three-day Singapore Medical Week and FutureMed 2017 Conference and Expo, where we were privileged to hear from many distinguished speakers on topics ranging from the patient-centred medical home to big data. Technology will continue to change the delivery of healthcare, and we hope that through these avenues, you will be better prepared to manage your professional practice.

On the medico-legal front, we showcased articles in *SMA News* educating members about the modified Montgomery test for medical negligence when providing medical advice. In his September 2017 column, SMA's President wrote about the SMC disciplinary process following high-profile cases of disciplinary action against doctors. We encourage you to read these articles to familiarise yourself with

HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

Today, we operate in a world of unprecedented change at an accelerated pace. This phenomenon has affected every aspect of the business environment, and SMA is not immune to its effects. In response, we have actively reinvented ourselves in the past year to remain relevant and thriving in this fast-changing environment.

At the start of the financial year, we had projected a reduced service fee income due to a change in indemnity provider for public sector doctors. To counter this income reduction, we proactively took steps to seek out new sources of revenue and to add value to our membership. I wish to thank Dr Tammy Chan and her Future Finance Workgroup for actively exploring various possibilities to ensure financial sustainability for the long term. The Workgroup's recommendations resulted in robust discussions during the Council Retreat in April 2017.

Since then, we have launched the SMA eMarket and implemented complimentary access to SMJ's continuing medical education (CME) quizzes for members, and reviewed the course fees of SMA CMEP courses, among other initiatives. We will continue to seek out new projects that are within our areas of expertise as we work toward

transforming the Association and improving its financial management.

As alluded to in the 2016 annual report, we aimed to breakeven in 2017, since the various new initiatives will take time to produce positive returns. However, we are pleased to announce that the SMA Group was able to close the year with a surplus of \$314,594 with an accumulated fund of \$7,790,480.

The better-than-expected surplus is mainly due to the astute decisions made by our investment committee, headed by Chairman, Adj Prof Tan Sze Wee, who is also the Executive Director of Singapore Medical Association Pte Ltd. Since the inception of our investments with UBS AG in July 2008, we have achieved an annualised return of investment of 3.78%, in line with our longer-term goal of providing a reasonable return on investment in a low-risk portfolio. We are grateful to the in-

vestment committee, under the able leadership of Adj Prof Tan, for their hard work and well-timed decisions.

In terms of expenses, we continued to find ways to manage our costs and increase our productivity. For instance, we upgraded our online systems to move traditionally manual processes to the online space. Members can now retrieve their invoices and receipts and make payment online with their credit cards. This has enhanced our efficiency, reduced costs and enabled us to focus on augmenting our services to members. In 2018, we foresee a possible change in our rental expenses, as our lease at 2 College Road, Alumni Medical Centre will expire in August 2018. Chair of the Property Committee Dr Daniel Lee, together with fellow tenants Singapore Dental Association and Pharmaceutical Society of Singapore, is currently leading the discussions with our landlord Alumni Association.

Finally, I would like to thank our members for your fervent support over the years. Your membership subscription not only contributes to the financial sustainability of the Association, but also affects our representation as a professional body. The larger the representation, the stronger the impact SMA will have on Singapore's healthcare environment. Therefore, I urge members – renew your annual subscriptions promptly, and encourage your peers, spouse and friends who are not part of SMA to close ranks with us in shaping the Singapore healthcare landscape. We can do more when we stand together. More information about our financial status and the audited financial statements can be found on our website. We will be glad to receive any suggestions that would support the financial sustainability of the Association in the long run.



From left to right:

Dr Ng Chee Kwan
Assistant Honorary
Treasurer
Dr Benny Loo Kai Guo
Honorary Treasurer

Dr Benny Loo Kai Guo
Honorary Treasurer

KEY STATISTICS IN 2017

8,474
SMA
Members

General Practitioner/
Family Physician
28%

Specialist
30%

Medical Student
31%

House Officer/
Medical Officer
11%

5 out of **10**
SMA Members
are from the public sector

16 Sensory Interest
Groups

22
Membership
events

1,903
Participants

210 Bursaries
awarded by SMA
Charity Fund since
2013

> \$1 million
Disbursed to needy
medical students since 2013

76
Courses

5,733
Participants

\$90,946
Course subsidies
for SMA members

39
CME
events

Up to
98
CME points per year

Cited by Media

25

8 Policy
submissions

3 Advisories
issued

8 Media
statements

Key government
meetings

20

6
International
meetings

KEY FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

GROUP STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE



INCOME

Subscriptions



Commissions



Rebates



Courses and Events



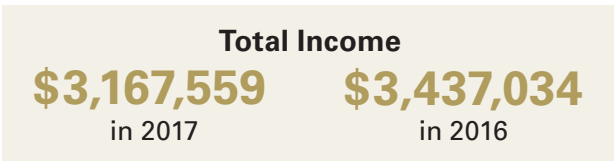
Investments



Publications



Others



EXPENDITURE

Administrative and Operating Expenses



Courses and Events



Publications

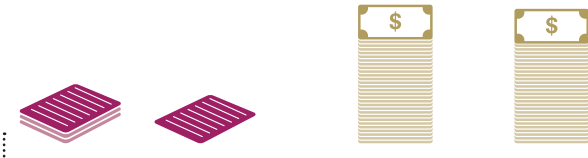


Staff and Related Expenses



GROUP STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS



FUNDS AND LIABILITIES

Total funds



Current liabilities



OUR MEMBERS, OUR STRENGTH



Whether it's drafting a letter to the Ministry or stating our position in a press release, meeting with student leaders to address their concerns, mediating between a doctor and an irate patient, or organising a seminar, lecture or soccer tournament – our members are at the heart of what we do. Since 1959, the aim of SMA has remained unwavering – to maintain the honour of the medical profession and represent its interests, as well as advocate the overall well-being of patients in Singapore.

SMA's 8,474-strong membership comprises medical students, residents, practising doctors and retired doctors. From the moment a cohort of aspiring doctors steps into medical school, through the different stages of their medical training and

progression from junior to senior doctors till retirement, SMA has been there, steadfastly supporting our members. We engage government agencies and professional bodies to advocate doctors' rights and that of their patients, provide thought leadership through involvement in committees that effect policy changes, aid our members in continuing medical education and professional development, as well as provide avenues for members to network and tools to enhance their medical practice.

In the following pages, we outline the impact of our work across the membership, as well as among doctors in training and physicians practising in both the public and private sectors.

Since 1959, the aim of SMA has remained unwavering – to maintain the honour of the medical profession and represent its interests, as well as advocate the overall well-being of patients in Singapore.



LEADERSHIP & ADVOCACY

In 2017, we played an active role in advancing our positions on issues that affect our members and Singapore healthcare. Our advocacy work aims to provide a voice for the profession, effect change for doctors and patients, as well as shape a more inclusive and collaborative healthcare environment. We do this by speaking out on issues that matter to doctors and patients – in our publications, in the media and government meetings, and through formal channels such as workgroups, advisory committees and task forces.

ADVOCACY SNAPSHOT

COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

CLARIFICATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

- ▶ We conveyed members’ feedback and concerns to the MOH and SMC regarding High Court and SMC disciplinary tribunal cases, specifically one involving a senior paediatrician who failed to diagnose a child with Kawasaki disease.
- ▶ In the September issue President’s Forum in *SMA News*, Dr Wong Tien Hua raised members’ concerns, provided a flow-chart showing the SMC complaints process and suggested recommendations to improve the disciplinary process.

MEDICAL INDEMNITY

NEGOTIATIONS WITH INDEMNITY PROVIDERS

- ▶ We successfully negotiated with the Medical Protection Society (MPS) for concessions to reduce the impact of classification changes, which resulted in fewer doctors having to pay a higher subscription rate.
- ▶ We also proposed ways to ensure that public sector doctors have a smooth transition of indemnity providers from MPS to Jardine Lloyd Thompson.

MANAGED CARE

GUIDANCE ON MAINTAINING ETHICAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH MANAGED CARE COMPANIES

- ▶ On 11 April 2017, SMA, Academy of Medicine Singapore and College of Family Physicians Singapore issued a joint advisory, to provide guidance on compliance with SMC’s Guideline H3(7) of the 2016 Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines.
- ▶ On 23 June 2017, the three professional bodies issued a further joint advisory to guide members who were faced with amended contracts issued by managed care/third-party administrator (TPA) companies on whether the contracts were in compliance with SMC’s latest advisory.
- ▶ We maintain ongoing conversations with TPA companies to work toward more ethical arrangements.

HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENTS (HTAs)

FEEDBACK ON FEASIBILITY

- ▶ We met with the Agency for Care Effectiveness to highlight potential challenges faced by doctors and provided feedback relating to HTAs, so that such assessments will be cost-effective and feasible for doctors on the ground.

PROFESSIONAL FEES

REMINDER ON REMUNERATION FOR PROFESSIONAL WORK

- ▶ SMA wrote to the General Insurance Association of Singapore and Life Insurance Association Singapore, copied to the Monetary Authority of Singapore, highlighting feedback from members that some patients were informed by their financial advisors/insurance agents that the completion of insurance forms and drafting of medical reports were not chargeable. We reiterated that these professional services involve time and professional input from doctors, and are therefore chargeable.

PROFIT GUARANTEES

CAUTIONARY ADVICE ON ETHICAL ISSUES RELATING TO PROFIT GUARANTEES

- ▶ In a *Business Times* article on 25 April 2017, SMA warned that the financial imperative imposed by profit guarantees is incompatible with the SMC Physician’s Pledge and other ethical principles.
- ▶ Subsequently, we noted that some companies have removed the term from their proposed mergers and acquisitions documentation.

MOH PRIMARY CARE SURVEY

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE SURVEYS

- ▶ At a meeting with MOH representatives on 10 October 2017, SMA recommended that more financial data be presented in future editions of the MOH Primary
- Care Survey. This was in response to concerns of financial sustainability faced by members running their own practices.

DRUG SHORTAGE

CLARIFICATION ON SHORTAGE OF TETANUS TOXOID (TT) VACCINE

- ▶ On behalf of members who were unable to acquire the TT vaccine, SMA sought clarifications from MOH regarding the situation.
- ▶ Subsequently, MOH confirmed the presence of a global shortage and provided alternative solutions to the problem.

SALARY AND LOCUM PAYMENT

FEEDBACK ON DELAYS

- ▶ SMA spoke up regarding delays in payment of salaries to doctors and locums by a healthcare group during a meeting with Senior Minister of State for Health Dr Lam Pin Min.
- ▶ The Ministry of Manpower subsequently responded in media reports that it would take the appropriate action.

DOCTORS IN TRAINING (DITs)

CLARIFICATION ON FUTURE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR DITs

- ▶ Based on information and feedback from the ground about the evolving training landscape, the SMA DIT Committee sought clarifications from MOH on potential
- changes to the current residency programme to train more generalist doctors and on the number of available specialist positions. We await MOH’s reply on this.

SUBMISSIONS & ENGAGEMENT

We actively engage with policymakers, government bodies, other professional bodies and the media, to help ensure that the views of our profession are well represented. In 2017, we made 8 submissions to government bodies across a range of healthcare-related topics; participated in 20 key government meetings; issued 3 advisories; and responded to 8 media enquiries.



Policy submissions



Key government meetings



Media Statements



Advisories issued

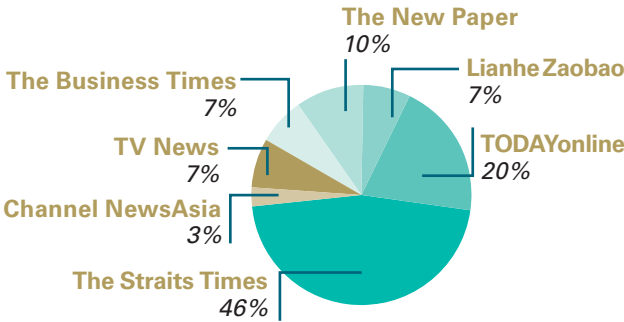
I’ve been serving as SMA’s representative to the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) (Healthcare) Committee since April 2014. Volunteering in the committee allows me to provide both SMA’s and a private practice perspective to the WSH Council. SMA’s involvement also allows us to gain valuable insights into workplace safety trends and survey results, enabling us to implement educational activities to inform and update our members. We all have busy jobs, families and numerous obligations – saying ‘no’ to volunteerism 80% of the time is probably understandable; for the other 20%, I urge my fellow colleagues to consider saying ‘yes’ to SMA and other professional medical bodies!



DR WONG SIN YEW
MOM WSH (Healthcare) Committee

MEDIA CITATIONS

SMA represents the unified voice of the profession on issues that impact doctors and patients. In 2017, the local media highlighted a number of our official positions and recommendations on important matters, such as ethical issues related to profit guarantees, patient’s privacy and confidentiality, and guidelines on doctor’s fee, sparking active discourse and heightening awareness of these issues.



SMA: PROFIT GUARANTEES PROHIBITED UNDER MEDICAL ETHICS GUIDELINES

The Business Times, 25 April 2017

SMA president Wong Tien Hua said the Association hopes all medical professionals involved in buying and selling of medical practices will adhere strictly to the handbook of medical ethics currently in force.

MOH TO INTRODUCE BENCHMARKS FOR FEES CHARGED BY DOCTORS FROM 2018 – A DECADE AFTER THEY WERE WITHDRAWN

The Straits Times, 30 November 2017

Dr Wong Tien Hua, President of the SMA, said: “Our position has always been that a fee guideline is useful for both doctors and the public... They (the benchmarks) must be robust... Other equally important initiatives would include reviewing hospital charges, educating the public and insurance product redesign.”

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION

We recognise that lifelong learning is an integral part of our members’ professional development. In 2017, we continued to expand our educational offering to include a broad range of medical-, ethics- and practice-related content, as well as continuing medical education (CME) programmes, to help you stay ahead of developments in medicine. For members who are clinician-scientists, we have waived the processing fee for your article submission to the *Singapore Medical Journal (SMJ)*, providing an avenue for your research to be published expediently.

SMA CENTRE FOR MEDICAL ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM (CMEP)

SMA CMEP was founded in June 2000 to develop and promote the art and science of medical ethics and medical care for the betterment of patient care and public health, in supporting a strong doctor-patient relationship. It aims to provide a platform for lifelong learning in the areas of Medical Ethics, Professionalism, Health Law and Medical Practice; and leadership in areas of academic training, discussion and research. The SMA CMEP teaching faculty consists of not only doctors, but also lawyers who are experienced in Singapore’s health law.

MENTAL CAPACITY ASSESSMENTS FOR PWIDs

With funding from the Ministry of Social and Family Development, SMA CMEP developed a learning module and assessment tool to aid doctors in assessing the mental capacity of persons with intellectual disabilities (PWIDs). Due to the lack of knowledge of PWIDs among doctors and proper tools for assessing the mental capacity of PWIDs, CMEP has stepped in to fill a much-needed gap, in hopes that more doctors will be equipped to help this group of vulnerable patients in the long run.

MEDICAL EXPERT WITNESS TRAINING

In 2017, SMA CMEP in collaboration with Academy of Medicine Singapore, Law Society of Singapore, Singapore Academy of Law and the State Courts held its third run of the Medical Expert Witness Training. The objective of the course was to equip medical practitioners with the legal knowledge and skills required to prepare medical expert reports and gain confidence in giving oral expert evidence in court proceedings. The course not only provided training for doctors, but also allowed lawyers in training to participate in cross-examinations in court. We hope this course will create greater understanding of court proceedings, as well as increase the pool of medical expert witnesses.

SMA CMEP Teaching Faculty	
Prof Kumaralingam Amirthalingam	Dr Habeebul Rahman
Ms Rebecca Chew	Dr Hairil Rizal Abdullah
Mr Christopher Chong	Dr Seow Wan Tew
Mr Edmund Kronenburg	Dr Leslie Tay
Ms Kuah Boon Theng	A/Prof Cuthbert Teo
Dr Daniel Kwek	Mr Tham Hsu Hsien
Clinical Prof Gilbert Lau	Mr Eric Tin
Adj A/Prof Lee See Muah	Dr Luke Toh
Mr Lek Siang Pheng	Mr Edwin Tong
Dr Peter Loke	Adj Asst Prof Vishalkumar G Shelat
Ms Mak Wei Munn	A/Prof Jason Yap
Dr Albert Myint Soe	

Volunteering as an SMA CMEP faculty member has been an invaluable opportunity for me to pursue my interest in the field of medical ethics and professionalism under the tutelage of Dr T Thirumoorthy, who has mentored me through the years. It has deepened my understanding through interaction with other learned faculty members and participants who raised questions during the teaching sessions, and enabled me to align

my clinical practice with best practices. Teachers learn most from teaching, as they have to continually be clear in their understanding and current in their knowledge. It has been a most enriching journey.

DR LUKE TOH
SMA CMEP
Faculty Member



SMA representatives, Dr Chong Yeh Woei (seated, 4th from right) and Dr Bertha Woon (2nd row, 3rd from right) at the CMAAO General Assembly, Tokyo

MEDICAL ETHICS, PROFESSIONALISM AND HEALTH LAW COURSE

This is a two-and-a-half-day mandatory course, which commenced in 2004, for doctors who are exiting their specialist training to become consultants. The aim of this course is multifold: to prepare exiting doctors to lead clinical teams with independent medical and ethical decision-making; to equip them to assume leadership in professional and clinical governance; and for medical education. Through the years, we have made numerous changes to the curriculum to keep up with the changing healthcare landscape and education content in medical school.

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

In 2017, we organised 39 CME activities that provided up to 98 CME points for our members. These CME activities consisted of not only on-site courses with multiple runs annually, but also online distance-learning programmes to enable clinicians to continue learning amid their busy schedules.

SMA CME Activities in 2017	No. of events	CME points
SMA CMEP Courses	11	38
Medical Practice Management Workshops	3	6
Medical Protection Society Workshops	7	14
Cardiac Life Support Training – BCLS and CPR + AED	2	4
FutureMed & SMA National Medical Convention	3	10
SMA Lecture	1	2
SMJ Category 3B distance-learning programme	12	24
Total	39	98*

*The total number of CME points a member could receive if he/she had participated in all the CME events in 2017.



SMA seminars equip doctors with a range of professional skills and knowledge

SINGAPORE MEDICAL WEEK 2017

Singapore Medical Week 2017, which took place from 24 to 26 August 2017 at the Sands Expo and Convention Centre, is SMA’s first ever all-in-one event comprising FutureMed 2017, an international medical and technology conference and expo; the 47th SMA National Medical Convention;

and the 1st SMA National Medical Students’ Convention. The three-day event, attracting more than 1,800 visitors, aimed to be the focal point for stakeholders in Singapore’s healthcare industry, to facilitate critical discussions on vital topics of current importance and to forecast future health trends, unique ideas and new innovations.

SMA LECTURE

The SMA Lecture was instituted in 1963 to establish an annual lecture on medical ethics and related topics. SMA Lecturers are appointed on invitation of the SMA Council and the Lectureship is awarded to eminent and distinguished persons who have made significant contributions to medicine and the community. Through the years, the scope of the Lecture has broadened to include current issues that have significant impact on the practice of medicine and the medical profession. We highly encourage our members to be part of this notable annual event. In 2017, Dr Loo Choon Yong, Executive Chairman and Co-founder of Raffles Medical Group, delivered the SMA Lecture titled ‘Internationalising Singapore Healthcare’ in which he posited that sustainable, synergistic collaborations among the Government and Singapore healthcare players are necessary to avert the threat to Singapore’s status as a regional healthcare hub.

PRIVATE PRACTICE SEMINARS

Knowing the many challenges that our members in private practice face to run a thriving and sustainable business, we have created a suite of seminars tailored to equip private practitioners with important professional skills to manage their practice. Over the years, we have responded swiftly to changes in current events and industry requirements by updating our course materials to increase their relevance to members. For instance, in 2017 we included a CorpPass segment in our Tax Seminar and a media management segment in our Risk Management Seminar, in response to changes in government regulations and increasing media exposure among the profession.

Over the years, I have attended many professional development courses organised by SMA, and I have thoroughly enjoyed them, as they are well organised, informative and practical. The recent seminar on mental capacity assessment for PWIDs was very useful, as we now see more patients requiring such assessments. The basic health law and medicolegal seminars were an eye opener for me, and I have learnt a lot from the legal experts. The MPS talks have taught me to practise good medical documentation, and the practical advice dished out by the experts and the case studies have added much to my understanding. Plus, the CME points are definitely a bonus!

DR PUSHPARANEE
SMA Member

SMA PUBLICATIONS

A commitment to continual learning is part of the professionalism that comes with being a medical doctor. SMA Publications – comprising our two monthly flagship publications, *SMJ* and *SMA News* – serve to provide members with access to both current scientific contents and a broad range of topics that matter to doctors.

SMA NEWS

In the words of novelist and playwright Edward Bulwer-Lytton, “The pen is mightier than the sword” – *SMA News* is a newsletter written by doctors, for doctors, and is an important platform for SMA to provide thought leadership and speak up on key issues that affect both doctors and patients. In 2017, we published numerous pieces that addressed current and pertinent issues affecting Singapore healthcare, including discussions on electronic medical records and its impact on patient privacy and confidentiality; the legal and ethical implications of treating and issuing medical certificates to migrant workers; the new modified Montgomery test for medical advice; and SMC disciplinary processes, as well as joint advisories on fees paid to managed care and third-party administrator companies, to name a few.

We encourage a spirit of free discussion and exchange of ideas, in the hope that this will spark a movement for change and improvement in the management of patients and the practice of medicine, and inspire work-life balance and collegiality among doctors. Therefore, we encourage members to not only *read SMA News*, but also actively *contribute* to discussions by submitting opinion pieces, commentaries, reflections and inspirational stories to us. We welcome your contributions in 2018!

SINGAPORE MEDICAL JOURNAL

SMJ has been an open-access journal since its inception in 1959, because we recognise that broad access to research results is an essential component of lifelong learning. We provide access to information-rich literature in the form of scientific research papers, distance-learning CME articles, as well as insightful discussions on disease management, practice guidelines, medicolegal issues and others.

In 2017, we were pleased to see a slight increase in our journal impact factor and an improvement in our overall manuscript turnaround time. Our manuscript submission load remained reasonably high, with a good mix of papers from Singapore and around the region. We also introduced some new initiatives, such as allowing authors to submit their ORCID, a unique identifier that helps to distinguish an author from other researchers. We also have plans to implement Crossref Cited-by, a function that informs authors when their work is being cited in other content.

In July 2017, we implemented a nominal access fee for the monthly CME quizzes but waived this fee for members



to encourage continual learning. To promote the sharing of knowledge and research results within the medical community, members continue to enjoy waiver of the article processing fee when you submit your scientific papers to be considered for publication. These privileges are exclusively for members only, so we strongly urge you to make full use of them for your continual education and publication.

A journal’s success can only be achieved at an incremental pace through many years of industry and persistence. The present and future achievement of *SMJ* must certainly be celebrated as a collective effort of all past and present editors, editorial boards and reviewers. We hope to continue building on our successes to make *SMJ* a journal of choice for members and doctors in the region.

Some years ago, my friend and colleague Dr Toh Han Chong suggested that I contribute my little vignettes to *SMA News*. Before then, I had only sent these stories to my close friends. The *SMA News* editors seemed to find them publication worthy and I’ve been contributing my stories ever since. Like Anais Nin once said, “We write to taste life twice, in the moment and in retrospect.” I think we all have stories to share. It has been a privilege to share mine.



DR TAN SU-MING
SMA Member

MEMBER CARE & ENGAGEMENT

In 2017, we continued to develop and refine initiatives and resources to improve the practice environment for all doctors, from medical students to senior doctors. We aimed to support your professional and personal interests, keeping in mind that collegiality among members of the profession is crucial for the future of Singapore healthcare.

NURTURING THE NEXT GENERATION

We see the importance of nurturing the next generation of doctors who are undergoing training. A deeper understanding of the healthcare landscape can strengthen one's future practice and our future healthcare system. That is why SMA's membership subscription fees for medical students are complimentary, while doctors in training (DITs) get a discount based on their year of graduation.

One of our efforts in 2017 was organising numerous talks and networking sessions for local and overseas medical students. These became platforms for students to share their perspectives and learn from challenges their seniors faced, which is key to the continual growth of the profession. The inaugural SMA National Medical Students' Convention – held in conjunction with Singapore Medical Week 2017 – was the product of months of planning, both among Singapore's three medical schools and across generations of medical student leaders. The convention was a great success, bringing together more than 170 medical students from all three schools. Young doctors had an opportunity to connect with one another and senior doctors in the profession,

such as Director of Medical Services A/Prof Benjamin Ong from the MOH, and Emeritus Consultant Prof Low Cheng Hock and Dr Kumaran Rasappan from Tan Tock Seng Hospital.

Being a part of the SMA family has given me many opportunities to serve and advance our professional community. I started as an SMA student member in 2013. In 2017, I had the opportunity to organise SMA's first convention for medical students from the three medical schools. More than 170 medical students gathered to hear from and exchange views with established doctors. Such learning experiences are invaluable in broadening our personal and professional skills, and I'm grateful to have joined SMA.

MR IVAN LOW
Chairperson, SMA
National Medical
Students' Convention 2017



Medical student leaders with Minister for Health Mr Gan Kim Yong and Dr Wong Tien Hua at the SMA Annual Dinner

We continued to discuss matters that will affect the future practice of junior doctors. Our SMA DIT Committee engaged residency committee representatives from the three sponsoring institutions and other junior doctors of the profession on a quarterly basis, discussing topics such as types of training opportunities and manpower needs in an ever-changing healthcare landscape. The Association and its committees hope to maintain the collaborative nature of our advocacy work, as resolving our challenges swiftly and amicably benefits all parties in the industry.

In addition, we provided a variety of academic resources and financial support for SMA members who were DITs. Graduates who converted their complimentary Student Membership to Ordinary Membership upon graduation received a membership conversion pack, with a digital copy of the SMA House Officer's Handbook containing tips on housemanship. We also disbursed financial aid; the SMA-Lee Foundation Awards rewarded exemplary achievements by Duke-NUS Medical School students, while the SMA Medical Students' Assistance Fund supported over 230 underprivileged medical students from all three medical schools.

UNITING THE PROFESSION

Recognising that today's healthcare sector relies heavily on team-based dynamics, SMA encourages interaction and networking across generations of doctors through our social activities and groups. In 2017, we held the SMA Annual Dinner, Members' Appreciation Nite, Inter-Hospital Soccer Tournament and Tag Heuer Watch Appreciation Networking Event, bringing together DITs, senior doctors and SMA's partners to promote collegiality and camaraderie through good food and wine, an entertaining movie premiere screening, friendly competition on the pitch and appreciation of timepieces, respectively. The number of Sensory Interest Groups

(SIGs) that we support increased to 16 with the inclusion of the SMA Women's Soccer team, led by Dr Priyanka Rajendram. Our members can now pursue another sporting interest with their colleagues. We hope that the SMA Women's Soccer team, along with the other SIGs, will have a chance to represent the Association and emerge victorious at the 2018 Inter-Professional Games.

With the increasing workload, we are aware that many doctors may have trouble keeping up with professional matters. Hence, we have tried our best to disseminate information about matters that impact you and your practice through our various platforms, such as the SMA website, email mailers and our Facebook group. Some topics that came up in 2017 included issues related to managed care, the MOH Private Hospitals and Medical Clinics Act's regulation survey, and ways in which members can meet the CME point requirements before the mass practising certificate renewal in 2017.



Watch appreciation and networking session

SMA has been an integral part of my journey in medicine since I became one of the first SMA student members. I converted to ordinary member in 2007 and have always thought my subscription is well worth it, because I am supporting an organisation that speaks up for doctors and represents our profession without fear or favour. I'm now part of SMA's DIT Committee, representing junior doctors on a wide variety of issues from night calls to residency matters. DITs face much stress and uncertainty amid the seismic changes in postgraduate medical education over the past decade. Our committee has representation from all the hospitals and has firsthand information from junior doctors on training conditions and other matters – DITs serving DITs!

DR NG CHEW LIP
Member, SMA DIT Committee



SUPPORTING DOCTORS

In a 2016 SMA membership survey, most of the respondents said they were interested in hiring healthcare personnel who underwent our clinic assistant training course. After the launch of the SMA Clinic Assistant Train and Place Programme in November 2016, we continued our efforts to provide good, efficient support staff for your clinics through employability camps, work trials and an introductory skills course. Thanks to our collaborations with doctors, clinic managers, course graduates and our partner, the Employment and Employability Institute (e2i), we have trained 103 clinic assistants over a one-year period and successfully placed more than 50% of them in clinics.

The SMA eMarket portal was also born in 2017. We embarked on its development after more than 60% of our members expressed interest in a central e-procurement platform for medical supplies in the 2016 survey. It is now accessible through your online membership portal and allows you and your clinic staff to place and track orders with various suppliers more efficiently, in real time. Close to 1,000 members have explored the SMA eMarket for the latest medical devices and market rates, and many have made successful transactions since its launch in October through various promotional campaigns run by our suppliers and SMA.



ETHICS CONSULTATION

The healthcare landscape is constantly evolving and we understand the challenges that members may face in their medical practice. Members have sought advice from the SMA Council and SMA Ethics Committee on ethical problems that they encountered in their practice.

IN 2017, SIX ETHICS QUERIES WERE RECEIVED FROM MEMBERS

Prescribing medication for self or family members

Managed healthcare contracts with third party agents

Recording of medical consultation

Conflict of interest

Professional fees for input and attendance of legal proceedings

Ownership of medical records

MEMBERSHIP TALLY

	2017	2016	2015
Total no. of members (at start of year)	7,928	7,361	7,058
Add			
No. of new members	781	783	742
Less			
No. of resignations/deceased/expiry of student membership	140	131	327
No. struck off in arrears	95	85	112
Total no. of members (at end of year)	8,474	7,928	7,361

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Category	2017	2016	2015
Honorary Members	26	25	23
Ordinary Members	4,066	4,006	3,952
Overseas Members*	26	27	29
Spouse Members	329	313	295
Life Members	1,404	1,291	1,223
Student Members*	2,623	2,264	1,839

■ 2017 ■ 2016 ■ 2015
*Non-voting members

OUR PATIENTS,
OUR PRIORITY
PATIENT EDUCATION & ADVOCACY

We recognise that a good doctor-patient relationship is fundamental to the practice of medicine. Part of our role as a medical association is to speak up for the rights of patients, empower them to make informed decisions concerning their health, as well as educate through public talks and the media. In 2017, we focused our attention on several key events.

ADVOCATING FOR PATIENT PRIVACY RIGHTS

The National Electronic Health Record (NEHR) system has been an issue closely followed by SMA since its inception. On realisation that the medical records of patients who opt out of the NEHR would still reside in the NEHR, SMA highlighted to MOH our concerns about patient privacy, including the right of patients to be left alone and to make decisions about how personal information is shared; the need for doctors to respect patients' right to privacy and dignity, as stipulated in the SMC Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines; and the right of patients to be given the option to forbid their information from being uploaded to the NEHR. MOH has since amended its stance, acknowledging that some patients prefer not to have their information uploaded to the NEHR. MOH is considering an additional option, where patient records will not be stored in the NEHR.

PROOF OF PATIENT CONSENT

To protect patients' interests, we spoke up on the issue of patient consent for the release of medical reports to third parties. In a letter to the General Insurance Association of Singapore and Life

Insurance Association Singapore, we reminded insurers that proof of patient consent was needed before patients' medical reports can be released to a third party such as an insurance company.

PATIENT EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT

Patient education and empowerment is high on our agenda. In 2017, the SMA National Medical Convention Public Symposium focused on advancements in medical technology in colorectal health, cancer treatments, cardiology and eye care – to help patients make informed decisions concerning their health and treatment options. In March 2017, we had a meeting with Health Promotion Board to discuss possible collaborations in the areas of public and doctor education.

MEDIATION

We believe that not every patient complaint against a doctor needs to be escalated to the SMC, as some issues between the patient and doctor are a result of miscommunication. This is where we step in to mediate by providing a listening ear to the patient and seeking clarifications from the doctor involved, resolving the misunderstanding before the doctor-patient relationship becomes irreparable. We have seen a steady drop in the number of official patient complaints, largely because some patients had withdrawn their complaints after our initial intervention. In 2017, we handled seven patient complaints, a considerable drop from a high of 34 cases in 2012.

MEDICAL ALERT

The Medik Awas programme was started in 1970 with the aim to prevent medical mishaps among members of the public through the issuance of cards and amulets that alert medical and dental personnel of their specific health problems and allergies. In 2017, we issued 180 Medik Awas cards and amulets.

Public education is a key feature of the SMA National Medical Convention

STRONGER TOGETHER

STRONGER TOGETHER

OUR PEOPLE,
OUR ASSETS

58TH SMA COUNCIL 2017/2018

DR WONG TIEN HUA
President

Family physician in private practice
Council member since 2004; SMA
spokesperson
Committee: Administration; Doctors-
in-Training; Singapore Medical Week
2017; SMA Pte Ltd



DR BENNY LOO KAI GUO
Honorary Treasurer

Paediatrician in public practice
Council member since 2014
Committee: Administration; Future
Finance workgroup; Property;
Membership; Doctors-in-Training;
SMA Pte Ltd



DR TAN TZE LEE
1st Vice President

Family physician in private practice
Council member since 2013
Committee: Administration;
Singapore Medical Week 2017; SMA
News Editorial Board; Complaints;
Property



DR NG CHEE KWAN
Honorary Assistant Treasurer

Urologist in private practice
Council member since 2014
Committee: Administration; Private
Practice; Membership; SMA Annual
Dinner 2018



ADJ PROF TAN SZE WEE
2nd Vice President

Director at research agency
Council member since 1996
Committee: Administration;
Singapore Medical Week 2017; SMA
Pte Ltd; SMA Charity Fund



DR TAMMY CHAN
TENG MUI

Family physician in private practice
Council member since 2007
Committee: Future Finance
workgroup; Property; Private
Practice; Medik Awas



DR LIM KHENG CHOON
Honorary Secretary

Diagnostic radiologist in public
practice
Council member since 2013; SMA
spokesperson
Committee: Administration;
Membership; Doctors-in-Training;
Property; SMA Charity Fund; SMA
Pte Ltd



A/PROF CHIN JING JIH

Geriatrician in public practice
Council member since 2002, past
SMA President (2012–2015)
Committee: Property; SMA Pte Ltd,
SMA CMEP



DR ANANTHAM
DEVANAND
Honorary Assistant Secretary

Respiratory and critical care
physician in public practice
Council member since 2014
Committee: Administration;
Complaints; Ethics; SMA CMEP



DR CHONG YEH WOEI

Family physician in private practice
Council member since 1998, past
SMA President (2009–2012)
Committee: Future Finance
workgroup; Property; Private
Practice; Doctors-in-Training;
Membership; SMA Pte Ltd; Fitness
to Drive



DR DANIEL LEE
HSIEN CHIEH

Public health physician in public
sector
Council member since 2012
Committee: Ethics; Property;
Membership



DR CHARLES TAN
TSE KUANG

General surgeon in private practice
Council member since 2016
Committee: Membership; SMA
Annual Dinner 2017; Singapore
Medical Week 2017



DR LEE PHENG SOON

Family physician in private practice
Council member since 1992, past
SMA President (2003–2006)
Committee: Future Finance
workgroup; Professional Indemnity;
SMA Trust Fund



DR TAN YIA SWAM

General surgeon in public practice
Council member since 2007
Committee: SMA News Editorial
Board



DR LEE YIK VOON

Family physician in private practice
Council member since 2006; SMA
Executive Director
Committee: Private Practice; SMA
Pte Ltd



DR TOH CHOON LAI

Orthopaedic surgeon in private
practice
Council member since 2001
Committee: Complaints



DR NOORUL FATHA
AS'ART

Public health physician in Ministry
Council member since 2010
Committee: Ethics; SMA Charity
Fund; SMA Pte Ltd



DR WONG CHIANG YIN

Public health physician in private
sector
Council member since 1995, past
SMA President (2006–2009)
Committee: Future Finance
workgroup; Property; SMA Charity
Fund



A/PROF NIGEL TAN
CHOON KIAT

Neurologist in public practice
Council member since 2014
Committee: Singapore Medical Week
2017



DR BERTHA WOON
YNG YNG

General surgeon in private practice
Council member since 2007
Committee: Professional Indemnity;
SMA CMEP; SMA Pte Ltd



Up to February 2018, a total of 10 council meetings were convened to discuss the business and affairs of the Association.

Name	Attendance*	Name	Attendance*	Name	Attendance*
Dr Wong Tien Hua	10/10	Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui	8/10	A/Prof Nigel Tan Choon Kiat	8/10
Dr Tan Tze Lee	7/10	A/Prof Chin Jing Jih	5/10	Dr Charles Tan Tse Kuang	8/10
Adj Prof Tan Sze Wee	8/10	Dr Chong Yeh Woei	8/10	Dr Tan Yia Swam	3/10
Dr Lim Kheng Choon	8/10	Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh	9/10	Dr Toh Choon Lai	5/10
Dr Anantham Devanand	8/10	Dr Lee Pheng Soon	5/10	Dr Wong Chiang Yin	7/10
Dr Benny Loo Kai Guo	9/10	Dr Lee Yik Voon	10/10	Dr Bertha Woon Yng Yng	9/10
Dr Ng Chee Kwan	8/10	Dr Noorul Fatha As'art	3/10		

*Council members who were absent from council meetings either were overseas or had sent their apologies.

STANDING COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

STANDING COMMITTEES
The President and Honorary Secretary are ex-officios of all committees.

Administration Committee
Dr Wong Tien Hua, Chairperson
Dr Tan Tze Lee, Vice Chairperson
Adj Prof Tan Sze Wee, Vice Chairperson
Dr Lim Kheng Choon
Dr Benny Loo Kai Guo
Dr Anantham Devanand
Dr Ng Chee Kwan

Editorial Board – Singapore Medical Journal
A/Prof Poh Kian Keong, Editor
Adj A/Prof Ang Tiing Leong, Deputy Editor
A/Prof Mahesh Choolani, Deputy Editor
Prof Wilfred CG Peh, Advisor
Prof Teo Eng Kiong, Advisor

Specialty Editors
Dr Daphne Ang Shih Wen
Dr Chan Yiong Huak
Dr Chang Haw Chong (till Dec ‘17)
Dr Chuah Khoon Leong
Prof Fong Kok Yong (till Dec ‘17)
Dr How Choon How
Adj Prof Hsu Pon Poh
Dr William KF Kong
Dr Dave Lee Yee Han (from Jan ‘18)
Dr Lawrence Lee Soon-U
Dr Katy Leung Ying Ying (from Jan ‘18)
Dr Liao Kui Hin
A/Prof Kevin Lim Boon Leong (from Jan ‘18)
Dr Joshua P Loh
Dr Abdul Razakjr Omar
Dr Pwee Keng Ho
Prof Quak Seng Hock
Dr Ramani NV
Adj A/Prof Sim Kang
Dr Sitoh Yih Yian
Dr Benedict Tan Chi Loong
Dr Tan Cher Heng
Prof Kelvin KH Tan
Dr Tan Li Hoon
Prof Tan Puay Hoon
Adj A/Prof Tan Su-Ming
A/Prof Tan Tong Khee (from Jan ‘18)
Dr Darren Tay Keng Jin
A/Prof Samuel Tay Sam Wah
A/Prof Cuthbert Teo Eng Swee
Dr Wong Moh Sim (till Dec ‘17)
Prof Wong Wai Keong

International Corresponding Editors
Prof Jafri Malin Abdullah
A/Prof Judy Wei-Ming Hung
Prof Malai Muttarak
Prof Ng Kwan Hoong
Prof Tan Siang Yong

Editorial Board – SMA News
Dr Tan Yia Swam, Editor
Dr Tina Tan, Deputy Editor
Dr Tan Tze Lee, Deputy Editor
A/Prof Daniel Fung, Advisor

A/Prof Cuthbert Teo, Advisor
A/Prof Toh Han Chong, Advisor
Dr Chie Zhi Ying
Dr Jayant V Iyer
Dr Leong Choon Kit (till Aug ‘17)
Dr Jipson Quah
Dr Jonathan Tan
Dr Jimmy Teo
Dr Alex Wong (from Sep ‘17)

Complaints Committee
Dr Toh Choon Lai, Chairperson
Dr Anantham Devanand, Vice Chairperson
Dr Lim Teck Beng
Dr Lynette Shek Pei-Chi (till Feb ‘17)
Dr Soh Wah Ngee
Dr Tan Tze Lee
Dr Diana Tan Yuen Lan
Dr Allen Wang Aik Loon
Dr Wee Siew Bock
Dr Fabian Yap Kok Peng
Dr Noel Yeo (from Feb ‘17)

Ethics Committee
Dr Anantham Devanand, Chairperson
Dr Noorul Fatha As’art, Vice Chairperson
Ms Kuah Boon Theng
Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh
A/Prof Lim Yean Teng
Dr Andrew Pan Beng Siong
Dr Lawrence Tan Wei Meng
Dr Tham Tat Yean
Dr T Thirumoorthy

Professional Indemnity Committee
Dr Lee Pheng Soon, Chairperson
Dr Bertha Woon Yng Yng, Vice Chairperson

Private Practice Committee
Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui, Chairperson
Dr Ng Chee Kwan, Vice Chairperson
Dr Chong Yeh Woei
Dr Lee Yik Voon

Doctors-in-Training Committee
Dr Benny Loo Kai Guo, Chairperson
Dr Lim Kheng Choon, Vice Chairperson
Dr Chong Yeh Woei, Advisor
Prof Paul Tambyah, Advisor
Dr Wong Tien Hua, Advisor
Dr Cheong Li Anne (from Aug ‘17)
Dr Chin Run Ting (from Dec ‘17)
Dr Cho Jiakai (till Dec ‘17)
Dr Shaun Chook Kah Hean (from Dec ‘17)
Dr Hong Qian Tai (till Dec ‘17)
Dr Sonia Lee Shu Yi (till Apr ‘17)
Dr Joel Lim Hua Liang (from Dec ‘17)
Dr Ng Chew Lip
Dr Lester Ong Wei Lin (till Apr ‘17)
Dr Sim Hui Wen (till Dec ‘17)
Dr Tan Ming Yuan
Dr David Teng Kuan Peng (till Dec ‘17)
Dr Teresa Marie Wong Yun Wah (from Dec ‘17)
Dr Woo Yew Lok (from Aug ‘17)

Membership Committee
Dr Chong Yeh Woei, Chairperson
Dr Lim Kheng Choon, Vice Chairperson
Dr Benny Loo Kai Guo, Vice Chairperson
Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh
Dr Ng Chee Kwan
Dr Charles Tan Tse Kuang

Wine Appreciation Chapter (SIG)
A/Prof Vernon Lee Jian Ming, Chairperson
A/Prof Andrew YH Chin, Vice Chairperson
Dr Chong Yeh Woei, Vice Chairperson
Dr Wong Chiang Yin, Vice Chairperson

Whisky Appreciation Chapter (SIG)
Dr Ganesh Ramalingam, Chairperson
Dr Felix Li Jingxiang, Vice Chairperson

Dance (SIG)
Dr Wong Sin Hee, Chairperson

Sports & Games Committee
Dr Chia Yih Woei, Chairperson

Convenors/Captains (IPG)
Badminton: Dr William Kristanto
Basketball: Dr Colin Teo Kok Ann
Bowling: Dr Valerie Teo / Dr Chiam Chiak Teng
Chess: Dr Jeevarajah Nithiananthan
Cross Country: Dr Foo Gen Lin
Floorball: Dr Tan Hon Lyn
Golf: Dr Gary Chee Hsing
Pool: Dr Alvin Koo
Soccer (Men): Dr William Kristanto
Soccer (Women): Dr Priyanka Rajendram
Squash: Dr Jonathan Pang
Table Tennis: Dr Leow Khang Leng
Tennis: Dr Harold Choi / Dr Julian Theng
Touch Rugby: Dr Robert Ong
Volleyball: Dr Tan Pinhong

Convenors/Captains (SIG)
Basketball: Dr Colin Teo Kok Ann
Golf: Dr Chong Tat Chong
Soccer: Dr Chng Nai Wee / Dr William Kristanto

Medik Awas Committee
Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui, Chairperson

ITE Certificate in Healthcare (Outpatient) Course Committee
Dr Lee Yik Voon, Chairperson
Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui, Vice Chairperson

SMA-SNA CPR Training Programme Committee
A/Prof Lim Swee Han, Chairperson
Dr Chee Teck Siong
Dr Choo Kay Wee
Dr Nelson Chua
Ms Celestine Fong
Mr Goh Teck Koon
Ms Christina Loh

Singapore Medical Week 2017 FutureMed 2017
A/Prof Nigel Tan Choon Kiat, Chairperson

47th SMA National Medical Convention
Dr Charles Tan Tse Kuang, Chairperson
Adj Prof Tan Sze Wee
Dr Wong Tien Hua

1st SMA National Medical Students’ Convention
Mr Ivan Low, Chairperson

2018 Dinner Organising Committee
Dr Ng Chee Kwan, Chairperson

Property Committee
Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh, Chairperson

Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui
Dr Lim Kheng Choon
Dr Benny Loo Kai Guo
Dr Tan Tze Lee
A/Prof Chin Jing Jih, Advisor
Dr Chong Yeh Woei, Advisor
Dr Wong Chiang Yin, Advisor

Future Finance Workgroup
Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui, Chairperson
Dr Chong Yeh Woei
Dr Lee Pheng Soon
Dr Benny Loo Kai Guo
Dr Wong Chiang Yin

ORGANISATIONS UNDER SMA’S GOVERNANCE 2017/2018

SMA Charity Fund
Board of Directors
Prof Wong Tien Yin, Chairperson
Mr Alex Koh Wei Peng (from Oct ‘17)
Mr Colin Lim Fung Wan
Dr Lim Kheng Choon
Dr Noorul Fatha As’art
Mr Sitoh Yih Pin (till Oct ‘17)
Adj Prof Tan Sze Wee
Prof Thio Li-ann
Dr Charles Toh Chai Soon
Mr T K Udairam
Dr Wong Chiang Yin

Members of the company limited by guarantee
A/Prof Chin Jing Jih
Dr Chong Yeh Woei
Dr Wong Chiang Yin

Singapore Medical Association Private Limited
Board of Directors
Executive Directors
Adj Prof Tan Sze Wee, Chairperson
A/Prof Chin Jing Jih
Dr Chong Yeh Woei
Dr Lee Yik Voon
Dr Bertha Woon Yng Yng

Non-Executive Directors
Dr Wong Tien Hua
Dr Lim Kheng Choon
Dr Benny Loo Kai Guo

Board of Trustees
Dr Tan Cheng Bock @ Adrian Tan
Prof Chee Yam Cheng
Prof Low Cheng Hock

Centre for Medical Ethics & Professionalism (CMEP)
A/Prof Gerald Chua, Executive Director
Dr Anantham Devanand, Deputy Executive Director
Dr T Thirumoorthy, Immediate Past Executive Director

Board Members
A/Prof Chin Jing Jih
A/Prof Goh Lee Gan (till Jun ‘17)
A/Prof Lai Siang Hui
A/Prof Lee Kheng Hock (till Jun ‘17)
Prof Lim Shih Hui (till Jun ‘17)
Dr Luke Low Sher Guan (from Jul ‘17)
Dr Benjamin Ng Boon Lui (from Jul ‘17)
Dr S R E Sayampanathan (from Jul ‘17)

Dr S Suraj Kumar (from Jul ‘17)
Prof Teo Eng Kiong (till Jun ‘17)
Dr Tham Tat Yean (till Jun ‘17)
Dr Bertha Woon Yng Yng

SMA Trust Fund
Board of Trustees
Dr Lee Pheng Soon, Chairperson
Dr Tan Yew Ghee, Secretary
Dr Tan Kok Soo, Treasurer
A/Prof Cheong Pak Yean
Prof Low Cheng Hock

REPRESENTATIVES OF SMA 2017/2018

MOH Advisory Committee on Clinical Management of Dengue
Dr Wong Tien Hua

MOH Diabetes Prevention & Care Taskforce
Dr Wong Tien Hua

MOH Committee on Draft Directive on the Provision of Outpatient Intravenous and Central Line Therapies by Licensed Clinics
Dr Chong Yeh Woei

MOH Fee Benchmarks Advisory Committee
Dr Toh Choon Lai

MOH Joint Committee for Opioids Control in Healthcare Institutions
Dr Yeo Sow Nam

MOH National Ethics Capability Committee
A/Prof Chin Jing Jih
Dr Anantham Devanand (Alternate)

MOH Sub-Committee on GP Communications & Engagement, Primary Care Action Plan Implementation Committee
Dr Wong Tien Hua

MSF Office of the Public Guardian, Committee on Assessment of Mental Capacity
A/Prof Chin Jing Jih
Dr Anantham Devanand (Alternate)

MSF Office of the Public Guardian – LPA Cert Issuer Review Committee
Dr Anantham Devanand

SMC CME Coordinating Committee
Dr Chong Yeh Woei
Dr Tan Tze Lee (Alternate)

Advertising Standards Authority of Singapore (ASAS) Council
Adj Prof Tan Sze Wee, Chairperson
Dr Lee Yik Voon

ASAS Health & Wellness Sub-Committee
Adj Prof Tan Sze Wee, Chairperson
Dr Lee Yik Voon

IRAS Taxpayer Feedback Panel
Dr Tan Tze Lee

ISCA Investigation Committee Panel
Dr Anantham Devanand

Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh
Dr Diana Tan Yuen Lan
Dr T Thirumoorthy
Dr Allen Wang Aik Loon
Dr Wong Chiang Yin
Dr Bertha Woon Yng Yng

LKCMedicine-NHG Centre for Primary Health Care Research & Innovation Steering Committee
Dr Wong Tien Hua

MIMS Honorary Editorial Advisory Board
Dr Lee Pheng Soon

MOM Workplace Safety & Health (Healthcare) Committee
Dr Wong Sin Yew

National Resuscitation Council
A/Prof Lim Swee Han

Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association
Dr Thomas Lee Kae Meng

SMA-SAPI Joint Committee
Dr Lee Pheng Soon
Dr Lee Yik Voon

The Courage Fund Limited, Board of Trustees & Board of Directors
Prof Low Cheng Hock

The Courage Fund Limited, SMA Institutional Representative
A/Prof Chin Jing Jih

Medical Association of South East Asian Nations (MASEAN) Council
Dr Lee Yik Voon, Secretary General
Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui, Chairperson of Finance Committee
A/Prof Mahesh Choolani, General Secretary of MASEAN Group of Journals

MASEAN Councillor
Dr Wong Tien Hua, President

IDI-SMA Joint Committee (Memorandum of Understanding on Publicity Guidelines & Code of Ethics on Hospital Promotion)
Dr Chong Yeh Woei
Dr Lee Yik Voon
Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui

The Confederation of Medical Associations in Asia and Oceania (CMAAO)
Dr Chong Yeh Woei, Chairperson of Council (from Sep ‘17)
Dr Bertha Woon Yng Yng, Delegate

SMA Spokespersons
Dr Wong Tien Hua
Dr Lim Kheng Choon

SMA Honorary Legal Advisors
Ms Kuah Boon Theng, Legal Clinic LLC
Mr Lek Siang Pheng, Dentons Rodyk & Davidson LLP
Mr Matthew Saw Seang Kuan, Lee & Lee
Mr Edwin Tong, Allen & Gledhill

Media & Communications
Ms Nalini Naidu, IMSG Pte Ltd

SMA SECRETARIAT



The SMA Secretariat, led by Executive Director Dr Lee Yik Voon and Chief Administrator Mr Martin Ho, supports the work of the SMA Council and Committees, and serves our Membership. The 24-member strong Secretariat (as at 31 December 2017) is broadly divided into four divisions – Membership Services and Partnership Development; Publications; Academy; and Corporate Services, which includes the SMA Charity Fund.

Toward a high-performance Secretariat that partners the Council in building an association that is relevant and important to our Membership – that’s the impetus for our work every day!

MR MARTIN HO
Chief Administrator



Every day at SMA is exciting – at the micro-level, listening to diverse feedback and assisting members with possible solutions; at the macro-level, fusing individual feedback into a coherent advocacy effort. I’m really lucky to be given this opportunity to make my small contribution to our big team effort for the past nine years.

LEE SZE YONG
Manager, Council Support

Having joined SMA only in 2016, I’m still a newbie in the team! I’ve found the range and depth of courses that SMA conducts for doctors to be both thorough and practical. I’m glad to contribute to our members’ learning journey.

JASMINE SOO
Executive, Academy



From left to right:

1st row
Loy Li Li, Jo-Ann Teo, Genevieve Tay, Lin Shirong, Noor Azliena Bte Samhudi, Norita Bte Abdul Wahab, Ho Li Shan

2nd row
Dr Wong Tien Hua (SMA President), Denise Tan, Mellissa Ang, Margaret Chan, Sarah Lim, Nurul Faizzah Bte Mohd Azmi, Chai Yi Jen, Denise Jia

3rd row
Sylvia Thay, Dr Lee Yik Voon (Executive Director), Angeline Teoh, Lee Sze Yong, Jasmine Soo, Tan Kie Chuan, Siti Nurhuda Bte Mohd Sulaiman, Chua Gek Eng, Chin Yew Lee, Martin Ho (Chief Administrator)

Not in photo: Alina Ng

I’ve learnt so much since joining SMA in 2011. Besides providing administrative support for indemnity renewals and workshops, I also appreciate the opportunity to apply my skills as a life support instructor for SMA’s BCLS and CPR+AED courses.

LIN SHIRONG
Executive, Office Administration & Indemnity

I’ve been with SMA since 1996. From my early years with the Association, I’ve been ingrained with a strong member ethic and I’ve never forgotten that our members are the reason we’re here.

NOOR AZLIENA BTE SAMHUDI
Senior Executive, Membership Services & Partnership Development

To view the full annual report, financial statements and other supplementary materials, please visit <https://www.sma.org.sg/ar> or scan the following QR Code.





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