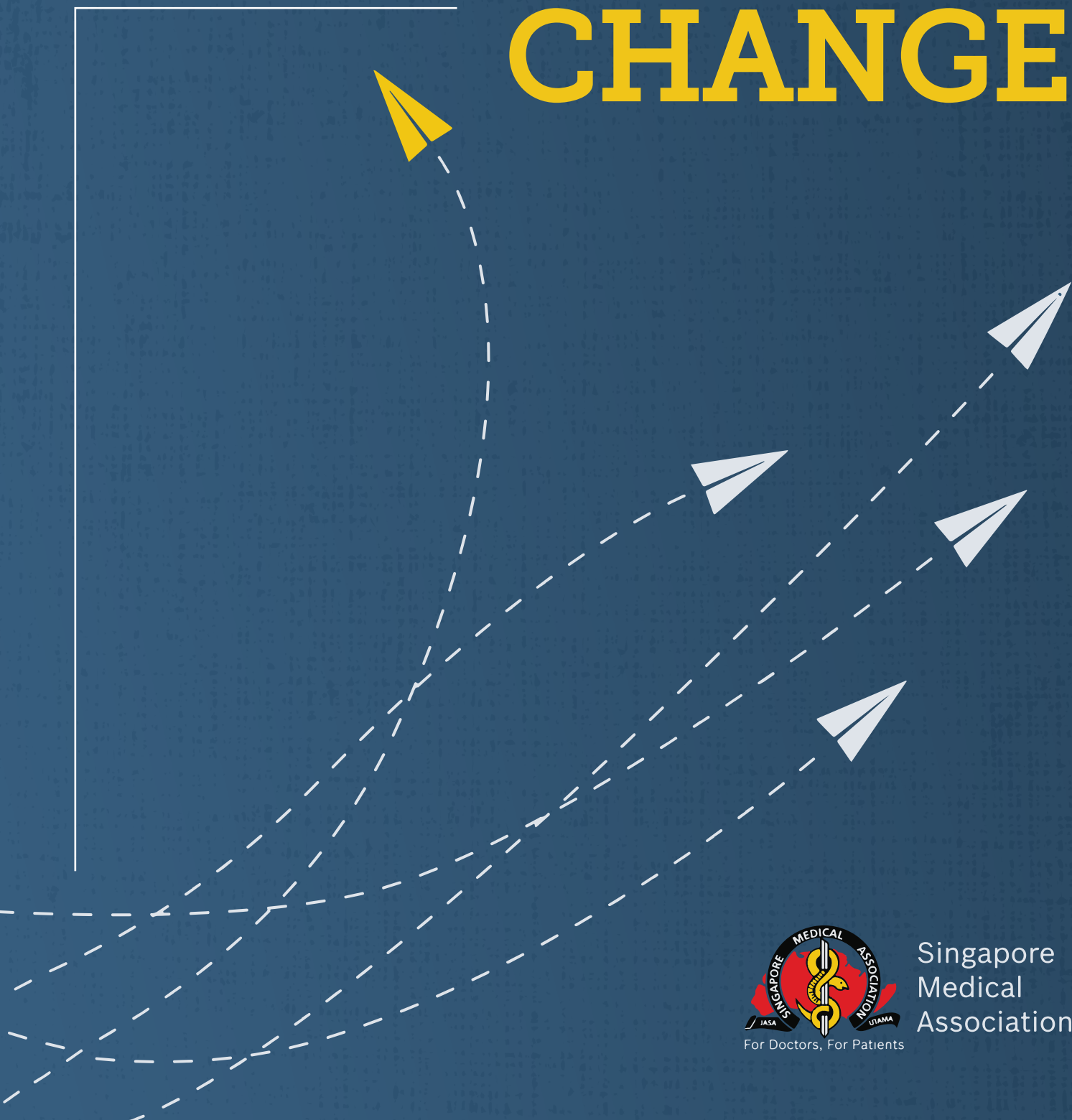


SMA 62nd Annual Report 2021/2022

ADVOCATING CHANGE



Singapore
Medical
Association

ABOUT SMA

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

SMA's slogan, 'For Doctors, For Patients', reflects our 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 our commitment to protect this relationship.

OUR MOTTO

Jasa Utama, 'Service before Self'



FOR DOCTORS
FOR PATIENTS



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

Thank you for being part of the SMA family. It has been two years of battling and living with COVID-19. While the emergence of variants such as Omicron has been keeping the healthcare community on its toes, I am heartened that a national vaccination programme is in place and that the majority of the population is vaccinated, with a recent extension to children aged 5 to 11 years. Do stay updated via the Ministry of Health (MOH) circulars and sign up for COVID-19-related webinars which MOH co-hosts with SMA and the sister professional bodies.

This has been my second year leading SMA together with 19 other members of the 62nd Council. I am grateful that more volunteers have stepped forward to serve on our various committees. We continue to meet over teleconference to discuss matters that concern SMA and the medical profession. Meanwhile, SMA Secretariat staff have returned to the office since January 2022, with half working from home on any day.

While resumption of in-person activities for members remains a challenge, our online professional development programmes by the SMA Centre for Medical Ethics and Professionalism have been running smoothly for the second year, much thanks to the dedicated faculty and capable staff.

SMA, together with the Academy of Medicine, Singapore, continued our work on the MOH Multilateral Healthcare Insurance Committee to advocate for fairness and transparency for both doctors and patients. Developments include the establishment of a Clinical Claims Resolution Process and expansion of the number of doctors on Integrated Shield Plan (IP) insurance panels. Having received feedback from members who encountered difficulties joining panels, SMA highlighted this to the Life Insurance Association, who collated a list of insurers' processes, requirements and considerations (<https://bit.ly/3AaCGX0>). We hope members find this list helpful. Meanwhile, SMA has launched a survey to rank IP providers and the results will be published in the April issue of SMA News.

SMA also partnered College of Family Physicians Singapore (CFPS) to engage MOH and Ministry of Manpower on changes to the six-monthly medical examination for migrant domestic workers (MDWs).



Dr Ng Chee Kwan
1st Vice President



Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui
2nd Vice President

A joint CFPS-SMA advisory was subsequently issued to provide guidance to our respective members. To facilitate communication with MDWs, questions provided in the Advisory were translated into seven languages.

The welfare of our younger members remains the focus of the SMA Doctors-in-Training Committee, who has been engaging MOH Holdings (MOHH). We note MOHH's recent announcement of revisions to night allowances and hope the momentum gained would lead to more positive changes that will improve junior doctors' welfare. A promising new initiative from the Committee is the SMA House Officer (HO) Support Programme Expansion (HOSP+) Helpline on Telegram (t.me/smahospbot). This is a free resource run by a small group of SMA volunteers, to allow junior doctors to ask questions or raise concerns regarding life as a HO. All information obtained will be kept strictly confidential. The Helpline has been well received since its inception in December 2021.

Even though SMA may not have legislative power, being a non-governmental organisation made up of volunteers, our role as advocates for doctors and patients allows us to have an independent opinion on healthcare issues. This voice does not have to shout to be heard. A quiet word in the right ears may be all it takes.

On behalf of the SMA Council, a big heartfelt thank you to all our volunteer doctors who have been so generous with their time to serve on our committees or represent us in external working groups. I also wish to express my gratitude to members who supported SMA in other ways – advocating for SMA, participating in our surveys, contributing articles to the SMA newsletter, and continuing your membership which helps with our operating costs.

Stay connected with SMA, and if you have any feedback or wish to join any of our committees, do write to us at sma@sma.org.sg.

Dr Tan Yia Swam
President

HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT



(Left) Dr Benny Loo Kai Guo,
Honorary Assistant Secretary
(Right) Dr Ng Chew Lip,
Honorary Secretary

The SMA continued to support the Ministry of Health's (MOH) efforts to keep the medical profession updated on the COVID-19 situation. SMA shared important feedback from the ground and also co-organised engagement sessions with MOH and the professional bodies for doctors, covering hot topics such as the national COVID-19 strategy and vaccination roll-out for children.

Another key area that SMA has been working closely with MOH on is private healthcare insurance. SMA is represented on the Multilateral Healthcare Insurance Committee (MHIC), which includes stakeholders from Academy of Medicine, Singapore (AMS), Life Insurance Association, Consumers Association of Singapore and private hospitals. The MHIC aims to facilitate stakeholders' communication and make recommendations on ensuring quality, cost-effective and affordable healthcare for Singaporeans amidst rising healthcare costs. A Clinical Claims Resolution Process, led by AMS, has since been established to address claim disputes of

a clinical nature. Insurers are also expanding panels to include more doctors. Separately, SMA has followed up on its earlier Position Statement on Integrated Shield Plans by conducting a survey to rank insurers; the results will be published in the April issue of the SMA News.

The SMA Centre for Medical Ethics and Professionalism kept up with demand for its online courses and webinars on medical ethics and practice matters. Members can refer to our events calendar at <https://www.sma.org.sg> or look out for our electronic direct mail (keep your contact details updated via the membership portal or email membership@sma.org.sg for assistance).

With the Continuing Medical Education (CME) cap for Category 3A reverting to 10 points in 2022, members can attend more of our online programmes. The Singapore Medical Council (SMC) has confirmed that COVID-19-related CME will still be allocated core points, as this is important learning for all doctors.

SMA's other work with government agencies included reviewing changes to the SMC Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines, and revisions to the six-monthly medical examination (6ME) for migrant domestic workers. A joint advisory with the College of Family Physicians Singapore on the 6ME, with input from the Ministry of Manpower, was subsequently issued to provide guidance to members. A memorandum of understanding was also signed with the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth's SG Cares Office to promote skills-based volunteerism and a more caring and inclusive society.

The SMA Doctors-in-Training (DIT) Committee's engagement of MOH Holdings (MOHH) to advocate for junior doctors' welfare gained some traction. SMA is represented on workstreams in the National Wellness Committee convened by MOH to study and address pertinent issues faced by junior doctors. We are also glad to note the recent revision to night allowances.

Meanwhile, there is more to be done and as part of the DIT Committee's new initiative, "SMA House Officer (HO) Support Programme Expansion (HOSP+)", SMA launched the HOSP+ Helpline on Telegram (t.me/smahospbot). HOs can download useful resources or chat with our doctor volunteers to seek help or advice. All information will be held in strict confidence. A workgroup has also been formed to study remuneration of junior doctors.

We continue to regularly meet the student medical societies – both local and overseas. The ubiquitous adoption of teleconferences has facilitated more inclusive

discussions since our overseas medical students will eventually return to practise in Singapore. We also involve them in our work (e.g. SMA News, DIT committee). We look forward to resuming the next National Medical Students Convention with the recently formalised TriMedSoc Alliance, in end April.

In lieu of the Annual Dinner, a smaller presentation ceremony was held at the SMA office earlier this year to present the 2021 Honorary Memberships and Merit Awards to our deserving recipients, while our long-serving staff received their Long Service Awards. We also organised a Members Appreciation "GV Movie e-Voucher Giveaway" in December 2021, with 700 e-vouchers given out to 400 members. We hope to resume the Annual Dinner and Members Movie Night in time to come, and enjoy a good catch-up with friends and colleagues again.

Thank you to all our volunteer doctors, SMA members and Secretariat staff for the work and support over the busy past year. Let's continue to work together in the year ahead to create a better healthcare landscape for all Singaporeans.



Dr Ng Chew Lip
Honorary Secretary

HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT



(Left) Dr Chie Zhi Ying, Honorary Assistant Treasurer
(Right) Dr Daniel Lee, Honorary Treasurer

While COVID-19 continues to impact the world and the Omicron variant has triggered fresh waves of infection, much progress has been made in the implementation of vaccination programmes internationally. This has facilitated the recovery of the external economic environment, and Singapore's economy has moved in tandem.

SMA's financial position remained fairly stable in the past year, and we closed 2021 with an operating surplus of about \$414,000. Our investment portfolio performed well with \$1.1 million of fair value gain. Our operating surplus is lower compared to 2020, as we received a lower tier of financial aid from the government in 2021 – about \$88,000 from the Jobs Support Scheme (a third of the support in 2020) and \$8,000 of rental relief. Nonetheless, the Association is grateful for the support from the government in the past year.

Our main income streams largely remained the same – membership subscriptions, services rendered to third parties and advertising. The professional development programmes organised by the SMA Centre for Medical Ethics and Professionalism also contributed to the surplus, thanks to our excellent team of committed faculty and staff. The Secretariat has also been working hard to make it easier for members to pay their annual subscriptions, including the introduction of PayNow, which has been well received.

Due to ongoing safe management measures, we have not been able to organise our Annual Dinner and

Inter-professional Games. Our lower expenditure in this area has helped boost the surplus.

SMA will build on our existing income streams while keeping a lookout for new opportunities. The Secretariat staff will also continue to aim for cost-efficiency in all they do.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all members who have continued to support SMA. Membership subscription is an important revenue source and allows us to continue SMA's work to represent members and the medical profession, so that together, we can build a better healthcare ecosystem for Singapore. Do encourage your peers and colleagues to join SMA as members, so that we can be a stronger and more effective voice in advocating for the medical profession.

I would like to thank my Honorary Assistant Treasurer, Dr Chie Zhi Ying, for her valuable support, the SMA Finance team, Ms Angeline Teoh and Ms Priscilla Leong, for their conscientiousness and diligence in managing the budget and financial transactions, and the SMA Secretariat for their various contributions to maintain SMA's financial position.

Dr Daniel Lee
Honorary Treasurer

KEY FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

GROUP STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR AFTER TAX

	2021	2020
Total Income	\$3,998,163	\$3,181,964
Total Expenditure	\$2,648,369	\$2,369,953
Total Surplus/(Deficit)	\$1,349,794	\$812,011

INCOME

Subscriptions	\$678,642	\$652,362
Contributions	\$731,157	\$697,222
Rebates	\$91,728	\$86,438
Courses and Events	\$425,132	\$492,390
Investments	\$1,107,543	\$111,811
Publications	\$786,044	\$670,002
Others	\$177,917	\$471,739
Total Income	\$3,998,163	\$3,181,964

EXPENDITURE

Administrative and Operating Expenses	\$592,355	\$430,698
Courses and Events	\$115,008	\$135,451
Publications	\$237,769	\$230,157
Staff and Related Expenses	\$1,703,237	\$1,573,647
Total Expenditure	\$2,648,369	\$2,369,953

GROUP STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

Non-current Assets	\$375,333	\$89,856
Current Assets	\$10,888,068	\$9,246,916
Total Assets	\$11,263,401	\$9,336,772

EQUITY AND LIABILITIES

Equity Attributable to SMA members	\$9,839,898	\$8,460,621
Current Liabilities	\$1,423,503	\$876,151
Total Equity and Liabilities	\$11,263,401	\$9,336,772

ADVOCATING FOR THE PROFESSION

In 2021, SMA continued to build upon our ongoing advocacy efforts as well as played an active role in raising awareness about issues facing medical practitioners and healthcare in Singapore. Here, we provide a snapshot of our advocacy work, leadership role, and ongoing engagement with policymakers, our membership and other professional bodies.



HEALTH INSURANCE

In March 2021, SMA issued a position statement on Integrated Shield Plans (IP), highlighting issues related to panels, fees, and management expenses and commissions. In the following month, the Ministry of Health (MOH) appointed the Multilateral Healthcare Insurance Committee (MHIC) to provide a platform for healthcare providers, payors, consumer representatives and the government to collaboratively address issues related to health insurance.

The MHIC comprises representatives from SMA, Academy of Medicine, Singapore, Consumers Association of Singapore, Fee Benchmarks Advisory Committee, Life Insurance Association (LIA) and private hospitals.

In November, MOH announced the first developments from the process, namely the establishment of the Clinical Claims Resolution Process (CCRP) to resolve claim disputes of a clinical nature among private IP policyholders, IP insurers, medical practitioners and medical institutions. By end of 2021, IP insurers have also expanded their panels to include a wider pool of specialist doctors.

As a follow-up to our survey on IP providers in 2020, SMA conducted another survey in January 2022 to rank IP providers for the period January to December 2021, to better understand the performance variance of IP providers, as perceived by doctors. This was one of the initiatives arising from SMA's position statement on IPs.

In response to feedback from members about the difficulties faced while applying to join IP panels, SMA raised this matter to LIA, who then provided a useful list comprising the processes, requirements and considerations of the various insurers. We hope that this list will improve accessibility to the panels.

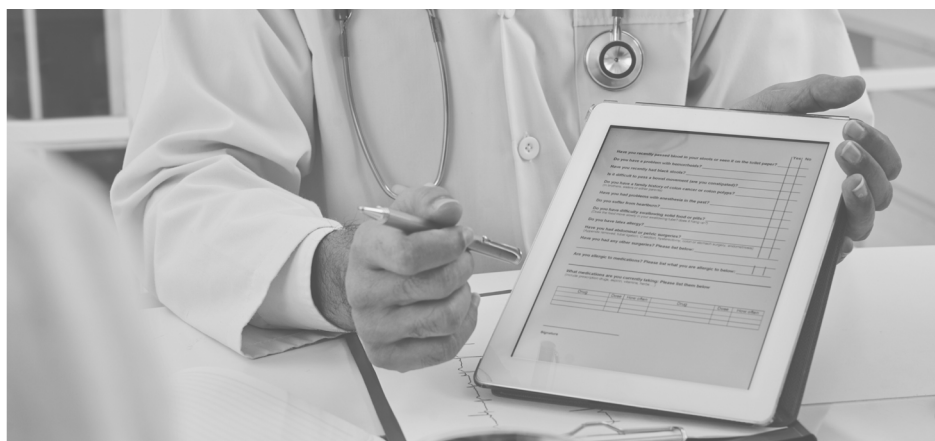
SMA also supported Health Connective, a collaborative effort of three technology service providers: Smarter Health, Assurance Technology and Health Catalyst.

One of its aims is to provide a technology platform to consolidate information pertaining to all doctors (especially those in the private sector). This consolidated directory will be the basis for group representation in discussions with insurers.

The objective is to make it easy for insurers to connect directly with doctors who are keen to work with them to service their client base. More details at <https://www.healthconnective.sg/>.

SMA does not contribute to the cost of development and operations of Health Connective, nor partake in any potential commercial arrangements.

Issues regarding health insurance have remained unresolved for many years, and the process to untangle the problems will take time. SMA will continue to work towards the interests of our patients and promote transparency and sustainability in healthcare.



WELFARE OF JUNIOR DOCTORS

The Doctors-in-Training (DIT) Committee continued to lead efforts to improve the working conditions of junior doctors in public healthcare institutions. The Membership report on page 10 provides details on SMA's initiatives on behalf of DITs.



MIGRANT DOMESTIC WORKER MEDICAL EXAMINATION FORM

In July 2021, the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) announced enhancements to the six-monthly medical examination for migrant domestic workers (MDW) to better pick up any signs of abuse. Doctors are required to record the body mass index of MDW, and check for signs of suspicious and unexplained injuries. Home-based services would also be discontinued.

SMA wrote to MOH and MOM in August 2021 to seek clarification on the changes. Subsequently, College of Family Physicians Singapore (CFPS) and SMA representatives met with MOH and MOM. After obtaining clarifications, a joint CFPS-SMA advisory was issued on 28 August 2021 to help doctors with the transition to the new medical examination.

Back in 2018, SMA had highlighted concerns about home-based medical examinations of MDW, which led to the scenario where a doctor would have to certify the medical examination form without having a chance to physically examine the MDW. We are pleased to note the policy changes.



JOINT LETTER ON INACCURATE STATEMENTS ABOUT GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

In May 2021, SMA was one of the joint signatories to a letter to The Straits Times Forum to clarify misinformation in social media posts containing inaccurate statements about general practitioners (GPs). The focus was on correcting the perceptions of the general public, and highlighting that GPs and hospital-based specialists play differing roles, bringing different essential skills to the healthcare landscape. In the present COVID-19 pandemic, most generalists are at the front lines attending to patients and performing a critical role in public health, in areas such as screening, testing and vaccination of patients.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, learning opportunities have been curtailed. In September 2021, SMA wrote to the Singapore Medical Council (SMC) to request for an extension of the raised cap for Category 3A Continuing Medical Education (CME) from 10 points to 20 points, and to continue awarding core points for COVID-19-related CME activities for another cycle.

We thank SMC for confirming the following:

- CME activities related to COVID-19 will continue to be considered core points for all doctors as requested by SMA, given that acquiring the latest knowledge on COVID-19 is important for all medical practitioners; and
- The cap for Category 3A, however, would revert to 10 points, given that there are sufficient online CME activities that are readily available, if not more accessible, as venue and travel are no longer a constraint.

The SMA Academy report on page 12 provides more details on professional development initiatives.

COVID-19 EFFORTS

SMA co-organised or supported online seminars in conjunction with MOH to update doctors on changes that impact them in the ever-changing COVID-19 circumstances.

- 9 October 2021: Singapore's COVID-19 Strategy and the Direction Ahead
- 4 December 2021: Update on COVID-19 Infection in Children in Singapore and Dialogue with MOH on COVID-19 Vaccination for Children 5 to 11 years old

As COVID-19 continued to take a toll on healthcare workers, SMA conducted a survey on Rostered Routine Testing (RRT) in August 2021 to study the experiences of healthcare workers who had to undergo weekly tests.

The survey results helped to provide insight into the discomfort and adverse psycho-emotional effects experienced by healthcare workers. We were heartened to see the shift from Polymerase Chain Reaction testing towards Antigen Rapid Testing, and the eventual cessation of RRT for all sectors from 29 March 2022.

SUPPORTING AND ENGAGING MEMBERS

2021 was yet another year of perseverance as we continued to operate with ongoing COVID-19 disruptions. Physical events remained cancelled, with meetings conducted via teleconferencing and socialising were kept to a minimum. Work from home became the default option for employees nationwide, including the SMA Secretariat. Despite the circumstances, SMA continued to rally support for important issues that affect the medical profession and highlight them to the attention of relevant authorities and parties.

As frontline healthcare workers laboured long hours with the rise of COVID-19 community cases, which led to space and manpower constraints in the healthcare sector, SMA worked on supporting and caring for our members affected by these challenges through various means.

SPEAKING UP FOR JUNIOR DOCTORS

The physical and mental well-being of junior doctors has been in the spotlight especially in the past year. As SMA President, Dr Tan Yia Swam, shared in her interview with CNA938: “The SMA should be a voice for doctors and patients. The Doctors-in-Training (DIT) Committee serves as a platform to advocate matters of importance to doctors in training which constantly evolve and change over the years.”

During this especially uncertain and challenging period, SMA served as one of the points of contact for overseas students stranded in Singapore due to COVID-19, who asked for help in the form of teaching and mentoring. Local junior doctor members also wrote in with their feedback on working hours, remuneration and other issues encountered at work.

The DIT Committee, chaired by Dr Chie Zhi Ying, worked tirelessly as they engaged with MOH Holdings (MOHH) to advocate for junior doctors’ welfare. SMA also wrote in to the Ministry of Health, MOHH and other bodies to provide formal feedback and sought advice and aid for the affected doctors in training.

Other support included the House Officers’ Guidebook – an initiative by SingHealth – which was given for free to all graduating house officers (HOs) to help them through the pandemic period. The ‘Called to See Patient’ (CTSP) foundational principles workshop launched in 2019 is a well-received event by local and international graduates who attend it either right before or soon after they commence HOship.

In the coming year, the DIT Committee will work with the SMA Centre for Medical Ethics and Professionalism (SMA CMEP) to launch a second workshop in the series on ‘Medicolegal Pitfalls’ to better equip HOs.

“The stresses faced by junior doctors today are symptomatic of a wider need for transformation in the current care delivery arrangements. Whether it is 24-hour or 30-hour shifts, what is clear is that we should not stretch our junior doctors beyond what is physiologically possible and what would risk compromising patient safety.”

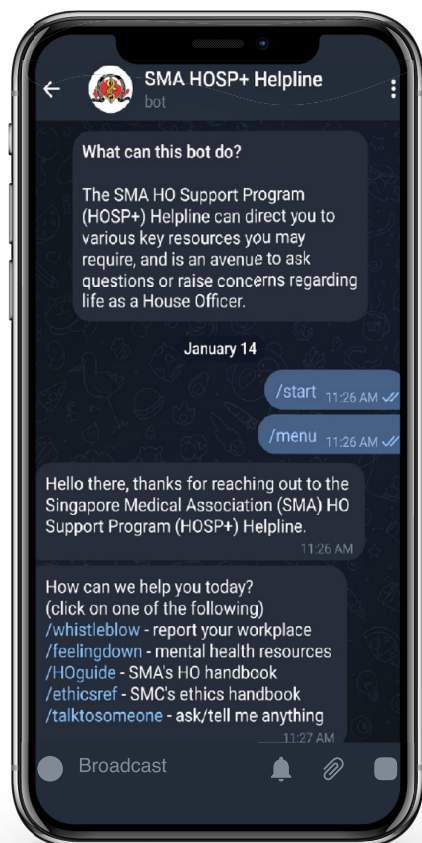
*-Dr Koh Poh Koon, Senior Minister of State for Health
(Channel News Asia, 9 March 2022)*

CARING FOR MEMBERS

Aside from ongoing discussions to improve the healthcare landscape, SMA also launched several initiatives in a bid to support and care for our members amid the challenging climate. These include lifestyle privileges from our partners showing appreciation for the work and sacrifices of the healthcare professionals, Facebook events to engage members to come together as a community, and initiatives encouraging volunteerism among members.

Various online feedback sessions and workshops were also organised, to provide members with the platform to share their views on matters of concern, including the review of the Singapore Medical Council Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines and the Handbook on Medical Ethics, and the Forum on Singapore's COVID-19 strategy and direction.

On 25 December 2021, the DIT Committee launched the HO Support Programme Expansion (HOSP+) Helpline, a telegram chatbot which has consolidated the various resources HOs may require as they navigate their work life.

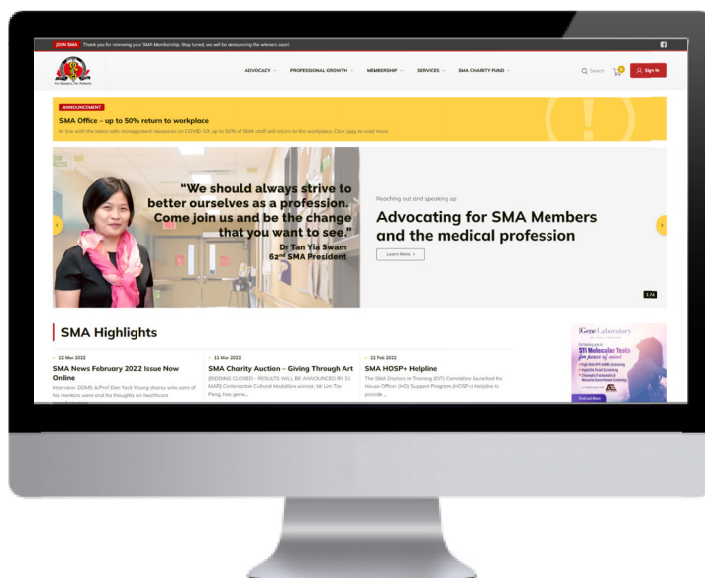


Users are also able to report their workplace, access mental health resources and SMA's HO handbook, or browse the FAQs through the chatbot. While the helpline is not manned by professional counsellors, troubled users are directed to the appropriate professional channels and services that best address their needs. Additionally, the option "talk to someone" will have the user directed to SMA volunteers who would handle their concerns discreetly.

The SMA annual Members' Appreciation Nite also took on a different format in 2021. In appreciation of our members' continued support of SMA and its work, eligible SMA members were able to redeem GV movie e-vouchers on a first-come-first-served basis. All 700 e-vouchers were promptly redeemed.

REFRESHING OUR WEBSITE'S LOOK AND ACCESSIBILITY

SMA launched our revamped website in July 2021, in the hopes that members will be better able to access the relevant information they seek. The new mobile-compatible website increases the ease for users to know more about SMA's work on its homepage, search for advisories, and read SMA News articles on the go.



ENABLING LIFELONG LEARNING

We recognise that lifelong learning is an integral part of our members' professional development. In 2021, we continued to offer a suite of online educational events to the medical community such as ethics- and practice-related webinars, as well as distance-learning continuing medical education (CME) programmes such as monthly CME articles with verifiable self assessment. SMA is committed to enabling doctors in their lifelong educational journey as they seek to maintain, develop and increase their knowledge, skills and professional performance.

SMA CENTRE FOR MEDICAL ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM

Officially launched in June 2000, the SMA Centre for Medical Ethics and Professionalism (CMEP), has been providing doctors with a platform for lifelong learning in the area of medical ethics, health law and medical practice. It aims to provide leadership in the areas of academic training, discussion, resource development and research, so as to support a high standard of medical professionalism. The SMA CMEP teaching faculty consists of not only doctors, but also lawyers who are experienced in Singapore's health law.

Care of Persons of Diminished Capacity and Vulnerable Adults

The vulnerable in our society includes those who suffer from mental illness, intellectual disabilities and elderly frailty. The Mental Health (Care & Treatment) Act 2008, Mental Capacity Act 2008 and Vulnerable Adults Act 2018 offer an important legal framework for their care and protection.

Mental Capacity Assessment Made Easy

Held on 13 November 2021, the Mental Capacity Assessment Made Easy webinar was jointly organised by SMA CMEP and College of Psychiatrists, AMS. The seminar was opened by A/Prof Daniel Fung, President of the College and CEO of the Institute of Mental Health. Practitioners in the field shared on the various aspects of mental capacity assessments involving people with diminished capacity, including a short presentation on the new Office of the Public Guardian Online system. This was then followed by a panel discussion. This highly informative webinar was well attended with over 206 participants, the majority of whom were medical practitioners.

Understanding the Law and its Application in Clinical Practice

The SMA CMEP, in collaboration with the College of Psychiatrists, Academy of Medicine, Singapore (AMS), held this webinar on 17 April 2021 to equip clinicians working with persons of diminished capacity and vulnerable adults with vital information regarding the purpose and application of the legal framework for the care and protection of these individual. Close to 150 participants were in attendance at this event.

Medical Ethics, Professionalism and Healthcare Course

A two-and-a-half-day mandatory course for exit certification for advanced specialist trainees, family medicine trainees and residents, this highly beneficial course comprises eight modules: (1) Medical Professionalism; (2) Important Issues in Medical Professionalism and Ethics; (3) Informed Consent and Shared Decision Making; (4) Coroner's Act and Certification of Death; (5) Important Issues in Clinic Ethics – End of Life Issues; (6) Medicine, Doctors and the Law; (7) Professional Accountability and Medical Negligence; and (8) Communication Skills and Personal Development. As of December 2021, SMA CMEP has run 69 courses and trained a total of 4,588 doctors.

SMA CMEP TEACHING FACULTY

Prof Kumaralingam Amirthalingam	Dr Hairil Rizal Abdullah
Dr Aaron Ang	Dr Seow Wan Tew
Ms Rebecca Chew	Dr Bhayani Sriram
Mr Christopher Chong	Dr Giles Tan
Dr Jonathan Choo	Dr Malcolm Tan
Dr Peter Chow	A/Prof Cuthbert Teo
Mr Edmund Kronenburg	Mr Tham Hsu Hsien
Ms Kuah Boon Theng	Mr Eric Tin
Dr Daniel Kwek	Dr Luke Toh
Clin Prof Gilbert Lau	Mr Edwin Tong
Adj A/Prof Lee See Muah	Dr Tor Phern Chern
Mr Lek Siang Pheng	Adj Asst Prof Shelat Vishalkumar G
Dr Peter Loke	Dr Bertha Woon
Dr Lambert Low	A/Prof Jason Yap
Ms Mak Wei Munn	Dr Colin Yeo
Dr Habeebul Rahman	

SINGAPORE'S COVID-19 STRATEGY AND THE DIRECTION AHEAD

SMA, AMS, College of Family Physicians Singapore and the Ministry of Health (MOH) jointly organised an online forum on 9 October 2021. The forum served as a platform to share Singapore's COVID-19 strategy and the direction ahead. MOH provided an update on the changes announced by the Multi-Ministry Taskforce on the same day. This was followed by an interactive segment of dialogue with the panellists. There were about 2,500 attendees and more than 300 questions were fielded at the event.

EVENTS HELD IN 2021

NAME OF EVENT	No. of Runs	SMA Members	Non-SMA Members	Total No.
Medical Ethics, Professionalism and Healthcare Course	5	85	369	454
Medicine, Doctors and the Law Series	15	293	154	447
Care of Persons of Diminished Capacity and Vulnerable Adults: Understanding the Law and its Application in Clinical Practice	1	107	42	149
Care of Persons of Diminished Capacity and Vulnerable Adults: Mental Capacity Assessment Made Easy	1	147	52	199
Tax Obligations on Medical Practice	1	68	31	99
Taking the Plunge – Going into Private Practice	1	122	32	154
Singapore's COVID-19 Strategy and the Direction Ahead	1			2,773

SINGAPORE MEDICAL JOURNAL

In 2021, despite the challenges arising from the impact of COVID-19 and manpower constraints at the Singapore Medical Journal (SMJ), we continued to forge on. The 2020 Journal Impact Factor (IF) for the SMJ increased from 1.359 in 2019 to 1.858 in 2020, with the latest five-year IF at 2.053. The Journal's IF has progressively increased over recent years, and this is the highest it has been since the SMJ was first published in 1960. As we enter the year 2022 with a sense of quiet optimism, we take this opportunity to update the SMA Membership about key developments and share our aspirations.

In the past year, we continued to highlight subject matters that are of topical interest, especially for the local medical community, even as the SMJ remains an international medical journal that accepts quality academic submissions from across the world. Some of these recent publications addressed diverse topics such as mentoring and competency, medical professionalism, responses to the challenges of COVID-19 and vaccine-related concerns, and colon cancer screening at a younger age. Two themed issues were published – the May issue cast the spotlight on mental health in the community, especially amidst the prolonged stress of the COVID-19 pandemic, while the July issue, a collaboration with the Singapore Resuscitation and First Aid Council, covers all the key resuscitation and first aid guidelines for Singapore. In celebration of the 100th year of Paediatrics in Singapore, SingHealth Duke-NUS Academic Medical Centre published a commemorative supplement issue in July, with Prof Quak Seng Hock as the Guest Editor.



521
SUBMISSIONS



473
REVIEWERS



1.858
IMPACT
FACTOR



25
ONLINE CME
QUIZZES



136
PUBLISHED
ARTICLES

A highlight of the SMJ has been our CME articles with online CME quizzes that are pre-approved for the Singapore Medical Council Category 3B CME programme. The Practice Integration and Lifelong Learning (PILL) articles serve the needs of our primary care colleagues in this area. To meet the needs of trainees and generalists in the hospital setting, we have launched a new series, Problem-Solving for Acute and Critical Care (PACC). Another highlight is our increased presence in social media. We can now interact with readers on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn. We have also been recording selected articles for podcasts, although this was temporarily halted owing to COVID-19 concerns and logistical constraints. For original and review papers, we have started showcasing the profiles of the first or senior authors to increase their visibility.

We recognise that having a short turnaround time (TAT) from submission to review, editorial decision-making and publication is extremely important for authors who submit articles to the SMJ. It is also crucial for our readers so that the information that reaches them is not outdated. There have been logistical challenges that resulted in TAT delays in previous years, but with the dedicated combined efforts of the editorial board members and editorial staff, significant progress has been made to shorten the TAT. The SMJ is currently looking into other methods to improve efficiency and reduce our TAT.

The SMJ seeks to constantly improve and be relevant to our medical community. We are thankful to the Editorial Board members, reviewers and editorial staff for their efforts in the past year, and grateful to authors who have chosen to publish with us.

SMA NEWSLETTER

SMA News has sought to inform and engage members through its pages, which include pertinent updates on the latest developments relevant to the professional and medical practice, since its very first issue in 1966. As the COVID-19 situation persisted in 2021 with its ups and downs, SMA News continued to support practising doctors by serving as a reliable source of information and a platform for practitioners to share and receive medical insights, knowledge and experiences.

The Newsletter carried articles that looked at the effects of COVID-19 on medical practice, both the lessons learnt and the challenges faced, as well as objective discussions on topics such as medical technology and COVID-19 vaccines.

However, the Editorial Board was also cognisant of the mental weariness the battle against the coronavirus has brought on. In response, the Newsletter published contents that hoped to bring readers some respite amid the ongoing challenges, aside from a collection of articles that looked into mental wellness and health.

The Newsletter was honoured to have the opportunity to speak with several healthcare leaders including Prof Kenneth Mak, Prof Leo Yee Sin and Prof Chong Yap Seng, who each shed light on their journeys and offered words of appreciation and encouragement for fellow doctors amid these trying times.

SMA News is the newsletter written by doctors, for doctors, and it will continue to support members in their path of medicine and it invites all to share their insights and thoughts with fellow practitioners through its monthly publication, both in print and online.



KEY STATISTICS IN 2021

SMA MEMBERSHIP

>8,528 MEMBERS



MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

6 STUDENT ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

>25 MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



ADVOCACY & REPRESENTATION



POLICY SUBMISSIONS



ADVISORY



MEDIA STATEMENTS



KEY GOV. MEETINGS



SURVEYS



MEDIA CITATIONS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



25 WEBINARS & COURSES



55 CME ACTIVITIES



11,238 PARTICIPANTS

SMA CHARITY FUND



57 BURSARIES



\$285,000 DISBURSED



\$270,117 RAISED

62nd SMA COUNCIL 2021/2022



DR TAN YIA SWAM

President

General surgeon in private practice
Council member since 2007,
SMA spokesperson
Committee: Administration;
Membership; Private Practice



DR CHIE ZHI YING

Honorary Assistant Treasurer

Family physician in public practice
Council member since 2020
Committee: Administration;
Complaints; Doctors-in-Training;
Fitness to Drive; Medik Awas;
SMA Pte Ltd; SMA News
Editorial Board



DR NG CHEE KWAN

1st Vice-President

Urologist in private practice
Council member since 2014,
SMA spokesperson
Committee: Administration;
Financial Viability; Complaints



DR ANANTHAM DEVANAND

Council Member

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



DR TAMMY CHAN TENG MUI

2nd Vice-President

Family physician in private practice
Council member since 2007
Committee: Administration; Medik Awas; Private Practice;
Membership; Fitness to Drive



DR LEE PHENG SOON

Council Member

Family physician in private practice
Council member since 1992, SMA
CMEP Executive Director, past
SMA President (2003–2006)
Committee: Advertisement
Review & Approval; Professional
Indemnity; SMA Trust Fund



DR NG CHEW LIP

Honorary Secretary

Otolaryngologist in public practice
Council member since 2018,
SMA spokesperson
Committee: Administration;
Doctors-in-Training; Membership;
SMJ Editorial Board



DR LEE YEE MUN

Council Member

Urologist in private practice
Council member since 2021
Committee: Financial Viability;
Professional Indemnity;
SMA Pte Ltd



DR DANIEL LEE HSIEN CHIEH

Honorary Treasurer

Public health physician in private practice
Council member since 2012
Committee: Administration;
Advertisement Review &
Approval; Professional Indemnity;
SMA Pte Ltd



DR LIM KHENG CHOON

Council Member

Diagnostic radiologist in public practice
Council member since 2013
Committee: Membership; SMA
Charity Fund



DR BENNY LOO KAI GUO

Honorary Assistant Secretary

Paediatrician in public practice
Council member since 2014
Committee: Administration;
Membership



DR IVAN LOW JINRONG

Council Member

Singapore Armed Forces doctor
Council member since 2020
Committee: Membership;
Doctors-in-Training



DR LAMBERT LOW TCHERN KUANG
Council Member

Psychiatrist in public practice
Council member since 2020
Committee: Complaints



DR TINA TAN ZHENWEN
Council Member

Psychiatrist in private practice
Council member since 2020
Committee: SMA News
Editorial Board; Private
Practice



DR RAJ KUMAR MENON
Council Member

General surgeon in public practice
Council member since 2021
Committee: Membership



DR TOH CHOON LAI
Council Member

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



ADJ PROF TAN SZE WEE
Council Member

Director at research agency
Council member since 1996
Committee: Financial Viability;
Telemedicine; SMA Pte Ltd; SMA
Charity Fund



DR WONG CHIANG YIN
Council Member

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



ADJ A/PROF TAN TZE LEE
Council Member

Family physician in private
practice
Council member since 2013
Committee: MASEAN; SMA News
Editorial Board



DR WONG TIEN HUA
Council Member

Family physician in private
practice
Council members since 2004, past
SMA President (2015–2018)
Committee: CMAAO; Private
Practice; SMA Pte Ltd

COUNCIL MEETING ATTENDANCE

Name	Attendance*
Dr Tan Yia Swam	9/9
Dr Ng Chee Kwan	9/9
Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui	8/9
Dr Ng Chew Lip	9/9
Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh	6/9
Dr Benny Loo Kai Guo	9/9
Dr Chie Zhi Ying	8/9
Dr Anantham Devanand	8/9
Dr Lee Pheng Soon	9/9
Dr Lee Yee Mun	9/9

Name	Attendance*
Dr Lim Kheng Choon	8/9
Dr Ivan Low Jinrong	9/9
Dr Low Tchern Kuang Lambert	8/9
Dr Raj Kumar Menon	6/9
Adj Prof Tan Sze Wee	6/9
Adj A/Prof Tan Tze Lee	7/9
Dr Tina Tan Zhenwen	8/9
Dr Toh Choon Lai	9/9
Dr Wong Chiang Yin	7/9
Dr Wong Tien Hua	7/9

*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

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Dr Tan Yia Swam, Chairperson
Dr Ng Chee Kwan, Vice Chairperson
Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui, Vice Chairperson
Dr Ng Chew Lip
Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh
Dr Benny Loo Kai Guo
Dr Chie Zhi Ying

FINANCIAL VIABILITY COMMITTEE

Dr Ng Chee Kwan, Chairperson
Adj Prof Tan Sze Wee, Vice Chairperson
Dr Lee Yee Mun
Dr Toh Choon Lai
Dr Wong Chiang Yin

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A/Prof Mahesh Choolani, Deputy Editor
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Prof Teo Eng Kiong, Advisor

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A/Prof Chia Pow-Li
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Dr Chng Soke Miang
Prof Roger Foo
A/Prof George Goh Boon Bee
Dr Goh Lay Hoon
Dr Andrew Fu-Wah Ho (from Jan '22)
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Prof Hsu Pon Poh
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A/Prof Devendra Kanagalingam
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A/Prof Katy Leung Ying Ying
A/Prof Kevin Lim Boon Leong
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Dr Troy Puar Hai Kiat (from Jan '22)
Dr Pwee Keng Ho
Prof Quak Seng Hock
Dr NV Ramani
Dr See Kay Choong (from Jan '22)
A/Prof Sim Kang
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A/Prof Benedict Tan Chi'-Loong
Dr Benjamin YQ Tan
Prof Kelvin Tan Kok Hian
Dr Tan Li Hoon
A/Prof Tan Poh Lin (till Dec '21)
Prof Tan Puay Hoon
A/Prof Tan Su-Ming
A/Prof Tan Tong Khee
Dr Darren Tay Keng Jin
A/Prof Samuel Tay Sam Wah
A/Prof Cuthbert Teo
A/Prof Toh Song Tar (from Jan '22)
Dr Shawn Vasoo
Prof Wong Wai Keong

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A/Prof Judy Wei-Ming Hung (USA)

Prof Jose Florencio Lapena Jr (Philippines)
Prof Ng Kwan Hoong (Malaysia)
Prof Tan Siang Yong (USA)

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Adj Assistant Prof Clive Tan (from Nov '21)
Adj A/Prof Tan Tze Lee
A/Prof Jimmy Teo
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Dr Alfred Seng (NHG), Vice Chairperson (till Sep '21)
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Prof Paul Tambyah, Advisor

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Dr Ng Chew Lip
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Dr Chong Yeh Woei, Vice Chairperson
Dr Wong Chiang Yin, Vice Chairperson

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Dr Felix Li Jingxiang, Vice Chairperson

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Golf: Dr Tay Jam Chin
Soccer (Men):
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Dr Chng Nai Wee
Soccer (Women):
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Bowling: Dr Valerie Teo Hui Ying
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Cross Country: Dr Foo Gen Lin
Floorball:
Dr Benjamin Ang Fu Hong
Dr Tan Hon Lyn (Co-captain)
Dr Teh Yi Lin (Assistant)
Golf: Dr Chee Hsing Gary Andrew
Pool: Dr Pua Uei
Soccer (Men):
Dr William Kristanto
Dr Chng Nai Wee
Soccer (Women):
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Dr Hwang Kai Yin (Co-captain)
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Tennis:
Dr Derek Yong Wee Boon
Dr Julian Theng Thiam Siew (Co-captain)
Volleyball: Dr Tan Pinhong

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SMA CPR TRAINING PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

A/Prof Lim Swee Han, Chairperson

**Due to COVID-19, we regret that the usual annual events could not be held. Nonetheless, we wish to extend our thanks and appreciation to the abovenamed.*

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Dr Wong Chiang Yin

SINGAPORE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION PRIVATE LIMITED

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A/Prof Gerald Chua, Immediate Past Executive Director (till Jun '21)
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Dr Peter Chow, Deputy Academic Director (from Jul '21)
Dr Giles Tan, Associate Director (from Dec '21)

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A/Prof Lai Siang Hui (MLS) (till Jun '21)

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Dr Ng Chew Lip (Alternate)

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Dr Anantham Devanand

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Dr Anantham Devanand

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Dr Thomas Lee Kae Meng

SINGAPORE RESUSCITATION & FIRST AID COUNCIL

A/Prof Lim Swee Han

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Adj Prof Tan Sze Wee

THE COURAGE FUND LIMITED, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Prof Low Cheng Hock

THE COURAGE FUND LIMITED, SMA INSTITUTIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Dr Ho Choon Kiat

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Adj A/Prof Tan Tze Lee (Secretary General)
Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

MASEAN GROUP OF JOURNALS

A/Prof Mahesh Choolani (Vice Chairperson)

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Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui
Dr Wong Tien Hua

THE CONFEDERATION OF MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS IN ASIA AND OCEANIA (CMAAO)

Dr Chong Yeh Woei (CMAAO Chairperson of Council from Sep '17)
Dr Wong Tien Hua (SMA Councillor to CMAAO)

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Dr Tan Yia Swam
Dr Ng Chee Kwan
Dr Ng Chew Lip

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Mr Lek Siang Pheng, Dentons Rodyk & Davidson LLP
Ms Mak Wei Munn, Allen & Gledhill LLP
Mr Matthew Saw Seang Kuan, Lee & Lee

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

Ms Nalini Naidu, IMSG Pte Ltd



SMA

SECRETARIAT

The SMA Secretariat, led by Chief Administrator Ms Krysanja Tan, provides support to the SMA Council and committees, and ensures the smooth running of the Association. With 26 dedicated staff, the Secretariat can be broadly categorised into four divisions, namely Membership Services/ Business and Partnership Development, Publications, SMA Academy and Corporate Services, alongside our charity arm – SMA Charity Fund.

Despite the challenges of the ongoing pandemic and staff having to work from home due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the Secretariat strived to provide timely support to our Council and members. We thank all members for your patience and understanding.

We also welcomed the following new staff in 2021: Ms Jasmine Low, Admin Executive, Business and Partnership Development; Ms Jayanthi Segar, Executive, SMA Academy; and Mr Seth Chen, Assistant Manager, Membership Services.

To view the full annual report, financial statements
and other supplementary materials, please visit

www.sma.org.sg/AnnualReport

or scan the following QR Code.



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