



Singapore
Medical
Association

For Doctors, For Patients

PARTNERING DOCTORS, SHAPING HEALTHCARE

SMA 63rd Annual Report
2022/2023

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*"

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; and
- To publish papers, journals and other materials in furtherance of these objectives.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DR TAN YIA SWAM

President
(left)

DR NG CHEE KWAN

1st Vice President
(middle)

DR TAMMY CHAN TENG MUI

2nd Vice President
(right)



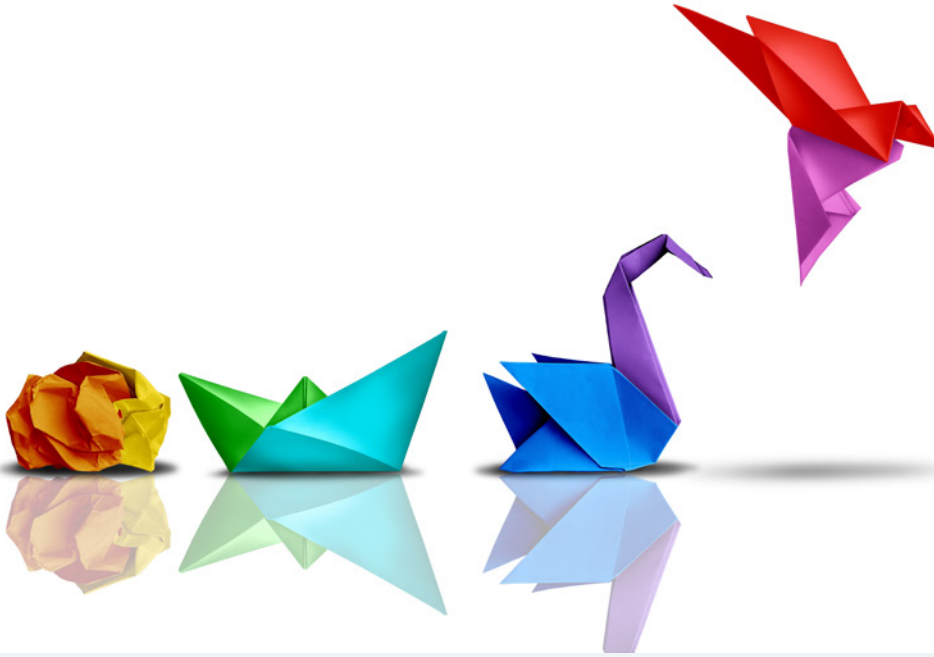
It has been an eventful three years serving as the President of SMA, through a pandemic no less, and as a Nominated Member of Parliament (NMP). As I wrap up my final year of SMA Presidency, I would like to extend my sincere thanks and deepest gratitude to SMA members and colleagues who have each supported SMA in your own ways, whether it is through continued membership and supporting our work, or contributing your valuable time to serve on the SMA Council and its committees.

As we step into a post-COVID-19 endemic world, I would like to acknowledge and appreciate the courage and sacrifices of many, especially our healthcare workers on the frontline. At our SMA Annual Dinner in November 2022, we were honoured to have our Guest of Honour Minister for Health Mr Ong Ye Kung launch an artbook collaboration with local illustrator Mr Josef Lee, titled *Unmasking the Extraordinary*. This project is a tribute to healthcare workers and, through a collection of 36 illustrated short stories, shares their real-life experiences as they battled COVID-19. Proceeds from the book are donated to the SMA Charity Fund to support needy medical students.

In my additional role as an NMP, I have tried my best to spotlight the concerns of the medical profession and our patients in Parliamentary speeches. Some of these concerns included challenges faced by individual practitioners due to their working conditions and financial challenges arising from the changing landscape of medical practice. Other challenges stem from insurance claims and the matter of their arbitration. The mental health and well-being of doctors is yet another concern, among many other issues.

Our SMA representatives continue to work through the Ministry of Health's Multilateral Healthcare Insurance Committee to advocate for fairness and transparency for both doctors and patients. Recent developments include better accessibility to insurance panels and reduced administrative burden for doctors with the implementation of standardised pre-authorisation forms. SMA will also be publishing the results of its annual Integrated Shield Plan ranking survey in due course.





“

Join us and be the change you wish to see.

”

As doctors, we have a professional duty and responsibility to deliver good care, communicate well and perform our own self-governance. Since July 2022, the three professional bodies – Academy of Medicine, Singapore, College of Family Physicians Singapore and SMA – each have a representative appointed to the Singapore Medical Council (SMC). The three professional bodies have also established a joint support programme for doctors facing disciplinary proceedings by SMC. The SMA Centre for Medical Ethics and Professionalism (CMEP) has developed online modules that will qualify for ethics core continuing medical education points when SMC implements this new requirement on 1 January 2024. For other professional development programmes and talks organised by SMA and SMA CMEP, please refer to <https://sma.org.sg/courses-&-events>.

While we have a full-time secretariat team, the SMA is managed by volunteer doctors. As such, there are some limitations in the way we work and how we engage members. Nevertheless, there is strength in

numbers, and I am happy to see new and young doctors joining and serving in the SMA Doctors-in-Training Committee and learning how to advocate effectively.

We are represented on the National Wellness Committee, which looks into the working conditions and mental health of junior doctors, as well as their career development and training. We also gave feedback to the Tripartite Workgroup for Prevention of Abuse and Harassment of Healthcare Workers, whose report has just been released.

As my terms as SMA President and NMP come to an end, I hope I have made some significant contributions for the profession in the past three years, and I sincerely hope that there will be others who will continue advocating for doctors and for patients. Join us and be the change you wish to see.

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

DR NG CHEW LIP

Honorary Secretary
(left)

DR BENNY LOO KAI GUO

Honorary Assistant Secretary
(right)



After three long years of battling COVID-19, it was with much joy and relief when Singapore transitioned to a new endemic norm, and community safe management measures were relaxed. While mask-wearing is still required in healthcare settings, it is to better protect patients and healthcare workers from infectious diseases in general.

SMA resumed its Annual Dinner on 6 November 2022 after a two-year hiatus, with Minister for Health Mr Ong Ye Kung as our Guest of Honour. Another highlight of the evening was the launch of the artbook collaboration between SMA and local illustrator Mr Josef Lee. *Unmasking the Extraordinary* is an A4-sized hardcover collection of illustrations based on the real-life experiences of healthcare workers (HCWs). The book captures the sacrifices and spirit of frontliners during the pandemic and is intended as a tribute to HCWs. Proceeds from the sale of the artbook are donated to the SMA Charity Fund, which supports medical students from disadvantaged families. Members who are interested in purchasing a copy of the artbook (\$70 nett) may contact the SMA office at sma@sma.org.sg. Another fundraiser organised last year was the auction of a calligraphy piece, generously donated by Centenarian Cultural Medallion winner Mr Lim Tze Peng.

SMA continued to play an active role in shaping the healthcare ecosystem through advocacy, engagement and collaborations with stakeholders. As per amendments to the Medical Registration Act, one representative from each of the three professional bodies – Academy of Medicine, Singapore (AMS), College of Family Physicians Singapore (CFPS) and SMA – has been appointed to the

Singapore Medical Council (SMC). A support programme for doctors who face disciplinary proceedings by SMC was also jointly established with AMS and CFPS. Members may approach their professional bodies' doctor volunteers, who can provide information on the disciplinary process and address general concerns. Fifteen SMA nominees were also appointed to the SMC Complaints Committee.

SMA is represented on the Multilateral Healthcare Insurance Committee (MHIC) which was formed by the Ministry of Health (MOH) in 2021. Progress made included a general expansion of panels, including extended panels, as well as standardised pre-authorisation forms, which aim to reduce the administrative burden on doctors and enable them to better focus on providing quality patient care. Separately, SMA has completed its second annual survey to rank Integrated Shield Plans insurers. The results will be published in *SMA News*.

Continuing medical education (CME) remains a focus for SMA. Members can look at the programmes offered by the SMA Centre for Medical Ethics and Professionalism (CMEP) and the quizzes in our monthly *Singapore Medical Journal* for CME points. In preparation for the launch of the ethics core CME requirement from 1 January 2024, SMA CMEP has developed relevant online modules. Check out our events calendar at <https://www.sma.org.sg> or our electronic direct mails. Do keep your contact details updated or email membership@sma.org.sg for assistance.

The SMA Doctors-in-Training (DIT) Committee advocated for

junior doctors' welfare through engagements with MOH senior management and MOH Holdings. Our representatives on the National Wellness Committee also worked on addressing concerns on manpower and work processes, career development and training, as well as engagement of junior doctors and their mental wellness. A pilot programme for a 24-hour call system was launched in selected hospitals and departments, and revisions have been made to the salaries of junior doctors. The DIT Committee also organised two online workshops: the SMA "Called To See Patient" workshop for house officers, and a new "MO 101" series for new medical officers. The 21st edition of the *SMA House Officer's Handbook* was also released in 2022.

Finally, we are pleased to bring back the SMA Members' Appreciation Night movie screening, as a token of thanks to our volunteers who have contributed their valuable time on the various SMA committees, and to our SMA members. We look forward to enjoying an evening with friends and colleagues again.

Thank you to all our volunteer doctors, SMA members and Secretariat staff for the wonderful work and strong support over another busy year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ng Chew Lip'.

DR NG CHEW LIP
Honorary Secretary

HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

DR DANIEL LEE HSIEN CHIEH

Honorary Treasurer
(left)

DR LEE YEE MUN

Honorary Assistant Treasurer
(right)



The COVID-19 situation has stabilised around the world and Singapore has also reverted to DORSCON (Disease Outbreak Response System Condition) Green as of 9 February 2023. Nevertheless, the general economic outlook remains cautious due to ongoing global events, including supply chain disruptions and geopolitical conflicts.

We closed the financial year ending 31 December 2022 with an operating surplus of \$274,000, which is lower compared to that of the last two years. Our overall expenses grew as we resumed organising in-person events and activities, such as our SMA Annual Dinner, and we were no longer receiving COVID-19-related financial aid from the Government. Meanwhile, our revenue streams from membership subscriptions, services rendered to third parties, advertising, and professional development programmes organised by the SMA Centre for Medical Ethics and Professionalism remained stable. We have continued to focus on improving our organisational cost-effectiveness and have also

tapped on government funding where appropriate. However, rising inflation costs, particularly in the past year, have negatively impacted the Association's operations.

Despite the operating surplus, overall the SMA Group reported a loss of \$769,000. This was due to the fair value (unrealised) loss of \$1.05 million in our investment portfolio, which was affected by ongoing geopolitical conflicts. We have begun to see some recovery and our Investment Committee is stewarding the funds with great care. Our accumulated funds remain healthy at \$9.04 million, and SMA members continue to enjoy complimentary or discounted rates for courses, activities and services.

We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all members who have continued to support SMA. Please also encourage your peers to join SMA and participate in its activities. A well-supported professional body will have stronger representation and will be able to advocate

more effectively for the medical profession and Singapore's healthcare. Membership subscriptions are also a core revenue source which enables us to continue SMA's work. Together, we can build a better healthcare ecosystem for Singapore.

Finally, I would like to thank my Honorary Assistant Treasurer, Dr Lee Yee Mun, for his valuable support, our Finance team members, Ms Angeline Teoh and Ms Priscilla Leong, who have demonstrated admirable dedication in managing the finance operations, and the SMA Secretariat for their invaluable contributions and wonderful teamwork throughout the years.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh'.

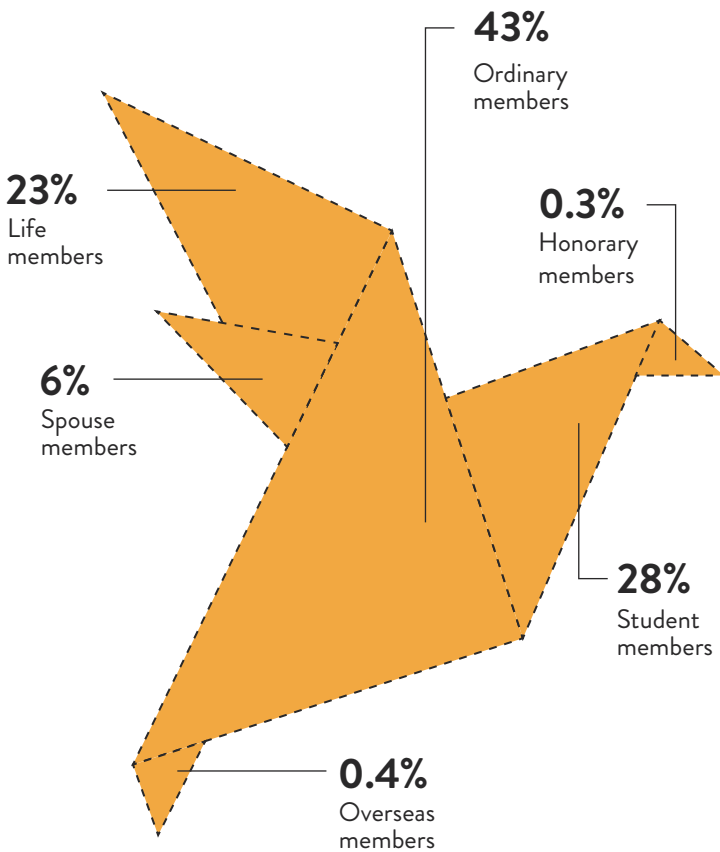
DR DANIEL LEE HSIEN CHIEH
Honorary Treasurer



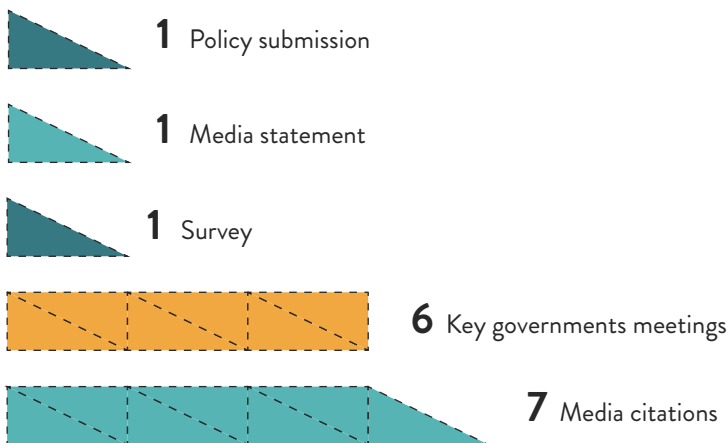
KEY STATISTICS IN 2022

SMA Membership

TOTAL > 8,257



Advocacy & Representation



Membership & Engagement

6 Student engagement activities

>30

Membership privileges



7 New lifestyle partners

Professional Development

16 Webinars and courses

49 CME activities

Up to 60 CME points

7,867 Participants

SMA Charity Fund

51 Bursaries

\$255,000 Disbursed

\$448,565 Raised

KEY FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

GROUP STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	2022	2021
Surplus for the Year after Tax		
Total Income	\$2,804,757	\$3,998,163
Total Expenditure	\$3,584,353	\$2,648,369
Total Surplus/(Deficit)	\$(779,596)	\$1,349,794
Income		
Subscriptions	\$661,244	\$678,642
Contributions	\$765,660	\$731,157
Rebates	\$68,030	\$91,728
Courses and Events	\$552,313	\$425,132
Investments	\$3,021	\$1,107,543
Publications	\$644,613	\$786,044
Others	\$109,876	\$177,917
Total Income	\$2,804,757	\$3,998,163
Expenditure		
Administrative and Operating Expenses	\$404,498	\$592,355
Courses and Events	\$220,145	\$115,008
Publications	\$246,786	\$237,769
Staff and Related Expenses	\$1,664,395	\$1,703,237
Investments (fair value loss)	\$1,048,529	-
Total Expenditure	\$3,584,353	\$2,648,369

GROUP STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2022	2021
Assets		
Non-current Assets	\$168,999	\$375,333
Current Assets	\$9,935,522	\$10,888,068
Total Assets	\$10,104,521	\$11,263,401
Equity And Liabilities		
Equity Attributable to SMA members	\$9,043,636	\$9,839,898
Current Liabilities	\$1,060,885	\$1,423,503
Total Equity and Liabilities	\$10,104,521	\$11,263,401

ADVOCATING FOR PATIENTS AND THE PROFESSION

SMA's advocacy work aims to serve as a voice for the medical profession and to support the interests of doctors and patients. We achieve this by raising issues pertinent to medical practitioners through a diverse array of platforms, such as statements to the media, meetings with representatives from the government and authorities, various committees and workgroups, our internal circulations to members and monthly newsletter. In the past year, SMA continued to advocate on key focus areas, as well as highlight new issues to the authorities' attention.

HEALTH INSURANCE

SMA continued its work on the Multilateral Healthcare Insurance Committee (MHIC). The MHIC comprises representatives from SMA, Academy of Medicine, Singapore (AMS), Consumers Association of Singapore, Fee Benchmarks Advisory Committee, Life Insurance Association (LIA), Ministry of Health (MOH) and private hospitals.

Progress made in 2022 included:

General expansion of panels, as well as extended panels (doctors who are already on an Integrated Shield Plan [IP] panel may generally be recognised by other IP insurers);

Standardised pre-authorisation forms; and

Published list comprising the processes, requirements and considerations of various insurers which was collated by the LIA and made available on its website. This project was initiated in response to feedback from doctors that they had encountered difficulties when applying to join IP panels.

These measures seek to improve patient access to care, and also reduce the administrative workload for doctors so that they may better focus their efforts on patient care.

Separately, SMA conducted its second annual survey to rank IPs. This initiative was started in 2022 to better understand the performance variance of IP providers, as perceived by doctors. Results will be published in *SMA News*.

The process to reform health insurance involves many stakeholders and will be a long process. Nevertheless, SMA will continue to push for patient welfare and greater transparency in healthcare.

WELFARE OF JUNIOR DOCTORS

The Doctors-in-Training Committee continued to lobby for sustainable working conditions of junior doctors in public healthcare institutions in the past year.

More details are provided in the Membership report on page 10.



HEALTHIER SG

The College of Family Physicians Singapore (CFPS) and SMA co-organised a Healthier SG focus group discussion for GPs, providing a platform for participants to contribute to the discussion on the scheme. The session was held physically on Saturday, 27 August 2022, at the College of Medicine Building.

Updates on the Healthier SG initiative were provided by MOH and the Agency for Integrated Care, followed by a focus group discussion with GPs conducted in several smaller groups. Attendees provided candid feedback on concerns and also a wish list of what they would like to be implemented.

SMA President Dr Tan Yia Swam also spoke in Parliament during the debate on the White Paper on Healthier SG. She highlighted three key areas in which healthcare workers face challenges: IT support, manpower and respect for healthcare workers.

The video clip can be viewed at <https://bit.ly/3ynuxyl>.

As a member of the Healthier SG Implementation Workgroup, SMA looks forward to working together with stakeholders in this nationwide project to help shape a better healthcare ecosystem for doctors and patients.

PROFESSIONALISM AND ETHICS

Self-regulation and maintaining high standards of professionalism and ethics remain the bedrock of the medical profession.

A total of 15 SMA nominees were appointed as members of the Singapore Medical Council (SMC) Complaints Panel. Their terms of appointment will be for three years, with effect from 1 July 2022. We thank all nominees for stepping forward to serve.

A support programme for doctors facing SMC disciplinary proceedings was also jointly established with AMS and CFPS. Doctors may approach our volunteers (who are also doctors), who will provide information on the disciplinary process and address general concerns. For assistance, please email sma@sma.org.sg.

SMA looks forward to continuing to contribute to a fair, open and transparent disciplinary system.



COVID-19 EFFORTS

In March 2022, SMA co-organised an online dialogue session on COVID-19 infection and vaccination for children with MOH. The session was especially helpful in addressing concerns when the vaccine was first approved for young children.

MEETINGS WITH HEALTHCARE LEADERSHIP

In February 2022, SMA met with Minister for Health Mr Ong Ye Kung to discuss pertinent healthcare-related matters, including preventive health matters. SMA also engaged with then Senior Minister of State for Health Dr Koh Poh Koon in March 2022.

We look forward to further dialogue with MOH to help improve the healthcare landscape for both doctors and patients.



HEALTH ISSUES RAISED IN PARLIAMENT

Nominated Member of Parliament Dr Tan Yia Swam raised several issues relating to healthcare in Parliament during the Committee of Supply 2022 debate. This included concerns regarding third-party administrators (TPAs) and protecting healthcare workers (HCWs) from abuse. The then Senior Minister of State for Health Dr Koh Poh Koon addressed these issues in a speech he delivered in response. This is available at: <https://bit.ly/3qJYPb9>.

For the video clips of Dr Tan's speeches, please visit the links below:

Challenges with TPAs and call for review:
<https://bit.ly/3uBQUxG>.

Management of abusive behaviour towards HCWs:
<https://bit.ly/3LplrWt>.

PARTNERING AND SUPPORTING SMA MEMBERS

With the stabilisation of the COVID-19 situation in the past year, several activities have resumed, including international travel and in-person gatherings. In addition to advocating for members and the medical profession, SMA pressed on with efforts to improve junior doctors' welfare, and also brought back some of our annual social networking events such as the SMA Annual Dinner and Inter-Hospital Soccer Tournament.

JUNIOR DOCTORS' WELFARE

The SMA Doctors-in-Training (DIT) Committee advocates for junior doctors' welfare and has met with Ministry of Health (MOH) and MOH Holdings to highlight such concerns. We are glad to note that revisions have since been made to junior doctors' night allowances and salaries, among other initiatives to improve their working conditions, such as a pilot programme for 24-hour calls in selected hospitals and departments. SMA is also represented on the MOH National Wellness Committee for Junior Doctors. Our eight junior doctor representatives will continue to work with the committee and stakeholders to address manpower and work processes, career development and training, as well as the engagement of junior doctors and their mental wellness.

The SMA HO Helpline on Telegram (available at <https://t.me/smahospbot>) is a free resource launched by the DIT Committee and run by a small group of SMA volunteers. It serves as a confidential platform for junior doctors to ask questions or raise concerns regarding life as a house officer (HO). Since its inception, the helpline has seen more than 551 clicks and has been incorporated into HO orientation programmes in all institutions.

Other resources which junior doctors may already be aware of are the *SMA House Officer's Handbook* – the latest 21st edition was launched in December 2022 – and the well-received “Called To See Patient” (CTSP) workshop, which had its latest run held on 23 April 2022 for new HOs. In addition, a new workshop series titled “How to MO 101” was launched on 25 February 2023. This workshop is specifically for HOs on the way to becoming medical officers, and it aims to introduce them to their new responsibilities such as handling admissions, CTSP and handovers, consent-taking, escalation of care discussions and death certification.



SUPPORTING MEDICAL STUDENTS

The TriMedSoc Alliance (a collaboration between the student bodies of NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine and Duke-NUS Medical School, and the official student representative body of local medical students) co-organised the SMA 4th National Medical Students Convention with SMA from 30 April to 1 May 2022. The theme was “Through the Eyes of Medical Students: Challenges We Face and Hopes We Share”, and was attended by medical students from the three local medical schools. The event aimed to provide a platform for students to engage in discussion with junior doctors and educators, and for their seniors to share their knowledge and experiences to help the students along in their journeys towards becoming a part of the profession.



NETWORKING & SOCIAL EVENTS



SMA-NK Yong Wine Appreciation Chapter

The SMA Wine Appreciation Chapter was renamed the SMA-NK Yong Wine Appreciation Chapter in memory of our pioneer patron, the late Dr NK Yong. Two fully subscribed dinners were held on 17 May and 27 July 2022 at the Jade Palace Seafood Restaurant and OTTO Ristorante, respectively. Members took the opportunity to wind down from their busy schedules and enjoyed face-to-face interaction over good food and wine. There was also a blind-tasting competition with a bottle of Bollinger champagne as the prize during the May dinner.



46th SMA-Goldplus Universal Inter-Hospital Soccer Tournament

On 31 July 2022, eight soccer teams gathered on the pitches of The Cage at Turf City to determine which team possessed the best skills, fitness and teamwork. In the final match, it was SingHealth Team 1 which outplayed the team from Tan Tock Seng Hospital and emerged the victors. The soccer tournament, more than just a competition, is also an opportunity for doctors to bond outside of work.

CONNECTING THE PROFESSION

SMA News, the official newsletter of SMA, carries articles on diverse topics and discussions that aim to be relevant and insightful for our members from a wide spectrum of the medical profession. As the COVID-19 situation calmed in 2022, the newsletter began to focus its pages on the well-being of doctors with topics such as junior doctors' wellness and tips on planning for one's retired future, as well as the latest updates in the industry such as notable healthcare technology and cybersecurity developments.

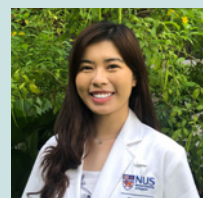
With Singapore returning to normality, in-person interviews have also resumed, and we had the honour of speaking with doctors who have dedicated their lifetimes to their craft. Among these venerable doctors were Dr Charles Toh and Dr Cheah Jin Seng, and they shared generously on their journeys and lessons in medicine.

The efforts of our Editorial Board members have gone a long way in furthering engagement with our members and readers, beyond simply putting together issues of relevance to the profession. The newsletter is also pleased to have more medical students and doctors write in to us with article ideas they deem relevant to the profession. In addition to that, our two student correspondents, Joycelyn Soo and Helen Cai, have contributed greatly to our collection of articles for and from our doctors in training.

The newsletter endeavours to achieve our editor's aim "that SMA News remains a relevant and reliable source of information, as well as a platform for doctors to stay connected and engaged with each other within the medical profession," as we continue to bring our members enriching, compelling and informative monthly issues.

“

I joined the SMA News Editorial Board as a student correspondent hoping to connect both faculty and student voices to our publication. SMA News remains an incredible avenue for our colleagues and students to stay connected to the medical profession, especially with our diverse topics ranging from medical and medico-legal updates to "indulge" articles – there is something relevant to everyone.



– Joycelyn Soo, SMA News Student Correspondent

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SMA Annual Dinner 2022

The SMA Annual Dinner was held on 6 November and graced by our Guest of Honour Mr Ong Ye Kung, Minister for Health. The evening's programme included the conferment of the SMA Honorary Membership to Prof Tan Chorh Chuan, and the presentation of the SMA Merit and Long Service Awards.

SMA also launched a COVID-19 commemorative art book titled *Unmasking the Extraordinary*, published in collaboration with local illustrator Mr Josef Lee. Nett proceeds from the sale of the book received till date were donated to the SMA Charity Fund. The art book is available for order at <https://bit.ly/SMABookOrder>.



1. The 63rd SMA Council
2. Distinguished guests and Council members
3. Prof Tan Chorh Chuan, SMA Honorary Membership 2022 recipient, and his wife
4. SMA Merit Award recipients
5. Minister for Health Mr Ong Ye Kung and Dr Tan Yia Swam at the book launch

SHAPING MEDICINE THROUGH EDUCATION

Over the past three years of the COVID-19 pandemic, SMA Academy has held its activities and seminars online to help safeguard the health and welfare of participants and teaching faculty, while also upholding the quality of its pedagogy. As Singapore progressively eased COVID-19 Safe Management Measures, face-to-face activities resumed and so have in-person continuing medical education activities conducted by SMA.

SMA CENTRE FOR MEDICAL ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM

The SMA Centre for Medical Ethics and Professionalism (CMEP) was officially launched in June 2000 to provide 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.

SMA CMEP Teaching Faculty

Dr Aaron Ang	Ms Mak Wei Munn
Dr Aung Myint Oo	Dr Habeebul Rahman
Ms Rebecca Chew	Dr Hairil Rizal Abdullah
Mr Christopher Chong	Dr Jason See
Dr Jonathan Choo	Dr Seow Wan Tew
Dr Peter Chow	Dr Bhavani Sriram
Dr Sean David	Dr Giles Tan
Dr Charmain Heah	Dr Malcolm Tan
Mr Edmund Kronenburg	A/Prof Cuthbert Teo
Ms Kuah Boon Theng	Mr Tham Hsu Hsien
Dr Daniel Kwek	Dr Luke Toh
A/Prof Lai Siang Hui	Adj Asst Prof Shelat Vishalkumar G
Mr Lek Siang Pheng	A/Prof Jason Yap
Ms Vanessa Lim	Dr Colin Yeo
Dr Peter Loke	Dr Jamie Zhou

Medical Ethics, Professionalism and Healthcare Course

This is a two-and-a-half-day mandatory course for exit certification for advanced specialist trainees, family medicine trainees and residents. The eight modules are: (1) Medical Professionalism; (2) Important Issues in Medical Professionalism & 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 2022, SMA CMEP has run 73 courses and trained 5,020 doctors.

Addressing Mental Capacity

Mental Capacity Act Code of Practice (COP) Webinar

The Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) launched the OPG Online (OPGO) system – an online platform to facilitate transactions with the OPG – on 14 November 2022. Prior to the launch of OPGO, SMA conducted the Mental Capacity Act COP webinar in collaboration with OPG to provide doctors with the platform to learn more about OPGO and clarify their doubts regarding the system. Available transactions include making and certifying a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA), submitting a Deputy Report, submitting search requests and/or Certified True Copy applications, and making online payments.

Certifying LPA under the Mental Capacity Act – Understanding the Issues and Avoiding the Pitfalls

This webinar, held on 30 April 2022, was a collaboration between SMA, the College of Psychiatrists of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore and the Law Society of Singapore. The webinar included topics on: (1) the legal basis of the LPA in the Mental Capacity Act; (2) the various steps in certifying an LPA; (3) appreciation of the various medical issues in mental capacity assessment of the donor; and (4) medical and legal red flags and pitfalls.

GP Forum

Fight against Obesity and Diabetes

World Obesity Day is observed on 4 March, and the theme for its 2022 commemoration was that “Everybody Needs to Act”. In line with this, SMA organised a webinar titled “Fight against Obesity and Diabetes” for primary healthcare professionals on 19 March 2022. The webinar was supported by Novo Nordisk and Bayer, and drew a total of 166 participants.

Obesity and diabetes are complex chronic diseases and their prevalence is increasing yearly. As per the 2022 theme for World Obesity Day, SMA encourages all to act together hand in hand in the fight against obesity and diabetes.

Update on Oesophageal Cancer

With April being Oesophageal Cancer Awareness month, SMA organised a webinar on 9 April 2022 titled “Update on Oesophageal Cancer” for primary

healthcare professionals, supported by Bristol Myers Squibb. A total of 103 clinicians attended the webinar.

Even though oesophageal cancer is relatively uncommon, it is one of the top ten leading causes of cancer deaths worldwide, especially in Asia and Singapore. Most oesophageal patients are diagnosed at an advanced stage as symptoms of progressive dysphagia only present themselves when the tumour is big enough. If diagnosed sufficiently early, endoscopic treatment is feasible with good outcomes. Advancement in treatment and management options with better overall outcomes and disease-free survival were also discussed during the webinar.

In organising these webinars and seminars, SMA aims to keep our profession and members updated on relevant medical knowledge. By equipping participants with the latest information in medical treatment options, we seek to support our members as they take care of the Singaporean population’s health.

EVENTS HELD IN 2022

Name of Event	CME Points	No. of Runs	Participants		Total
			SMA Members	Non-SMA Members	
Medical Ethics, Professionalism and Healthcare Course	10	4	119	313	432
Medicine, Doctors and the Law Series	1	6	117	147	264
Mental Capacity Act COP Webinar	2	1	176	35	211
Issuing a Lasting Power of Attorney under the Mental Capacity Act (2008)	2	1	215	41	256
Revisiting Mental Capacity Assessments for Primary Care Doctors	2	1	77	28	105
Fight against Obesity and Diabetes	2	1	166	-	166
Update on Oesophageal Cancer	2	1	102	1	103
Improving Our Care of Patients with Cardio Metabolic Disorders	2	1	102	1	103

“

I joined SMA CMEP in 2020 after I obtained the LLM in medical law and ethics from the University of Edinburgh. SMA CMEP allows me to share what I’ve learnt with my colleagues and I have gained so much from the excellent teaching team of SMA CMEP and course participants. SMA is one of the best platforms to let doctors in Singapore support one another and to promote patient care.

Dr Peter Chow, SMA CMEP Faculty



”

SINGAPORE MEDICAL JOURNAL

Key Highlights In 2022



350

Submissions



282

Reviewers



3.331

Impact factor



24

CME quizzes



149

Published Articles

In 2022, the *Singapore Medical Journal (SMJ)* achieved several major milestones. The first milestone is the attainment of a historic impact factor (IF) of 3.331, moving the *SMJ* up in the “Medicine, General and Internal” category from the third to the second quartile (Journal Citation Reports, Clarivate 2022). Although the journal IFs have been heavily influenced by COVID-19-related publications in 2020–2021, the IF rankings of journals that did not focus excessively on COVID-19 research have remained stable. As a general medical journal, the *SMJ* has continued to make steadfast progress in our IF, and this is a testament to the quality of submissions by our authors and the efforts of our reviewers.

The second milestone is our transition in July 2022 to partnering with a publisher, Wolters Kluwer Medknow. Since our first issue in March 1960, the production of the journal has been handled in-house. However, operational and staffing challenges in recent years have affected the work processes and turnaround time for articles submitted to the journal. In consultation with and with the support of the SMA Council, a decision was made to partner with a publishing house to enhance the operational efficiency of the journal. We remain committed to reducing the manuscript turnaround time, and significant progress has already been made in clearing the backlog that had accumulated.

The next big milestone is the transition of the *SMJ* to an online-only journal, and the December 2022 issue marked the final time that the journal was distributed as a print copy. This decision was made only after much deliberation, both internally within the *SMJ* and in consultation with the SMA Council. We needed to address the issues of production costs, environmental concerns, and the value proposition and relevance of continuing with print copies in light of reduced demand and the ease of online access. The *SMJ* remains freely accessible online, as it is our mission to serve as an educational platform for our local and international medical communities.

The past year was a challenging one for the *SMJ*. We wish to extend our deepest appreciation to the *SMJ* Editorial Board members, reviewers and editorial staff for their unflagging support and efforts in the past year, and to authors who have chosen to publish with us. As we enter 2023 with a renewed sense of optimism and resolve, we are committed to build upon these important milestones, to improve our quality and efficiency, and to remain relevant to our medical community.

Long Service Award Recipients In 2022

20

YEARS

Dr Chan Yiong Huak
Prof Wilfred CG Peh
Prof Kelvin Tan Kok Hian¹

10

YEARS

A/Prof How Choon How²
Prof Hsu Pon Poh³
A/Prof Samuel Tay Sam Wah⁴



63RD SMA COUNCIL

2022/2023

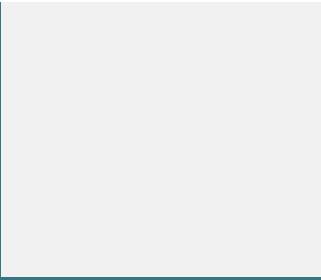
	<p>DR TAN YIA SWAM <i>President</i></p> <p>General surgeon in private practice Council member since 2007, SMA spokesperson Committee: Administration</p>		<p>DR NG CHEE KWAN <i>1st Vice President</i></p> <p>Urologist in private practice Council member since 2014; SMA spokesperson Committee: Administration; Financial Viability</p>
	<p>DR TAMMY CHAN TENG MUI <i>2nd Vice President</i></p> <p>Family physician in private practice Council member since 2007 Committee: Administration; Fitness to Drive; Membership; Medik Awas; Private Practice</p>		<p>DR NG CHEW LIP <i>Honorary Secretary</i></p> <p>Otolaryngologist in public practice Council member since 2018; SMA spokesperson Committee: Administration; Doctors-in-Training; MASEAN; Membership; SMA Charity Fund SMJ Editorial Board</p>
	<p>DR DANIEL LEE HSIEN CHIEH <i>Honorary Treasurer</i></p> <p>Public health physician in private practice Council member since 2012 Committee: Administration; Advertising Review; Financial Viability; Professional Indemnity</p>		<p>DR BENNY LOO KAI GUO <i>Honorary Assistant Secretary</i></p> <p>Paediatrician in public practice Council member since 2014 Committee: Administration; Doctors-in-Training; Membership</p>
	<p>DR LEE YEE MUN <i>Honorary Assistant Treasurer</i></p> <p>Urologist in private practice Council member since 2021 Committee: Complaints; Professional Indemnity; SMA Pte Ltd</p>		<p>DR CHIE ZHI YING <i>Council Member</i></p> <p>Family physician in public practice Council member since 2020 Committee: Annual Dinner; CME Review; Doctors-in Training; Financial Viability; Fitness to Drive; SMA Charity Fund; SMA News; SMA Pte Ltd</p>
	<p>A/PROF ANANTHAM DEVANAND <i>Council Member</i></p> <p>Respiratory & critical care physician in public practice Council member since 2014 Committee: SMA CMEP</p>		<p>DR CHIE ZHI YING <i>Council Member</i></p> <p>Family physician in public practice Council member since 2020 Committee: Annual Dinner; CME Review; Doctors-in Training; Financial Viability; Fitness to Drive; SMA Charity Fund; SMA News; SMA Pte Ltd</p>



DR LEE PHENG SOON

Council Member

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



DR LIM KHENG CHOON

Council Member

Diagnostic radiologist in public
practice
Council member since 2013
Committee: Doctors-in-Training;
Membership; Professional
Indemnity; SMA Charity Fund



DR IVAN LOW JINRONG

Council Member

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



**DR LOW TCHERN
KUANG LAMBERT**

Council Member

Psychiatrist in public practice
Council member since 2020
Committee: Complaints



**DR RAJ KUMAR
MENON**

Council Member

General surgeon in public practice
Council member since 2021
Committee: Doctors-in-Training;
Medik Awas; Membership



ADJ PROF TAN SZE WEE

Council Member

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



ADJ A/PROF TAN TZE LEE

Council Member

Family physician in private
practice
Council member since 2013
Committee: SMA News



DR TAN ZHENWEN TINA

Council Member

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



DR TOH CHOON LAI

Council Member

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



DR WONG CHIANG YIN

Council Member

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



DR WONG TIEN HUA

Council Member

Family physician in private
practice
Council member since 2004;
past SMA President (2015–2018)
Committee: CMAAO; CME
Review; SMA Pte Ltd



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COUNCIL MEMBERS**

STANDING COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES 2022/2023

STANDING COMMITTEES

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Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui, Vice Chairperson
Dr Ng Chew Lip
Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh
Dr Benny Loo Kai Guo
Dr Lee Yee Mun

Financial Viability Committee

Dr Ng Chee Kwan, Chairperson
Adj Prof Tan Sze Wee, Vice Chairperson
Dr Chie Zhi Ying
Dr Lee Hsien Chieh
Dr Toh Choon Lai
Dr Wong Chiang Yin

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

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Prof Roger Foo
A/Prof George Goh Boon Bee
Dr Goh Lay Hoon
Dr Andrew Ho Fu-Wah
A/Prof How Choon How
Prof Hsu Pon Poh (till Dec 2022)
Dr Shirin Kalimuddin
A/Prof Devendra Kanagalingam
Dr William KF Kong (till Dec 2022)
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A/Prof Katy Leung Ying Ying
A/Prof Kevin Lim Boon Leong
Dr Joshua PY Loh
Dr Ng Chew Lip
Dr Troy Puar Hai Kiat
Dr Pwee Keng Ho
Prof Quak Seng Hock
Dr N V Ramani
Dr See Kay Choong
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Dr Addy Tan Yong Hui
Adj A/Prof Benedict Tan Chi'-Loong
Dr Benjamin YQ Tan
Prof Kelvin Tan Kok Hian
Dr Tan Li Hoon
Prof Tan Puay Hoon (till Dec 2022)
A/Prof Tan Su-Ming
A/Prof Tan Tong Khee
A/Prof Darren Tay Keng Jin
A/Prof Samuel Tay Sam Wah
A/Prof Cuthbert Teo Eng Swee
Adj A/Prof Toh Song Tar
Dr Shawn Vasoo
Prof Wong Wai Keong

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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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Dr Stephanie Yeap, Team Lead
Varen Tan
Ashley Annushri Thenpandiyam

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Dr Chie Zhi Ying, Deputy Editor
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A/Prof Cuthbert Teo, Advisor
A/Prof Toh Han Chong, Advisor

Dr Lim Ing Haan

Dr Clive Tan

Adj A/Prof Tan Tze Lee

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Dr Alex Wong Shing Yip

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Joycelyn Soo Mun Peng

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Dr Tan Zhenwen Tina, Vice Chairperson

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Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui
Dr Chie Zhi Ying

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Dr Ng Jingwen (NHG), Vice Chairperson
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Dr Haidah Kamal

Dr K Sri Karpageshwaray

Dr Akshay Kumar

Dr Shoban Krishna Kumar

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Dr Cheong May Anne

Dr Chie Zhi Ying

Dr Lim Kheng Choon

Dr Benjamin Choong

Dr Hap Xing Fu, Daniel

Dr Benny Loo Kai Guo

Dr Raj Kumar Menon

Dr Ng Chew Lip

Dr Tan Ming Yuan

Prof Tay Sook Muay

Dr Yong Jin

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Dr Ivan Low Jinrong

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Dr Woo Chin Ming David

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A/Prof Andrew Chin Yuan Hui, Vice Chairperson

Chairperson

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):

Dr Priyanka Rajendram

Dr Hwang Kai Yin

Convenors/Captains (IPG)

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Basketball: Dr Colin Teo Kok Ann
Bowling: Dr Valerie Teo Hui Ying
Chess: Dr Jeevarajah Nithiananthan
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):
Dr Priyanka Rajendram
Dr Hwang Kai Yin (Co-captain)
Squash: Dr Jonathan Pang Sze Kang
Table Tennis: Dr Leow Khang Leng
Tennis:
Dr Derek Yong Wee Boon
Dr Julian Theng Thiam Siew (Co-captain)
Volleyball: Dr Tan Pinhong

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Dr Raj Kumar Menon, Vice Chairperson
(from Jun 2022)

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Dr Wong Tien Hua

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Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh
Dr Lee Pheng Soon

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Mr Colin Lim Fung Wan
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Dr Chong Yeh Woei
Dr Wong Chiang Yin

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Dr Wong Tien Hua

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Dr Tan Yia Swam

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A/Prof Cheong Pak Yean

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Dr Peter Chow, Deputy Academic Director
Dr Giles Tan, Associate Director

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Prof Low Cheng Hock
Dr Tan Kok Soo

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SMA Representative To SMC

Dr Tan Yia Swam

Healthier SG Implementation Workgroup

Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui

MOH Multilateral Healthcare Insurance Committee

Dr Tan Yia Swam
Dr Ng Chee Kwan
Dr Ng Chew Lip (Alternate)

MOH Fee Benchmarks Advisory Committee

Dr Toh Choon Lai

National Wellness Committee for Junior Doctors

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Dr Goh Ying Xian
Dr K Sri Karpageshwar
Dr Lim Ee Jean
Dr Ng Chew Lip
Dr Thaddaeus Tan Jun Kiat
Dr Calvin Tjio Kai En
Dr Wu Hong King

MOH Healthcare Ethics Capabilities Committee

A/Prof Anantham Devanand

MSF Office of the Public Guardian, Committee on Assessment of Mental Capacity

A/Prof Anantham Devanand

MSF Office of the Public Guardian, LPA Certificate Issuer Review Committee

A/Prof Anantham Devanand

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Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui

SMC CME Coordinating Committee

Dr Wong Tien Hua
Dr Toh Choon Lai (Alternate)

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Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh

IRAS Taxpayer Feedback Panel

Dr Ng Chee Kwan

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Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui, Chairperson,
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MASEAN Group of Journals

A/Prof Mahesh Choolani, Vice Chairperson

IDI-SMA Joint Committee (Memorandum of Understanding on Publicity Guidelines & Code of Ethics on Hospital Promotion)

Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui
Dr Tan Yia Swam
Dr Wong Tien Hua

The Confederation of Medical Associations in Asia and Oceania (CMAAO)

Dr Chong Yeh Woei, Chairperson of Council
Dr Wong Tien Hua, SMA Councillor to CMAAO

SMA Spokespersons

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

SMA Honorary Legal Advisors

Ms Kuah Boon Theng, Legal Clinic LLC
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, IMMSG Pte Ltd

SMA SECRETARIAT

The SMA Secretariat continued to support the SMA Council and committees in the past year as the Association resumed its activities amid Singapore's return to normality post-COVID-19.

The Secretariat, under Chief Administrator Krysanja Tan's leadership, can be broadly categorised into four divisions, namely Membership Services / Business and Partnership Development, Publications, SMA Academy, and Corporate Services, alongside our charity arm – the SMA Charity Fund. The Secretariat is glad to have welcomed the following colleagues who joined our teams in 2022: Ms Lee Xin Yi, Ms Nazratul'Ain Mazlan, Mr Muhammad Nabawi B Mokhtar, Mr Dominic Neo, Mr Benjamin Ong and Mr Spencer Soh.

KRYSANJA TAN
Chief Administrator

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES / BUSINESS & PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Membership Services

Seth Chen
Noor Azliena Bte Samhudi
Norita Bte Abdul Wahab
Priseillia D/O Govindasamy

Business & Partnership Development

Loy Li Li

PUBLICATIONS

Singapore Medical Journal

Sarah Lim
Lee Xin Yi
SMA News
Sylvia Thay
Benjamin Ong

CORPORATE SERVICES

Council Support

Lee Sze Yong
Priseillia D/O Govindasamy

Finance

Angeline Teoh
Priscilla Leong

Human Resource

Chua Gek Eng

Professional Indemnity Services

Sarah Lim
Sharon Wee
Nazratul'Ain Mazlan

Technology & Applications

Tan Kie Chuan
Ashley Soh

SMA Charity Fund

Ronnie Cheok
Dominic Neo
Sara Kwok

SMA ACADEMY

Professional Development

Denise Tan
Spencer Soh
Muhammad Nabawi B Mokhtar


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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