



SINGAPORE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

**HELD ON 30 APRIL 2023 (SUNDAY) 2 PM AT AUDITORIUM, SMF BUILDING,
LEVEL 2, 2985 JALAN BUKIT MERAH, SINGAPORE 159457
AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE (ZOOM)**

Members Present: 53

At 2 pm, 36 members had signed in (17 in-person and 19 online). Additional time was taken to allow Zoom attendees already in the virtual waiting room to be admitted into the meeting.

At 2.07 pm, with 53 members (18 in-person and 35 online) signed in, with a quorum as required under Article XI, Section 3(i) of the SMA Constitution, Dr Ng Chew Lip (Ng CL), SMA Honorary Secretary, called the meeting to order on behalf of Dr Tan Yia Swam (Tan YS), SMA President.

1. OPENING ADDRESS

1.1 Dr Tan YS thanked members for their past support and setting aside time on a Sunday afternoon to attend the AGM. She also provided a summary of the proposed constitutional amendments and asked members for their support to pass these amendments.

2. GROUND RULES

2.1 Dr Ng CL highlighted the Ground Rules and requested that members attending via videoconference use the Chat function in Zoom to post questions or comments, and to keep their microphone muted, unless they were speaking. Dr Ng also sought all members' cooperation to identify themselves by name for the recording of the proceedings. Student members could attend the AGM but would not be eligible to hold office or to vote.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

3.1 The 2022 minutes were taken as adopted in accordance with Article XI, Section 4. No request was received for amendments and there were no matters arising from the 2022 AGM minutes.

4. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

4.1 The 2 proposed constitutional amendments were presented to members present. (See Appendix A.)

4.2 Article V – Subscriptions, Section ii

4.2.1 The first amendment was to increase the annual Ordinary membership fees from \$200 to \$250.

4.2.2 Dr Ng CL elaborated on the reasons for raising the membership fees:

- The fees had not been increased for the last 16 years in spite of SMA's expansion of functions, increase in Student members, inflation and rising costs.

- With effect from 1 January 2024, all medical professionals would have to earn compulsory medical ethics points as part of Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements every year. This would be administered through the professional bodies. SMA intended to provide the full compulsory ethics CME to its members at no additional cost. The increase in membership fees would fund most of the infrastructure, including the electronic platform, initial set-up costs and maintenance cost per member.
- Staff costs had increased over the years. Dr Ng highlighted that remuneration had remained reasonable and there were years when annual increments and bonuses were moderated, or even frozen such as during the start of COVID in 2020. Nonetheless, he hoped that staff could still be remunerated reasonably.
- Operating costs had gone up, including the cost of events and rental. Meanwhile, financial support from the government's Jobs Support Scheme, initiated during the COVID-19 pandemic, had ceased. SMA's functions had also expanded, and there were more Student members now.
- The percentage of Life Members had increased in recent years. Members who had been with SMA for more than 30 years no longer pay annual subscriptions and still enjoy all the benefits of membership.

4.2.3 Meanwhile, SMA had been resourceful in seeking new ways to bring in more revenue, such as paid electronic mailers and provision of other services. This was part of the reason that SMA had been able to keep the membership fees at only \$200 for the past 16 years. Dr Ng CL added that the proposed increase of \$50 worked out to about 1.25% or \$4 increase per annum over 16 years.

4.3 Article XI – General Meetings of the Association, Section v

4.3.1 The second amendment was to allow AGMs to be held in person, electronically, or a combination of both.

4.3.2 Dr Ng CL clarified that the current AGM could be held electronically due to a provision under the COVID-19 Temporary Measures, which would cease on 1 July 2023. The current SMA Constitution only allowed AGMs to be held in person. Dr Ng added that the proposed amendment would provide members with another option to attend AGMs and also allow more members to attend in future.

4.4 Dr Lee Pheng Soon, Dr Lee Yee Mun and Dr Chie Zhi Ying were appointed as scrutineers.

4.5 Voting was conducted using physical voting slips for members who attended in-person, and the Poll function in Zoom for members who attended via videoconference.

4.6 The results of the voting were as follows:

Article V – Subscriptions, Section ii

Agreed: 46 (86.79%); Disagreed: 2; Abstained: 5; Total: 53 votes

Decision: Carried

Article XI – General Meetings of the Association, Section v

Agreed: 52 (98.11%); Disagreed: 0; Abstained: 1; Total: 53 votes

Decision: Carried

4.7 Both amendments were passed with two-thirds majority as required under the SMA Constitution, in accordance with Article XII, Section 4.

5 MEMBERS WHO PASSED AWAY

5.1 Dr Tan YS requested members present to observe a minute of silence in memory of 14 members of the Association who passed away since the last AGM.

| |
|-------------------------------|
| Dr Chee Choong Seng |
| Dr Chng Keok Pang |
| Dr Dyer Hamish McMillan |
| Dr Ku Kwok Tai Gordon |
| Dr Leong Chee Lum |
| Dr Lim Kuan Keng |
| Dr Loh Kok Kit Charles |
| Adj A/Prof Loong Si Chin |
| Dr Maung Maung Aye |
| Dr Ong Leong Boon |
| Dr Seow Juay @ Seow Kang Hong |
| Dr Tseng Seong Pheng William |
| Dr Wong Chin Heng |
| Dr Yeoh Joo Seang |

6 REVIEW OF ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SMA COUNCIL 2022/2023

- 6.1 Dr Ng CL referred members to the SMA 63rd Annual Report 2022/2023. The website link to the Annual Report was circulated to members via email, prior to the AGM. A QR code was also included during the AGM presentation, for members present to access the Annual Report easily.
- 6.2 The SMA 63rd Annual Report 2022/2023 was adopted as proposed by Dr Wong Chiang Yin and seconded by Adjunct Prof Tan Sze Wee (Tan SW).

7 AUDITED STATEMENTS OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

- 7.1 Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh, SMA Honorary Treasurer, presented the accounts for the SMA Group. The SMA Group closed 2022 with a net loss of \$779,596, including a fair value loss of \$1 million from the investment portfolio. He highlighted however, that the Group had an operating surplus of \$279,344 before tax.
- 7.2 Adjunct Prof Tan SW, SMAPL Chairperson, presented the accounts for SMA Pte Ltd (SMAPL).
- 7.3 Prof Tan SW recapped that SMAPL was set up in 2000 as a commercial vehicle for SMA to invest its reserves. The first investment was a shophouse which had since been sold for a profit. The funds were then placed with a fund manager at UBS, with the portfolio including mainly corporate bonds and subsequently more equities. In recent months, due to the situation in the US and UBS acquiring Credit Suisse, it was decided to cash out from UBS. The funds were currently placed in Singapore fixed deposits, while SMAPL continued to monitor the situation. Nonetheless, Prof Tan noted that the initial capital of \$3.3 million had since doubled over the years.
- 7.4 The audited SMA and SMAPL financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 were adopted as proposed by Dr Ng Chee Kwan and seconded by Dr Benny Loo.

8 SMA CHARITY FUND (SMACF)

- 8.1 Dr Chong Yeh Woei (Chong YW), Chairperson of SMACF presented the report. He provided an introduction of the SMACF Board of Directors, and highlighted that Mr T K Udairam and Mr Colin Lim were stepping down. Another 3 new directors, Ms Usha Chandradas, Dr June Goh, and Ms Goh Eng Cher would be joining.
- 8.2 SMACF managed to raise more donations in 2022, which included the dollar-for-dollar matching grant from TOTE Board and the grant from President’s Challenge. The reserves were being built up and the current cash balance was a healthy \$1.4 million.

- 8.3 Dr Chong YW highlighted the key initiatives in 2023, including a new SMACF brochure, a Meet-The-Board session with bursary recipients, and other fundraisers.
- 8.4 Dr Tan YS took the opportunity to highlight 3 fundraisers from doctors, with proceeds to SMACF – Dr Wong Chiang Yin’s “How to Eat” book, Dr Khoo Bee Sim’s “wanton mee” fundraiser and Dr Chua Yang’s photobook of mothers and daughters in healthcare.

9 ELECTION OF SMA HONORARY MEMBER

- 9.1 In accordance with Article IV, Section iv of the SMA Constitution, the Meeting considered the proposal of the SMA Council to elect Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Foreign Affairs, as a SMA Honorary Member.
- 9.2 It was also noted that Dr Balakrishnan was previously a SMA Council Member and SMA Honorary Treasurer.
- 9.3 Members present affirmed the Council’s proposal.

10 ELECTION OF 64TH SMA COUNCIL

- 10.1 The names of the 10 Council Members who would be serving their second year on the Council were announced, as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| A/Prof Anantham Devanand | Dr Lambert Low Tchern Kuang |
| Dr Chie Zhi Ying | Dr Ng Chew Lip |
| Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh | Adj Prof Tan Sze Wee |
| Dr Benny Loo Kai Guo | Dr Tina Tan Zhenwen |
| Dr Ivan Low Jinrong | Dr Wong Tien Hua |

- 10.2 By the stipulated deadline, 10 nominations were received for the 10 vacancies. The 10 nominees were therefore elected to the 64th SMA Council, as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui | Dr Ng Chee Kwan |
| Dr Lee Pheng Soon | Dr Raj Kumar Menon |
| Dr Lee Yee Mun | Dr Tan Yia Swam |
| Dr Lim Kheng Choon | Dr Toh Choon Lai |
| Dr Michael Lim Khong Jin | Dr Wong Chiang Yin |

- 10.3 The 20 members of the 64th SMA Council were announced:

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| A/Prof Anantham Devanand | Dr Lambert Low Tchern Kuang |
| Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui | Dr Ng Chee Kwan |
| Dr Chie Zhi Ying | Dr Ng Chew Lip |
| Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh | Dr Raj Kumar Menon |
| Dr Lee Pheng Soon | Adj Prof Tan Sze Wee |
| Dr Lee Yee Mun | Dr Tan Yia Swam |
| Dr Lim Kheng Choon | Dr Tina Tan Zhenwen |
| Dr Michael Lim Khong Jin | Dr Toh Choon Lai |
| Dr Benny Loo Kai Guo | Dr Wong Chiang Yin |
| Dr Ivan Low Jinrong | Dr Wong Tien Hua |

- 10.4 The AGM recorded an appreciation of thanks to Adjunct A/Prof Tan Tze Lee, who was stepping down from the SMA Council. A/Prof Tan had served in the SMA Council since 2013 and was also in the SMA News Editorial Board.

10.5 Dr Michael Lim Khong Jin Michael, a new council member, was currently a Principal Family Physician at the Institute of Mental Health. Dr Lim provided a brief introduction of himself and also shared his areas of interest, providing inspiration for the profession, welfare of young doctors, and medical ethics.

11 ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS FOR YEAR 2023/2024

11.1 Dr Ng CL conducted the election for Office Bearers. One nomination was received for each of the posts of President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Assistant Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Assistant Treasurer.

11.2 The following were elected Office Bearers of the 64th SMA Council:

| OFFICE | NOMINEE | PROPOSER | SECONDER |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| President | Dr Ng Chee Kwan | Dr Tan Yia Swam | Dr Wong Chiang Yin |
| 1st Vice President | Dr Tan Yia Swam | Dr Ng Chee Kwan | Dr Wong Chiang Yin |
| 2nd Vice President | Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui | Dr Ng Chee Kwan | Dr Benny Loo Kai Guo |
| Honorary Secretary | Dr Benny Loo Kai Guo | Dr Ng Chee Kwan | Dr Lee Yee Mun |
| Honorary Assistant Secretary | Dr Chie Zhi Ying | Dr Ng Chee Kwan | Dr Lee Yee Mun |
| Honorary Treasurer | Dr Ng Chew Lip | Dr Ng Chee Kwan | Dr Chong Yeh Woei |
| Honorary Assistant Treasurer | Dr Lambert Low Tchern Kuang | Dr Ng Chee Kwan | Dr Lee Yee Mun |

12 APPOINTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL AUDITORS

12.1 Members present approved the appointment of Kreston David Yeung PAC as Professional Auditors for the ensuing year.

There being no other matters, Dr Ng CL declared the AGM closed at 3.07 pm.

DR BENNY LOO KAI GUO

Honorary Secretary

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SMA CONSTITUTION
RESOLUTIONS FROM 63RD SMA COUNCIL**

That this House amends the SMA Constitution as follows:

| | EXISTING CLAUSES | PROPOSED AMENDMENTS (highlighted in bold) | REASONS |
|----|---|--|--|
| 1. | <p>Article V – Subscriptions Section (i) – The Financial year shall start from January 1st and end on December 31st. The Annual Subscription for Ordinary Members shall be: 1st year after graduation: 25% of full rate 2nd to 4th year after graduation: 50% of full rate 5th to 7th year after graduation: 75% of full rate 8th year onwards: 100% of full rate</p> <p>Section (ii) – The annual subscription for full-paying Ordinary Members from 8th year after graduation will be <u>\$200</u>.</p> <p>Section (iii) – The Annual Subscription shall be waived for Spouse Members and 75% of the full rate for Overseas Members. Spouse Members will not receive hard copies of publications by mail.</p> | <p>Article V – Subscriptions Section (i) – The Financial year shall start from January 1st and end on December 31st. The Annual Subscription for Ordinary Members shall be: 1st year after graduation: 25% of full rate 2nd to 4th year after graduation: 50% of full rate 5th to 7th year after graduation: 75% of full rate 8th year onwards: 100% of full rate</p> <p>Section (ii) – The annual subscription for full-paying Ordinary Members from 8th year after graduation will be <u>\$250</u>.</p> <p>Section (iii) – The Annual Subscription shall be waived for Spouse Members and 75% of the full rate for Overseas Members. Spouse Members will not receive hard copies of publications by mail.</p> | <p>Amendment to this Section is in line with the proposal of the 63rd SMA Council to increase subscription rates for Ordinary Members and Overseas Members.</p> |
| 2. | <p><i>Article XI – General Meetings of the Association</i></p> | <p>To insert a new statement as Section (v):</p> <p><u>Section (v) - The Annual General Meeting may be held in person, electronically, or a combination of both.</u></p> | <p>Amendment to this Section is in line with the proposal of the 63rd SMA Council to allow for contingency should it not be possible to hold a meeting in person.</p> |