

57th  
[ ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2016/  
2017 ]



# SMA

ENGAGING LEADING SHAPING



For Doctors, For Patients

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 and medical students in Singapore.

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

## Our Motto

*Jasa Utama, 'Service before Self'*

## Our Objectives

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

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### About the Cover

The tri-colour ribbons represent the key roles that SMA plays in engaging policymakers and our members, leading the medical profession, and shaping the healthcare environment, for the good of doctors and patients. The weaving of the three ribbons into a unified band signifies SMA's strong commitment to its roles, which are tightly woven into the fabric of the organisation.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Singapore Medical Association (SMA) slogan, 'For Doctors, For Patients', launched at the 2015 SMA Annual Dinner, reflects our recognition that the doctor-patient relationship is fundamental to the interaction between doctors and patients, and lies at the heart of any scientific revelation, technological innovation, policy decision and business practice that affects healthcare.

From Left to Right:

**Adj Prof Tan Sze Wee**  
(2nd Vice President)

**Dr Wong Tien Hua**  
(President)

**Dr Toh Choon Lai**  
(1st Vice President)

Patients today are faced with increased options, as innovations in science and technology allow the early detection and diagnosis of disease, empowering patients with more information. This is both a blessing and a burden. Patients still need their doctors as healthcare experts to help them navigate the plethora of devices and data in the market. Hence, having a good doctor-patient relationship is critical; it provides the framework for problem-solving, diagnosis and management. In the face of uncertainty, the doctor and patient can engage in the process of shared decision-making to make the choice together.

At the same time, healthcare policy and business arrangements continue to evolve in Singapore, including the introduction of the revised Singapore Medical Council (SMC) Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines (ECEG) in 2016,

changes to the Health Products Act and review of the Private Hospitals and Medical Clinics Act. The issue of escalating healthcare costs was highlighted last year when the Life Insurance Association, Singapore released its industry survey, leading to the formation of the Health Insurance Task Force to look into how healthcare costs can be contained. The issue of business practices and financial arrangements by managed care organisations (MCOs) and third-party administrators (TPAs) was also brought to the attention of both professionals and the public.

It is not difficult to see how healthcare policy and ethical guidelines directly affect the way doctors interact with their patients. Business practices work in more subtle ways, especially when financial considerations result in ethical conflicts between for-profit healthcare

and the patient's best interests, eroding the trust that is critical between doctors and patients. Given all these developments, the doctor-patient relationship continues to remain relevant now, more than ever.

SMA started our work year with an analysis of the results from the Managed Care Survey 2015, conducted by the SMA Workgroup on Managed Care and the College of Family Physicians Singapore. The purpose of this survey was to better understand the business environment that general practitioners (GPs) face. It found that the performance of MCOs had a high degree of variability and that dissatisfaction with MCOs appeared to have worsened over the last ten years. The results were published in the May 2016 edition of *SMA News*. At the SMA Annual Dinner on 14 May 2016, I announced the results of the survey and urged our GP colleagues to stop signing up with managed care schemes that are not equitable, terminate contracts that take too long to reimburse the GP, and avoid agreements that burden the GP with excessive administrative restrictions and exclusions.

Perspectives on managed care received further elaboration in August 2016, in a dedicated issue of *SMA News* that discussed the various benefits and challenges of managed care schemes. We raised the ethical issue of commission payment and fee-splitting by the medical profession, and the problem of lack of transparency of MCOs and TPAs. The issue of fee arrangements between doctors and MCOs/TPAs had been separately raised to SMC earlier in the year. SMC responded in a letter dated 8 September 2016, stating that doctors must not pay fees that are so high as to constitute 'fee-splitting' or 'fee-sharing', or which impact their ability to provide the required level of care. The fee paid must not be based primarily on the services doctors provide or the fees they collect from patients. SMC stated that doctors are to continue to remain professionally responsible for the patient's well-being, regardless of

the terms of any contract. SMC's position has since been further explained in its advisory dated 13 December 2016, and in the 2016 edition of the SMC ECEG and Handbook on Medical Ethics.

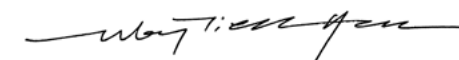
As the national association representing doctors in Singapore, SMA will continue to highlight examples of unfair contracts and questionable terms that put our members at a disadvantage and threaten good clinical care. We will keep on engaging the government and stakeholders on behalf of our members when necessary. For instance, the SMA Advisory on Managed Care Contracts, issued in 2009, will be updated to reflect the changes in the SMC ECEG.

During the year, SMA also participated in the Health Insurance Task Force, an industry-led initiative chaired by Ms Mimi Ho of Regulatory Professionals Pte Ltd, along with representatives from the Life Insurance Association, Singapore and the Consumers Association of Singapore. The initiative is supported and represented by the Ministry of Health and the Monetary Authority of Singapore. The Health Insurance Task Force was formed in February 2016 to evaluate the issue of increasing pressures on integrated plan premiums in Singapore and make recommendations to moderate the escalation of future premiums. Its final report was published on 13 October 2016 with four broad recommendations that the Government, industry and consumers should address in the near term.

Singapore Medical Week by SMA and FutureMed 2017 will be a new highlight in the Association's suite of activities for our members in the second half of 2017. The inaugural Singapore Medical Week, a trade event and conference, aims to become the focal point for stakeholders in the Singapore healthcare industry, facilitating critical discussions on vital topics of current importance and forecasting future health trends, unique ideas and new innovations. FutureMed 2017 will be a platform to showcase current developments in healthcare

technology and explore the impact of future trends, such as big data. This event will enable both medical professionals and the public to keep abreast of the latest developments and innovations in healthcare.

SMA will continue to look for opportunities to bring fresh perspectives and creative content to our members through collaboration with industry experts, healthcare institutions and relevant external parties. We seek your continued membership as we work for the good of our profession and patients in the year ahead.



**Dr Wong Tien Hua**  
President

“

**SMA will continue to highlight examples of unfair contracts and questionable terms that put our members at a disadvantage and threaten good clinical care.**

”



# SMA COUNCIL 2016/2017



**Dr Wong Tien Hua**  
President



**Dr Toh Choon Lai**  
1st Vice President



**Adj Prof Tan Sze Wee**  
2nd Vice President



**Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh**  
Honorary Secretary



**Dr Lim Kheng Choon**  
Honorary Assistant Secretary



**Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui**  
Honorary Treasurer



**Dr Benny Loo Kai Guo**  
Honorary Assistant Treasurer



**Dr Anantham Devanand**  
Council Member



**A/Prof Chin Jing Jih**  
Council Member



**Dr Chong Yeh Woei**  
Council Member



**Dr Lee Pheng Soon**  
Council Member



**Dr Lee Yik Voon**  
Council Member/Executive Director



**Dr Ng Chee Kwan**  
Council Member



**Dr Noorul Fatha As'art**  
Council Member



**A/Prof Nigel Tan Choon Kiat**  
Council Member



**Dr Charles Tan Tse Kuang**  
Council Member



**Dr Tan Tze Lee**  
Council Member



**Dr Tan Yia Swam**  
Council Member



**Dr Wong Chiang Yin**  
Council Member



**Dr Bertha Woon Yng Yng**  
Council Member



# HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

'Engaging. Leading. Shaping.' This is the tagline of our Annual Report this year, a theme that is consistently reflected in the work we have done in 2016 and in the SMA slogan unveiled in 2015, 'For Doctors, For Patients'.

### Engaging our members

One of our aims in 2016 was to further engage our members and communicate the work of the Association. Our Membership team and the SMA Secretariat have shared with members the continued efforts of the SMA Council and the broader impact of our work on the medical fraternity. In *SMA News*, we started a monthly column that summarises some of the key engagements SMA had with various stakeholders. Constant updates to our website's home and 'Our Voice' pages gave members the convenience of reading the Association's views and advisories in one location. We also reviewed our membership portal and Facebook account so that they can continue to be effective avenues from which members get the information they need.

We would like to encourage our readers to utilise these touchpoints for updates on the work of SMA. We will continue to engage our members under the leadership of the Council, who are elected members of the profession and volunteers in this role in the Association.

### Leading the profession

At the SMA Annual Dinner in May 2016, we conferred the SMA Honorary Membership on Adj A/Prof Lim Lean Huat, Prof Ong Yong Yau, and Prof Balasubramaniam Ponnampalam. They join other highly respected and esteemed members of the profession who have distinguished themselves in public life or rendered meritorious service to SMA or the medical profession.

SMA has exercised its leadership role through engagement with various stakeholders on significant professional matters throughout the year, on behalf of the profession at large. We started the year educating our members on medical indemnity issues, and understanding their views on managed care through the Managed Care Survey 2015. In the area of advocacy, we sought the views

of the Singapore Medical Council (SMC) on fees to third-party administrators (TPAs), and received a reply to our letter in the latter half of the year. This position was encapsulated in the SMC Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines (ECEG) 2016 and Handbook on Medical Ethics (HME).

During the year, we also advocated issues such as caring for the doctor (such as how doctors can look after themselves), represented members in issues faced by doctors-in-training (such as National Service leave affecting residency training), deliberated on escalating integrated shield plan premiums and claim costs (through the Health Insurance Task Force), and many more. At the SMA Lecture 2016, we were privileged to hear from Prof Sir Sabaratnam Arulkumaran on the topic of 'Health and Human Rights', where he encouraged members of the profession to become advocates of health and human rights for the benefit of our patients, regardless of backgrounds and differences.

### Shaping the healthcare environment

SMA has played an active part in shaping the healthcare environment. The SMA Council receives requests throughout the year to provide opinions on health policy and professional matters. In 2016, we provided feedback on some major developments, including the SMC ECEG 2016 and HME, ethical considerations behind fee payment to

TPAs and managed care organisations, Health Products Act, Private Hospitals and Medical Clinics Act, Public Health Preparedness Clinic Guidelines, Health Insurance Task Force, and others. More information on our representation and advocacy work can be found on page 15 of the Annual Report.

The SMA Secretariat, led by Executive Director Dr Lee Yik Voon, supports the work of the SMA Council and its Committees. The Secretariat comprises a total of 24 paid staff as at 31 December 2016. Our Chief Administrator, Mr Martin Ho, oversees the day-to-day operations of the

Secretariat, which is broadly divided into four divisions – Membership, Publications, Courses and Corporate Services, and the SMA Charity Fund.

The SMA Council, Committees and Secretariat will continue to work hard for our members and patients. We would like to express our deepest appreciation to every single one of our volunteers who have, in many ways, helped the Association to make an impact. The hours and resources committed to the work of SMA to benefit the profession as a whole is one key factor for the success of this Association.

We all have a part to play for SMA to continue to be the representative voice of the profession. We seek your continued endorsement through your membership and that of your peers. Together, we will further the collective interests of our profession – For Doctors, For Patients.



**Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh**  
Honorary Secretary

## COUNCIL MEETING ATTENDANCE

Up to February 2017, a total of 10 council meetings were convened to discuss the business and affairs of the Association. The attendance record of the meetings is as follows:

NAME	TOTAL	APR'16	MAY'16	JUN'16	JUL'16	AUG'16	SEP'16	OCT'16	NOV'16	JAN'17	FEB'17
Dr Wong Tien Hua	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dr Toh Choon Lai	9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	#	✓	✓
Adj Prof Tan Sze Wee	5	✓	#	✓	#	✓	✓	✓	#	#	*
Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh	8	✓	✓	#	✓	✓	✓	✓	*	✓	✓
Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui	7	✓	✓	#	*	✓	✓	✓	*	✓	✓
Dr Lim Kheng Choon	7	✓	✓	✓	✓	#	#	✓	#	✓	✓
Dr Benny Loo Kai Guo	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dr Anantham Devanand	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
A/Prof Chin Jing Jih	7	*	✓	✓	✓	#	✓	✓	✓	#	✓
Dr Chong Yeh Woei	4	✓	#	#	✓	#	*	✓	#	*	✓
Dr Lee Pheng Soon	7	✓	✓	*	#	✓	✓	*	✓	✓	✓
Dr Lee Yik Voon	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dr Ng Chee Kwan	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dr Noorul Fatha As'art	6	*	✓	✓	#	✓	*	✓	✓	#	✓
A/Prof Nigel Tan Choon Kiat	6	*	✓	✓	#	✓	#	✓	*	✓	✓
Dr Charles Tan Tse Kuang	8	✓	✓	✓	✓	#	✓	✓	*	✓	✓
Dr Tan Tze Lee	7	✓	#	✓	✓	✓	✓	*	✓	✓	*
Dr Tan Yia Swam	7	✓	#	✓	✓	✓	✓	#	✓	#	✓
Dr Wong Chiang Yin	9	✓	✓	✓	✓	*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dr Bertha Woon Yng Yng	7	#	✓	✓	✓	*	*	✓	✓	✓	✓

**Note:**  
✓ Present      \* Overseas      # Absent with apologies

From Left to Right:  
**Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh**  
(Honorary Secretary)  
**Dr Lim Kheng Choon**  
(Honorary Assistant Secretary)



# STANDING COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

## 57TH SMA COUNCIL 2016/2017

### STANDING COMMITTEES

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

#### Administration Committee

Dr Wong Tien Hua, Chairperson  
Dr Toh Choon Lai, Vice Chairperson  
Adj Prof Tan Sze Wee, Vice Chairperson  
Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh  
Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui  
Dr Lim Kheng Choon  
Dr Benny Loo Kai Guo

#### Editorial Board –

##### Singapore Medical Journal

A/Prof Poh Kian Keong, Editor  
Dr Ang Tiing Leong, Deputy Editor  
A/Prof Mahesh Choolani, Deputy Editor  
Prof Wilfred CG Peh, Advisor  
Prof Teo Eng Kiong, Advisor

#### Specialty Editors

Dr Daphne Ang  
Dr Chan Yiong Huak  
Dr Chang Haw Chong  
Dr Chuah Khoon Leong  
Prof Fong Kok Yong  
Dr How Choon How  
Dr Hsu Pon Poh  
Dr William KF Kong (from Jan '17)  
Dr Lawrence Lee Soon-U  
Dr Liao Kui Hin  
Dr Joshua P Loh (from Jan '17)  
Dr Abdul Razakjr Omar  
Dr Ong Hean Yee (till Dec '16)  
Dr Pwee Keng Ho  
Prof Quak Seng Hock  
Dr Ramani NV  
Adj A/Prof Sim Kang  
Dr Sitoh Yih Yian  
Dr Benedict Tan  
Dr Tan Cher Heng  
Prof Kelvin KH Tan  
Dr Tan Li Hoon  
Prof Tan Puay Hoon  
A/Prof Tan Su-Ming (from Jan '17)  
Dr Darren Tay Keng Jun  
A/Prof Samuel Tay Sam Wah  
Dr Tay Seow Yian (till Dec '16)  
A/Prof Cuthbert Teo Eng Swee  
Dr Thng Choon Hua (till Dec '16)  
Dr Wong Moh Sim  
Prof Wong Wai Keong

#### International Corresponding Editors

Prof Jafri Malin Abdullah  
A/Prof Judy Hung  
Prof Malai Muttarak  
Prof Ng Kwan-Hoong  
Prof Tan Siang Yong

#### Editorial Board – SMA News

Dr Tan Yia Swam, Editor  
Dr Tina Tan, Deputy Editor  
Dr Tan Tze Lee, Deputy Editor  
A/Prof Daniel Fung, Advisor

A/Prof Cuthbert Teo, Advisor  
A/Prof Toh Han Chong, Advisor  
Dr Chie Zhi Ying (from Mar '16)  
Dr Jayant V Iyer  
Dr Leong Choon Kit  
Dr Jipson Quah  
Dr Jonathan Tan  
Dr Jimmy Teo

#### Complaints Committee

Dr Toh Choon Lai, Chairperson  
Dr Anantham Devanand, Vice Chairperson  
Dr Lim Teck Beng  
Dr Lynette Shek Pei-Chi (till May '16)  
Dr Soh Wah Ngee  
Dr Tan Tze Lee  
Dr Diana Tan Yuen Lan  
Dr Allen Wang Aik Loon  
Dr Wee Siew Bock  
Dr Fabian Yap Kok Peng

#### Ethics Committee

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

#### Professional Indemnity Committee

Dr Lee Pheng Soon, Chairperson  
Dr Bertha Woon Yng Yng, Vice Chairperson

#### Private Practice Committee

Dr Tan Tze Lee, Chairperson  
Dr Toh Choon Lai, Vice Chairperson  
Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui  
Dr Chong Yeh Woei  
Dr Lee Yik Voon

#### Doctors-in-Training Committee

Dr Benny Loo Kai Guo, Chairperson  
Dr Lim Kheng Choon, Vice Chairperson  
Dr Chong Yeh Woei, Advisor  
Prof Paul Tambyah, Advisor  
Dr Wong Tien Hua, Advisor  
Dr Cheong May Anne  
Dr Cho Jiakai (from Dec '16)  
Dr Sean Ho Wei Loong  
Dr Mo Yin  
Dr Ng Chew Lip (from Dec '16)  
Dr Sim Hui Wen (from Dec '16)  
Dr Crystal Soh Harn Wei  
Dr Colin Tan Jingxian  
Dr Tan Ming Yuan

#### Membership Committee

Dr Chong Yeh Woei, Chairperson  
Dr Lim Kheng Choon, Vice Chairperson  
Dr Benny Loo Kai Guo, Vice Chairperson

Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh  
Dr Ng Chee Kwan  
Dr Charles Tan Tse Kuang

#### Wine Appreciation Chapter (SIG)

A/Prof Andrew YH Chin, Chairperson  
Dr Chong Yeh Woei, Vice Chairperson  
Dr Wong Chiang Yin, Vice Chairperson  
A/Prof Vernon Lee Jian Ming

#### Whisky Appreciation Chapter (SIG)

Dr Ganesh Ramalingam, Chairperson  
Dr Felix Li Jingxiang, Vice Chairperson

#### Dance (SIG)

Dr Wong Sin Hee, Chairperson

#### Sports & Games Committee

Dr Chia Yih Woei, Chairperson

#### Convenors/Captains (IPG)

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

#### SIG (Special Interest Group)

Basketball: Dr Colin Teo Kok Ann  
Golf: Dr Tay Jam Chin  
Soccer: Dr Chng Nai Wee/  
Dr William Kristanto

#### Medik Awas Committee

Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui, Chairperson

#### ITE Certificate in Healthcare (Outpatient) Course Committee

Dr Lee Yik Voon, Chairperson  
Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui, Vice Chairperson

#### SMA-SNA CPR Training Programme Committee

A/Prof Lim Swee Han, Chairperson  
Dr Chee Tek Siong  
Dr Choo Kay Wee  
Dr Nelson Chua  
Ms Celestine Fong  
Mr Goh Teck Koon  
Ms Christina Loh

#### Singapore Medical Week by SMA

##### FutureMed 2017

47th SMA National Medical Convention  
A/Prof Nigel Tan Choon Kiat, Chairperson  
(FutureMed 2017)

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

#### 2017 Dinner Organising Committee

Dr Charles Tan Tse Kuang, Chairperson

#### Property Committee

Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh, Chairperson  
Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui  
A/Prof Chin Jing Jih  
Dr Chong Yeh Woei  
Dr Lim Kheng Choon  
Dr Tan Tze Lee  
Dr Wong Chiang Yin

#### Future Finance Workgroup (from Jan '17)

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

### ORGANISATIONS UNDER SMA'S GOVERNANCE 2016/2017

#### SMA Charity Fund

##### Board of Directors

Prof Wong Tien Yin, Chairperson  
Mr Colin Lim Fung Wan  
Dr Lim Kheng Choon  
Dr Noorul Fatha As'art  
Mr Sitoh Yih Pin  
Adj Prof Tan Sze Wee  
Prof Thio Li-ann  
Dr Charles Toh  
Mr TK Udairam  
Dr Wong Chiang Yin

#### Members of the company limited by guarantee

A/Prof Chin Jing Jih  
Dr Chong Yeh Woei  
Dr Wong Chiang Yin

#### Singapore Medical Association Private Limited

##### Board of Directors

##### Executive Directors

Adj Prof Tan Sze Wee, Chairperson  
A/Prof Chin Jing Jih  
Dr Chong Yeh Woei  
Dr Lee Yik Voon  
Dr Bertha Woon Yng Yng

#### Non-Executive Directors

Dr Wong Tien Hua  
Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh  
Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui

#### Board of Trustees

Dr Tan Cheng Bock @ Adrian Tan  
Prof Chee Yam Cheng  
Prof Low Cheng Hock

#### Centre for Medical Ethics & Professionalism (CMEP)

A/Prof Gerald Chua, Executive Director  
Dr Anantham Devanand, Deputy Executive Director  
Dr T Thirumoorthy, Immediate Past Executive Director

#### Board Members

A/Prof Chin Jing Jih  
A/Prof Goh Lee Gan  
A/Prof Lai Siang Hui  
A/Prof Lee Kheng Hock  
Prof Lim Shih Hui  
Prof Teo Eng Kiong  
Dr Tham Tat Yean  
Dr Bertha Woon Yng Yng

#### SMA Trust Fund Board of Trustees

Dr Lee Pheng Soon, Chairperson  
Dr Tan Yew Ghee, Secretary  
Dr Tan Kok Soo, Treasurer  
A/Prof Cheong Pak Yean  
Prof Low Cheng Hock

### REPRESENTATIVES OF SMA 2016/2017

#### MOH Advisory Committee on Clinical Management of Dengue

Dr Wong Tien Hua

#### MOH Diabetes Prevention & Care Taskforce

Dr Wong Tien Hua

#### MOH Medical Advisory Panel on Driving

Dr Chong Yeh Woei, Chairperson

#### MOH National Ethics Capability Committee

A/Prof Chin Jing Jih  
Dr Anantham Devanand (Alternate)

#### MOH Sub-Committee on GP Communications & Engagement, Primary Care Action Plan Implementation Committee

Dr Wong Tien Hua

#### MOH-AMS-SMA Joint Specialists Survey (from Jan '17)

Dr Lim Kheng Choon

#### SMC CME Coordinating Committee

Dr Chong Yeh Woei  
Dr Tan Tze Lee (Alternate)

#### Advertising Standards Authority of Singapore

Adj Prof Tan Sze Wee

#### The Courage Fund Limited, Board of Trustees & Board of Directors

Prof Low Cheng Hock

#### The Courage Fund Limited, SMA Institutional Representative

A/Prof Chin Jing Jih

#### IRAS Taxpayer Feedback Panel

Dr Tan Tze Lee

#### ISCA Investigation Committee Panel

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

#### Life Insurance Association, Health Insurance Task Force

Dr Wong Tien Hua  
Dr Wong Chiang Yin

#### LKCMedicine-NHG Centre for Primary Health Care Research & Innovation Steering Committee

Dr Wong Tien Hua

#### MIMS Honorary Editorial Advisory Board

Dr Lee Pheng Soon

#### MOM Workplace Safety & Health (Healthcare) Committee

Dr Wong Sin Yew

#### MSF Office of the Public Guardian – Committee on Assessment of Mental Capacity

A/Prof Chin Jing Jih  
Dr Anantham Devanand (Alternate)

#### MSF Office of the Public Guardian – LPA Cert Issuer Review Committee

Dr Anantham Devanand

#### National Resuscitation Council

A/Prof Lim Swee Han

#### Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association

Dr Thomas Lee Kae Meng

#### SMA-SAPI Joint Committee

Dr Lee Pheng Soon  
Dr Lee Yik Voon

#### Medical Association of South East Asian Nations (MASEAN) Council

Dr Wong Tien Hua, Chairperson (till May '16)  
Dr Lee Yik Voon, Secretary General  
Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh, Deputy Secretary General (till May '16)  
Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui, Treasurer

#### MASEAN Councillor

Dr Wong Tien Hua, President

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

Dr Chong Yeh Woei  
Dr Lee Yik Voon  
Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui

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

Dr Chong Yeh Woei, Vice Chairperson of Council  
Dr Bertha Woon Yng Yng, CMAAO Councillor

#### SMA Spokespersons

Dr Wong Tien Hua  
Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh

#### SMA Honorary Legal Advisors

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

#### Professional Auditors

Kreston David Yeung PAC

#### Media & Communications

Ms Nalini Naidu, MSG Pte Ltd



# HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

In 2016, Singapore moved into a period of economic slowdown, impacting many sectors. We are mindful of the economic headwinds and have been watchful of the expenditure incurred by the Association. Over the past few years, we have constantly reviewed our expenditure to ensure that wastage is kept at a minimum. SMA aims to create value for members with our existing resources, through subsidised continuing medical education courses, events, collaterals and discounted resources.

Our main source of income continues to be our partners, in particular, from administrative services we provide to indemnity providers, as well as publicity revenue through our publications and email marketing. The resources earned from external sources allow the Association to function without having to increase the membership fee, which has been kept at \$200 (before applicable goods and services tax) since 2007.

In 2017, there will be changes to the procurement of indemnity scheme for doctors working in restructured hospitals. This change is expected to have a significant impact on the overall income and surplus of the Association for the year. In response, the Council has appointed me to head a workgroup to look into future finance opportunities and challenges as SMA seeks to explore alternative and new sources of income for the near-to-medium term. In terms of our budget, we

are aiming for 2017 to be a break-even year and have been exploring various options that could allow the Association to revert to its surplus position. Despite these adjustments, we aim to keep the membership fee unchanged for as long as possible and to create new value by providing services that will benefit our members. We seek your support in these new areas when they are implemented in the coming months and years.

The Property Committee, which was set up in 2015 to explore options to purchase or rent property for investment or operational purposes, continued to carry out its work in 2016. From our discussions with the Alumni Association, there are currently no further updates on the existing rental lease of the SMA office in Alumni Association. The current lease is set to expire in 2018, in line with the expiry of the master lease held by Alumni Association.

From Left to Right:

**Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui**  
(Honorary Treasurer)

**Dr Benny Loo Kai Guo**  
(Honorary Assistant Treasurer)



The uncertain investment climate in 2016 made it challenging for general investors to achieve a positive rate of return. Our investment committee, chaired by the Executive Director of Singapore Medical Association Pte Ltd, Adj Prof Tan Sze Wee, has monitored the situation well. Our investments, which are mainly made up of bonds and equities, made a positive return in 2016. Our annualised investment return of 2.95% since its inception in July 2008 is representative of our longer-term goal of providing a reasonable return on investment in a low-risk portfolio.

The SMA Charity Fund (SMACF), set up in 2013 to carry out the charitable vision and work of the SMA, renewed its Institution of a Public Character status for another two years from December 2016. Last year, SMACF continued to provide support to needy medical students through bursaries and promote volunteerism amongst the profession. More information about SMACF can be found in the separate SMACF Annual Report 2016.

Our updated financial information can be found at [www.sma.org.sg/membership](http://www.sma.org.sg/membership), which provides a broad view of our sources of income and expenditure, in line with our aim to keep our membership updated about the financial management of the Association.

With our eyes firmly set on the long-term financial sustainability of the Association, we had been prudent in financial matters, and are glad to report a surplus of \$544,131 for the SMA Group (excluding SMACF), which will be set aside for future capital expenditure and operational needs. Our combined accumulated fund, which amounts to \$7.4 million, is expected to sustain the work of the SMA Group even in times of unexpected decrease in income.

As SMA is a volunteer-led association to serve the profession, we welcome feedback from our members to help us do better. We would be glad to receive any suggestions that would support the financial sustainability of the SMA in the long run.

**Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui**  
Honorary Secretary

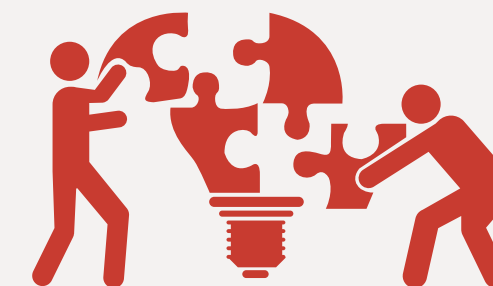
## KEY STATISTICS

7,928  
SMA MEMBERS

23 STANDING  
COMMITTEES

20 COUNCIL  
MEMBERS

145 VOLUNTEERS



28 MEMBERSHIP  
EVENTS

2,504 PARTICIPANTS

71 COURSES

2,454 PARTICIPANTS

\$111,020 COURSE SUBSIDIES  
TO SMA MEMBERS





# 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

## MARCH



Medical Expert Witness Training

## APRIL



Tax Seminar



Annual General Meeting

## MAY



SMA Annual Dinner 2016



42nd SMA-Eagle Eye Centre  
Inter-Hospital Soccer Tournament



## JULY



Private Practice Seminar



Y1 Medical  
Student  
Talks

Introductory  
Course in  
Health Law



17th MASEAN Conference  
in Pattaya, Thailand



## AUGUST



SMA Annual Golf  
Tournament 2016



Inter-Professional Games

## SEPTEMBER



Annual Lawyer-Doctor Networking Event 2016



# REPRESENTATION AND ADVOCACY

As Singapore's national medical association, SMA takes a leading role in actively monitoring professional and ethical issues on behalf of its members and patients. Through diplomacy and public statements, SMA offers feedback and suggests alternatives to various agencies and bodies, in order to advocate the rights of doctors and the well-being of patients. With the support of the medical profession, SMA aims to shape a more inclusive and collaborative healthcare landscape in Singapore.

## 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

### Singapore Medical Council (SMC) Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines (ECEG)

- The SMC ECEG was officially issued<sup>1</sup> on 14 September 2016 and took effect from 1 January 2017. Several of SMA's recommendations were taken into consideration, including our feedback that the ECEG should be made more concise. The final ECEG is shorter and provides better clarity, with much of the previous content incorporated into a separate SMC Handbook on Medical Ethics. We take this opportunity to thank members who have provided feedback on this important document.

### Managed Care

- The 2015 Managed Care survey results were published in *SMA News* May 2016 issue.
- The results showed that (a) a high degree of variability in performance existed among managed care organisations (MCOs), with some recording high levels of dissatisfaction; (b) the main area of dissatisfaction pertained to payment of fees; (c) the perceived restriction in choice of medication and specialist referrals may affect the quality of patient care; and (d) the trend of dissatisfaction has worsened over the last ten years. It was recommended that MCOs with low satisfaction rates should work with physician providers to improve the situation.

- In February 2016, SMA highlighted its concerns to SMC regarding: (a) MCOs that deduct excessive administrative fees from participating doctors; and (b) the restriction on patient referrals to panel specialists, even

when the insurance plans allow for more options.

- SMC replied in September 2016, clarifying that *"such fees must not be based primarily on the services doctors provide or the fees they collect from patients. SMC would deem unethical the sharing or splitting of fees with a referring doctor, merely for the privilege of being referred a patient, with no commensurate work done justifying such fees."*

- The Ministry of Health (MOH) replied to parliamentary questions on this topic in September<sup>2</sup> and November<sup>3</sup> 2016.

- SMA continued to engage SMC and MOH on this matter. In December 2016, SMC issued an advisory to clarify Guideline H3(7) of the ECEG and extended the date of compliance to this specific requirement till 1 July 2017, providing doctors with an additional six months to make the necessary adjustments.

- In December 2016, the Academy of Medicine, Singapore, College of Family Physicians Singapore and SMA issued a joint opinion<sup>4</sup> on Transactions with Managed Care or Third Party Administrators, to provide members with a possible way to comply with the ECEG. The three professional bodies also wrote in to *The Straits Times Forum* to clarify that our joint opinion is complementary to SMC's advisory.

### Medical Indemnity

- SMA met with Aon Risk Solutions in January 2016, in response to feedback raised by members who were concerned about their indemnity coverage if they leave the public

sector. SMA directed members' concerns to MOH Holdings (MOHH), which clarified that it is the employer who bears ultimate responsibility for the actions of employee doctors during the period of employment and after their resignation or retirement.

- In March 2016, SMA met separately with Medical Protection Society and NTUC Income to surface member feedback and to gain a better understanding of the issues faced by indemnity providers.
- In late 2016, SMA became aware that MOHH intended to engage a new medical indemnity provider to provide cover for all its public sector doctors. In November 2016, SMA met with representatives from Jardine Lloyd Thompson.

### Ministry of Health

- In April 2016, SMA met with Director of Medical Services (DMS), A/Prof Benjamin Ong, to discuss various issues, including medical manpower and the SMC ECEG.
- In July 2016, SMA met with Permanent Secretary, Mr Chan Heng Kee, to discuss several issues, including managed care.
- In August 2016, SMA met with Minister of State, Dr Lam Pin Min, and A/Prof Benjamin Ong to discuss issues concerning the SMC ECEG and managed care.
- In September 2016, SMA met with Dr Lam Pin Min for a dialogue session regarding the implementation of mandatory itemised billing under the Community Health Assist Scheme (CHAS) and the publication of CHAS bill sizes.

### Health Products Act (HPA)

- SMA met with Health Sciences Authority (HSA) to discuss the transition of regulatory control of pharmaceutical products in the Medicines Act to the control of therapeutic products in the HPA. SMA highlighted various concerns, specifically regarding new labelling requirements for compounded therapeutic products, as well

## OCTOBER



Meeting with Student Leaders



67th WMA General Assembly in Taipei, Taiwan



Annual National Medicolegal Seminar 2016



Launch of Singapore Medical Week by SMA

## DECEMBER



SMA Members' Appreciation Nite



## NOVEMBER



SMA Dance Arabian Night



SMA Lecture 2016 – Health and Human Rights



SMA Clinic Assistant Introductory Skills Course



as implementation timeline and compliance costs.

- HSA subsequently informed SMA that doctors would have a period of six months (until 30 April 2017) to comply with the new requirements. HSA also issued a circular providing a summary of relevant changes.

#### Health Insurance Task Force (HITF)

- The HITF was formed in February 2016 to recommend measures to bring about a moderation in the escalation of health insurance premiums in Singapore.
- Chaired by Ms Mimi Ho, with representatives from the Life Insurance Association, Singapore, the Consumers Association of Singapore and SMA, the HITF was supported by MOH and the Monetary Authority of Singapore.
- The final report<sup>5</sup> was published in October 2016, with the following recommendations:<sup>6</sup> (a) introduce medical fee benchmarks or

guidelines; (b) clarify existing processes to surface possible cases of inappropriate medical treatment; (c) enhance insurance procedures and product features; and (d) educate consumers.

#### Doctors-in-Training (DIT)

- The DIT committee highlighted to the Advisory Council on Community Relations in Defence that some trainees were unable to complete their residency training within the stipulated time frame, as they were fulfilling their National Service (NS) obligations at the same time; thus, for doctors who have NS requirements, completion of traineeship may be delayed, potentially jeopardising their career prospects.
- The Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) replied that (a) MINDEF will advise Unit Commanders to exercise more flexibility in managing NSmen undergoing residency, in terms of deferment, subject to the unit's training requirement; and (b) MOH has advised the Designated Institutional

Officials to remind residents to give advance notice of their in-camp training to their Programme Directors for advance planning.

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.healthprofessionals.gov.sg/content/hprof/smc/en/topnav/guidelines/ethical\\_code\\_and\\_ethical\\_guidelines.html](http://www.healthprofessionals.gov.sg/content/hprof/smc/en/topnav/guidelines/ethical_code_and_ethical_guidelines.html)

<sup>2</sup> [https://sprs.parl.gov.sg/search/topic.jsp?currentTopicID=00009903-WA&currentPubID=00009872-WA&topicKey=00009872-WA.00009903-WA\\_8%2BhansardContent43a675dd-5000-42da-9fd5-40978d79310f%2B](https://sprs.parl.gov.sg/search/topic.jsp?currentTopicID=00009903-WA&currentPubID=00009872-WA&topicKey=00009872-WA.00009903-WA_8%2BhansardContent43a675dd-5000-42da-9fd5-40978d79310f%2B)

<sup>3</sup> [https://sprs.parl.gov.sg/search/topic.jsp?currentTopicID=00010287-WA&currentPubID=00010243-WA&topicKey=00010243-WA.00010287-WA\\_5%2Bid-c924e885-252b-476d-ad0d-4886e7afc4b0%2B](https://sprs.parl.gov.sg/search/topic.jsp?currentTopicID=00010287-WA&currentPubID=00010243-WA&topicKey=00010243-WA.00010287-WA_5%2Bid-c924e885-252b-476d-ad0d-4886e7afc4b0%2B)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.sma.org.sg/UploadedImg/files/14%20Dec%202016%20-%20Joint%20AMS-CFPS-SMA%20opinion%20on%20Transactions%20with%20Managed%20Care%20or%20Third%20Party%20Administrators.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.lia.org.sg/files/news/2016/10/ManagingSingaporeHealthInsuranceCost\\_HITF\\_20161013.pdf](http://www.lia.org.sg/files/news/2016/10/ManagingSingaporeHealthInsuranceCost_HITF_20161013.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.lia.org.sg/files/news/2016/10/ManagingSingaporeHealthInsuranceCost\\_MediaRelease\\_HITF\\_20161013.pdf](http://www.lia.org.sg/files/news/2016/10/ManagingSingaporeHealthInsuranceCost_MediaRelease_HITF_20161013.pdf)

## MEDIA EXPOSURE

In 2016, SMA took official positions on important issues related to both doctors and patients in Singapore, sparking active discourse and creating awareness of issues pertinent to our current medical landscape. Some of the areas highlighted by the media included SMA's positions on managed care organisations or third-party administrators (TPAs) and the revised Singapore Medical Council (SMC) Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines (ECEG), articles published by the *Singapore Medical Journal* and *SMA News*, and the official launch of Singapore Medical Week by SMA and FutureMed 2017.

#### 11 JANUARY 2016

**Mediation to play bigger role in medical lawsuits: CJ Menon**  
*TODAY*

SMA President, Dr Wong Tien Hua, welcomed the announcement by Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon that changes are in store for medical lawsuits, with mediation to play a bigger role and judges to pro-actively direct proceedings with help from medical experts. Dr Wong added that the problem of defensive medicine needs to be addressed before it spirals out of control, and called for

SMC's process of selection, training and appointment of medical assessors to be transparent and fair for all parties.

#### 4 JUNE 2016

**Government to review 'Advance Medical Directive' policies**  
*Channel 8 TV News*

SMA Council Member, A/Prof Chin Jing Jih, was interviewed regarding his views on the statement by Ministry of Health (MOH) that more than 20,000 people in Singapore have signed the Advance Medical Directive (AMD). A/Prof Chin opined that doctors are

“TPAs render the transactions between the doctor and his patient opaque, thereby obscuring the trust that is needed in the relationship.”

Dr Wong Tien Hua,  
*SMA News August 2016*

well placed to assist terminal patients make the right choices on advanced care planning, taking into consideration the patients' beliefs and values. He also

opined that the law related to AMD is due for review, since it has been in force for the past 20 years, and that there should also be public consultation to simplify the AMD procedures.

#### 10 JUNE 2016

**Doctors cry foul over 'unfair' practice of third-party agents**  
*TODAY*

SMA President, Dr Wong Tien Hua, was asked to comment on the 'unfair' practice of TPAs charging doctors an administrative fee ranging from 8% to 25% of a doctor's professional fees for patient referrals. He cautioned that such practices can be interpreted as fee-splitting or commission payment, and may be against the best interest of patients. He also revealed that SMA is seeking clarification with SMC on this matter.

#### 25 JULY 2016

**Taking care of cancer patients 'more stressful than in West'**  
*The Straits Times*

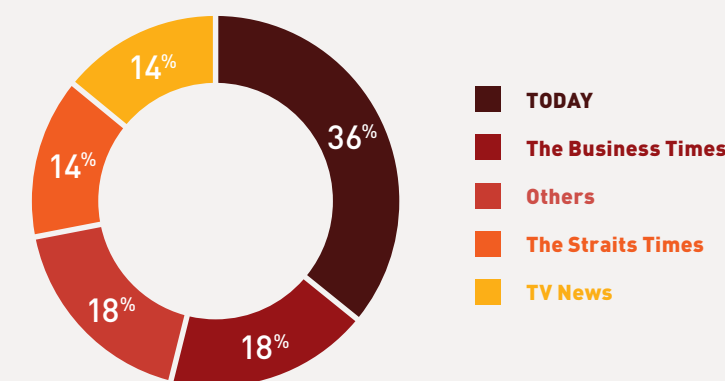
A two-year study documenting the physical, emotional and social well-being of Singaporean caregivers of cancer patients, which was e-published ahead of print in the *Singapore Medical Journal* in April 2016, was featured in *The Straits Times*. The study found that caregivers here, especially men, are more burdened and stressed compared to those in Western countries. The researchers hope that the study will lead to better support for caregivers by providing evidence of the challenges they face.

#### 14-15 SEPTEMBER 2016

**Revision of the SMC Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines**  
*Channel NewsAsia, The Business Times, TODAY*

SMA President, Dr Wong Tien Hua, welcomed the revision of the ECEG and added that it is important to have the aims of SMA and SMC aligned to the needs of the society at large and for the good of all patients.

#### SMA MEDIA CITATIONS IN 2016



#### 6 OCTOBER 2016

**Private surgeons' fees to be publicised**  
*TODAY*

SMA President, Dr Wong Tien Hua, weighed in on MOH's move to publish online the total operation fees for various surgical procedures performed in private hospitals. Dr Wong said that the SMA welcomes this move, as improved transparency allows patients to manage fee expectations for better peace of mind. However, he added that it is too early to tell if the move will impact healthcare costs.

#### 10 OCTOBER 2016

**IRAS recovers S\$1.8b from tax cheats in past five years**  
*TODAY*

SMA has been mentioned as one of the key partners of the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore in educating taxpayers about tax evasion. SMA has been conducting seminars on tax obligations in medical practice, targeted at clinic owners and representatives responsible for the preparation and filing of the Income Tax Return and other tax matters.

#### 13 OCTOBER 2016

**The Health Insurance Task Force**  
*The Business Times, The Straits Times*

Two representatives from the SMA are part of the 11-member Health Insurance Task Force that looks at the rising claim rates of Integrated Shield Plans for medical insurance policyholders. The task force has issued recommendations aimed at keeping premium costs down, including having a set of guidelines for medical fees to allow better transparency, as well as

clarifying the process through which insurers can raise treatment-related issues to the relevant authorities.

#### 4 NOVEMBER 2016

**Medicine, technology to the fore at Singapore Medical Week next year**  
*TODAY, Lianhe Zaobao*

Singapore Medical Week by SMA and FutureMed 2017, officially launched on 3 November 2016, was covered by several media. The conference cum expo, which is slated to take place in August 2017, seeks to bring together new scientific discoveries, advancements in technology and development in medical products for the betterment of medical care. The event will incorporate SMA's annual medical convention and also feature talks for the public to improve medical literacy and encourage patients to take greater ownership of their healthcare.

#### 13-14 DECEMBER 2016

**Doctors barred from paying percentage of fees to 3rd-party agents**  
*TODAY, Channel NewsAsia, Channel 8 TV News, CNA Singapore Tonight*

SMA welcomed SMC's advisory barring doctors from paying managed care organisations and TPAs fees that are calculated as a percentage of fees collected from their patients, from 1 July 2017. Dr Chong Yeh Woei, SMA's Council Member and former President, opined that this move would allow greater transparency in fee structures, as SMA has consistently advocated that doctors should work only with TPAs that are prepared to be transparent with their fee structure. Dr Chong added that with this advisory, the patient's share of the healthcare dollar will go up, since he will get more value for his money.



# THE HEART OF OUR WORK

In 2016, SMA Membership continued to develop initiatives to actualise the Association's vision to empower doctors, in hopes of enabling them to take good care of their patients. More than 6,000 SMA Members started their year on a good note, renewing their membership with the Association by February last year. All SMA Members in good standing were eligible to take part in a lucky draw to win an Apple Watch, in an effort to recognise members' unwavering support over the years.

The Association continued its active engagement of medical professionals, especially doctors-in-training (DITs) and medical students, to better grasp their concerns and support their needs in their respective fields. We also maintained various collaborations and partnerships with external healthcare and non-healthcare organisations for the benefit of our members.

### Teaming up with members, for members

The SMA DIT Committee held quarterly meetings that were attended by residency committee chairpersons and specialty representatives from the three sponsoring institutions (SIs), namely National Healthcare Group, National University Health System and Singapore Health Services. Discussion topics included medical indemnity arrangements for DITs, manpower planning for various specialties, and reservist leave for male trainee doctors. These meetings provided an avenue for information sharing and a macro view of the current medical training across the three SIs. More importantly, the SMA DIT Committee strove to encourage synergy among DITs from the different healthcare clusters, as part of our advocacy for a healthy medical training environment.

As SMA believes in empowering future generations of doctors, we have been in constant conversation with student leaders from NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore Medical Society of Ireland (SMSI), Singapore Medical Society of Australia and New Zealand (SMSANZ), and Singapore Medical Society of the United Kingdom (SMSUK). SMA encouraged regular meetings and events to build stronger collegiality among these student

leaders, who will be the pillars of Singapore medicine in future. With SMSI, SMSANZ and SMSUK, the SMA also hopes to keep these students updated on the local healthcare system and maintain their contact with the Singapore medical fraternity, so as to facilitate their assimilation when they return to practice.

As Singapore develops its healthcare manpower and processes to meet the growing demand for healthcare services, SMA also recognises that it is crucial for the sector to attract suitable healthcare support personnel and adopt efficient procedures. Hence, SMA sought feedback from some of its members who are private practitioners through an online survey in mid-2016, about how the Association could help to obtain the resources that they require. More than half of the SMA Members who responded to our survey highlighted the need for trained clinic assistants in their clinics and practices. Hence, the Association designed the SMA Clinic Assistant Train and Place Programme, which is intended to equip interested individuals with the basic skills required of a clinic assistant so that SMA Members would be able to hire them for their practice. SMA Members and their clinic managers had the option to either post their vacancies on an online portal or conduct face-to-face interviews

“ We thank our members for their strong and active participation, which has lent much-needed weight and value to all our work in 2016. ”

with graduates from the SMA Clinic Assistant Introductory Skills Courses in November 2016 and January 2017 (see page 20).

### Building strong partnerships

SMA has maintained strong collaborations with 13 professional and lifestyle promotional partners. UOB and SMA has cultivated a strong partnership over the years with the inception of the UOB-SMA Visa Platinum Card, which SMA Members could utilise to enjoy dining privileges and other benefits with perpetual fee waiver. Our chosen partners offer tangible and exclusive privileges that enhance different aspects of our members' lives and further their interests. Some of them, including Jitron Pte Ltd Singapore, Munich Automobiles Pte Ltd, The Peak Singapore, UpToDate and John Wiley & Sons Singapore Pte Ltd, also provided limited-time promotions to SMA Members who were in good standing by February 2016.

SMA also partnered with other organisations in 2016 to secure attractive deals for products that are crucial to our members' professional and personal lives. These promotional campaigns included a stethoscope trade-in exercise and a water-dispenser promotion, in collaboration with 3M; and a trade-in campaign for HEINE mini3000

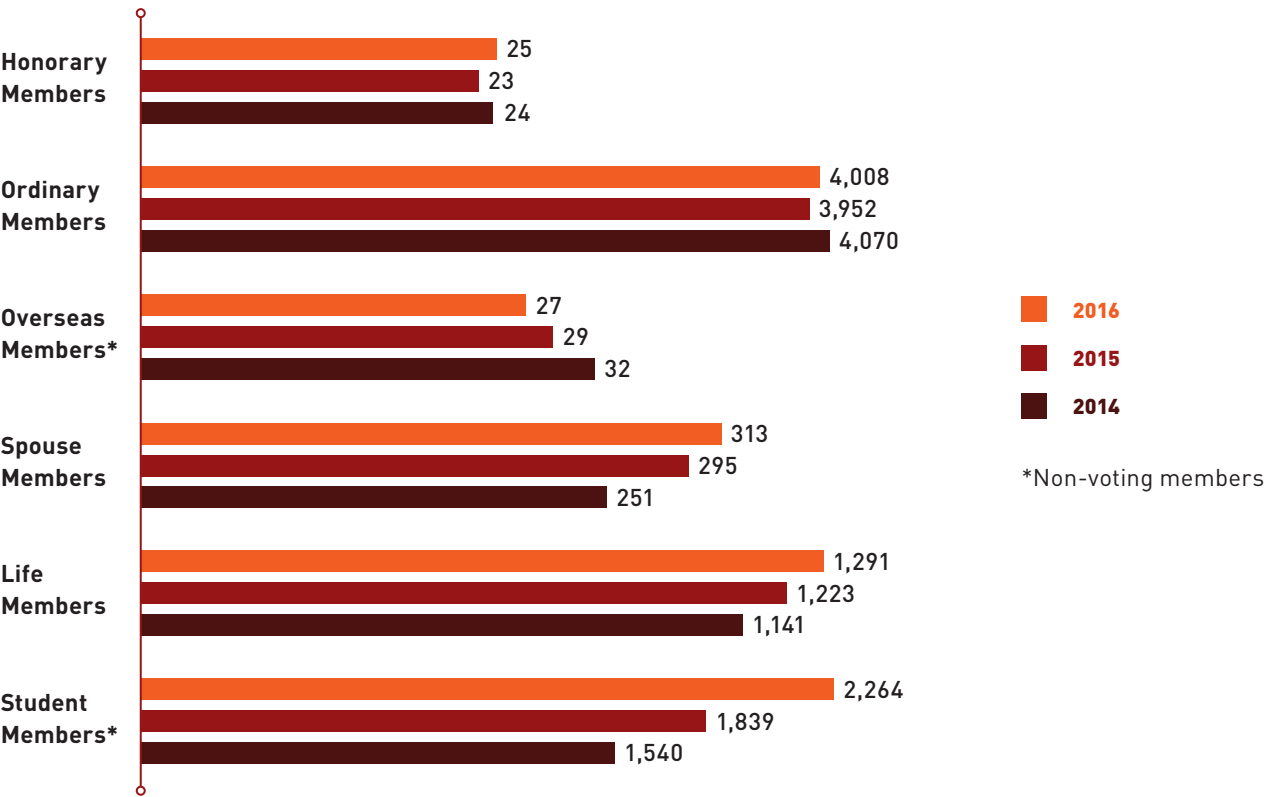
combined diagnostic sets with Kingston Medical Supplies Pte Ltd.

From providing the ideal environment for increased collegiality among medical practitioners and

students, to professional and lifestyle benefits through its partners, SMA has striven to ensure that our members have access to the various avenues and tools to enhance their professional and personal growth.

Finally, we thank our members for their strong and active participation, which has lent much-needed weight and value to all our work in 2016.

### MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS



### MEMBERSHIP TALLY

	2016	2015	2014
Total no. of members (at beginning of year)	7,361	7,058	6,793
Add			
No. of new members	783	742	750
Less			
No. of resignations/deceased/expiry of student membership	131	327	382
No. struck off in arrears	85	112	103
Total no. of members (at end of year)	7,928	7,361	7,058

# EMPOWERING THROUGH EDUCATION AND TRAINING

## SMA CENTRE FOR MEDICAL ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM

2016 saw a leadership transition at the SMA Centre for Medical Ethics and Professionalism (SMA CMEP) to A/Prof Gerald Chua, who took over the role of Executive Director from Dr T Thirumoorthy. SMA and SMA CMEP marked the occasion by holding an appreciation dinner for its Board of Directors and Faculty. A/Prof Chua shared his vision for SMA CMEP to be a learning platform assisting doctors in their quest to continually develop themselves in the multiple roles that the medical practice in Singapore requires. He also highlighted the need for a renewed focus on three core attributes of the profession: Love, Serve and Humility. In line with SMA's vision, 'For Doctors, For Patients', SMA CMEP strives to build a strong doctor-patient relationship through serving the interests of patients before their own; nurturing doctors to be competent, collegial and professional through loving others more than themselves; and remembering always the humility of wisdom.

The SMA Council would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to Dr T Thirumoorthy for his leadership and dedicated years in SMA CMEP, as well as to the SMA CMEP Core Faculty for their continuous support throughout the years, and for contributing their time and effort to our events.

### Medical Ethics, Professionalism and Health Law Course

This is a two-and-a-half day mandatory course for doctors who, at the end of their specialist training, are embarking on the next stage of their professional growth to become consultants. The purpose of the course is to prepare them to lead clinical teams with independent medical and ethical decision-making; and to assume leadership in professional and clinical governance, as well as medical education. Since the

course commenced in 2004, we have completed 42 runs and trained 2,637 individuals (as of December 2016).

### Introductory Course in Health Law

In 2016, SMA CMEP launched a new series of seminars that covered the basic concepts of health law. This topic is relevant for all practising doctors and of greater value to medical leaders and teachers, especially those without prior education in this area. The first series of seminars this year was held in collaboration with JurongHealth.

### Core Concepts in Medical Professionalism

Medicine belongs to the society and is held in trust by healthcare professionals, through medical professionalism – in which doctors and healthcare professionals are its promoters and custodians. Therefore, the leaders of the healthcare profession have a primary responsibility to promote and preserve medical professionalism; this educational course helps them to fulfil this responsibility. The Core Concepts in Medical Professionalism programme covers the following topics: Professionalism, Collegiality, the Doctor-Patient Relationship, Ethical Case Analysis, Professional Accountability and Governance, Consent, Conflict of Interest, Confidentiality and Privacy, and Evaluating Professionalism.

### OTHER SMA EVENTS

#### SMA Clinic Assistant Train and Place Programme

The SMA Clinic Assistant Train and Place Programme was created, with the support of the Employment and Employability Institute Pte Ltd, to train predominantly unemployed members of the public who are interested in working in healthcare clinics. The programme aims to equip them with an understanding of a typical clinic environment and the foundational skills expected of a clinic assistant. Participants gain

### SMA CMEP CORE FACULTY

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

knowledge and skill sets ranging from monitoring vital signs and performing electrocardiography, to collecting and despatching biological specimens. At the end of the four-day course, course graduates had the opportunity to meet potential employers for a face-to-face recruitment interview.

### SMA Lecture 2016

Last year's SMA Lecture was delivered by Prof Sir Sabaratnam Arulkumaran, Professor Emeritus of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at St George's, University of London. The lecture, entitled 'Health and Human Rights' saw a turnout of close to 100 doctors and healthcare professionals. In his lecture, Prof Arul introduced the established principles of human rights in health and how they can be applied. It was a thought-provoking lecture that encouraged clinicians to become keen advocates for health and human rights to benefit their patients, regardless of their backgrounds and differences.

## SMA CMEP ACTIVITIES IN 2016

Date	Event name	No. of attendees	Remarks
7 – 9 Jan	Medical Ethics, Professionalism and Health Law Course	72	For AST & FM Trainees
3 – 5 Mar	Medical Ethics, Professionalism and Health Law Course	69	For AST & FM Trainees
19 Mar & 9 Apr	Medical Expert Witness Training	63	In collaboration with AMS, SAL, LSS and State Courts
26 – 28 May	Medical Ethics, Professionalism and Health Law Course	70	For AST & FM Trainees
4 Jun	Introductory Course in Health Law	87	In collaboration with JurongHealth
2 Jul	Introductory Course in Health Law	82	In collaboration with JurongHealth
6 Aug	Introductory Course in Health Law	70	In collaboration with JurongHealth
11 – 13 Aug	Medical Ethics, Professionalism and Health Law Course	67	For AST & FM Trainees
3 Sep	Introductory Course in Health Law	58	In collaboration with JurongHealth
1 Oct	Core Concepts in Medical Professionalism	46	
6 – 8 Oct	Medical Ethics, Professionalism and Health Law Course	74	For AST & FM Trainees
22 – 23 Oct	The Annual National MedicoLegal Seminar 2016	136 (Day 1) 104 (Day 2)	In collaboration with MLSS

AMS: Academy of Medicine, Singapore

FM: family medicine

MLSS: Medico-Legal Society of Singapore

AST: advanced specialty training

LSS: The Law Society of Singapore

SAL: Singapore Academy of Law

## OTHER SMA ACTIVITIES IN 2016

Event name	No. of runs	No. of attendees
Adult HeartSaver	2	19
Basic Cardiac Life Support	11	112
Clinic Assistant Train and Place Programme	1	27
CPR + AED	2	8
MPS: Achieving a Safer and Reliable Practice	10	131
MPS: Mastering Adverse Outcomes	4	55
MPS: Mastering Difficult Interactions with Patients	4	66
MPS: Mastering Professional Interactions	3	35
MPS: Mastering Shared Decision Making	3	58
MPS: Mastering Your Risk	4	41
SCS-SMA Cancer Education Series 2016	3	206
Singapore e-Health Innovations Summit 2016 – Physician Symposium	1	25
SMA-ITE Skills Certificate in Healthcare	1	19
SMA Lecture 2016	1	96
SMA Seminar: Going into Private Practice	1	85
SMA Seminar: Tax Obligations on Medical Practice	1	85
SMA Seminar: Workplace Safety and Health for Medical Practice Owners	1	74

AED: automated external defibrillator

ITE: Institute of Technical Education

SCS: Singapore Cancer Society

CPR: cardiopulmonary resuscitation

MPS: Medical Protection Society



# ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE

## SINGAPORE MEDICAL JOURNAL

Lifelong learning is an integral part of a medical doctor's professional development. Since 1960, *Singapore Medical Journal (SMJ)* has provided doctors with free access to research papers, insightful commentaries and reviews on a wide variety of topics, including clinical practice guidelines and medicolegal issues, as well as continuing medical education (CME) articles for self-learning. *SMJ* has remained open access, as we recognise that broad access to research results and up-to-date medical information is an essential component of lifelong learning.

### Highlights of 2016

*SMJ* is committed to publishing high-quality papers that add to the knowledge of physicians in Singapore and around the region. In 2016, 446 manuscripts were received from 27 countries, with Singapore papers making up the bulk of the submitted

manuscripts, followed by submissions from ASEAN, the Middle East and East Asia. The manuscript acceptance rate remained at around 40%.

*SMJ* publishes papers that cover all aspects of human health: commissioned reviews, commentaries and editorials, original research, CME articles, short communications in the form of letters to the editor, and a small number of case reports. Last year, a total of 146 articles were published, with original research papers comprising more than half of the published articles. Our monthly Singapore Medical Council Category 3B CME programme continued to be popular among local practising doctors, with a total of 12,167 submissions received for the 24 CME articles published.

The *SMJ* website was upgraded in July 2016 to enhance mobile responsiveness, search functions and web navigation. This move was aimed at encouraging more readers

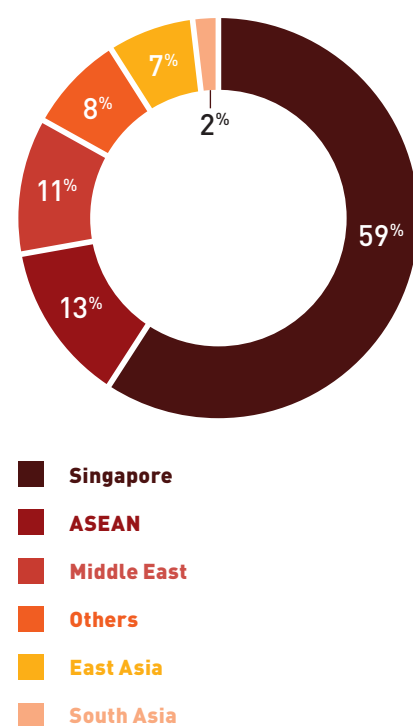
to access the journal electronically, in keeping with the global call to reduce paper wastage. To improve our publication turnaround time, articles accepted in 2016 were e-published ahead of print within five months of acceptance. This important step has allowed research to be released earlier, especially since articles that are published ahead of print are simultaneously indexed in PubMed.

Moving forward, we hope to publish more invited reviews that offer comprehensive narrative analysis of recent or evolving developments in medicine. Some interesting original papers from overseas may be accompanied by insightful editorials that give a local perspective on the topic. In 2017, we will continue to improve our processes to encourage authors and readers to make *SMJ* their journal of choice.

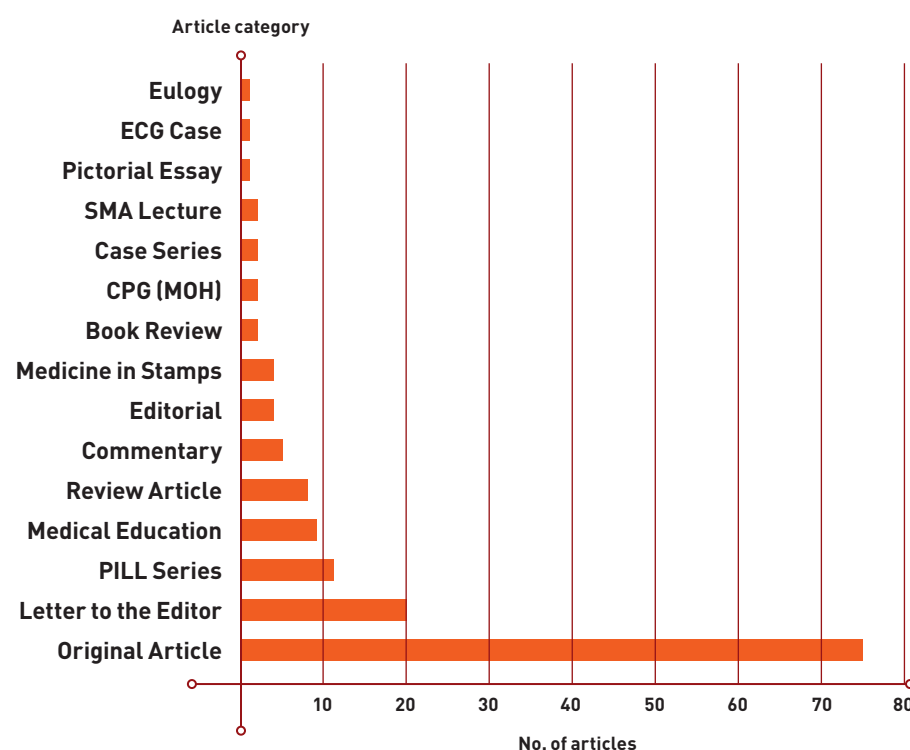


“ Providing members access to knowledge and healthcare information is at the heart of SMA Publications. ”

## SUBMISSIONS BY REGION IN 2016



## PUBLISHED ARTICLES IN 2016



## SMA NEWS

*SMA News* is a newsletter for doctors, by doctors. We encourage a spirit of discussion and exchange of ideas, in the hope that this will spark a movement for change and improvement in the management of patients and the practice of medicine in Singapore.

### Highlights of 2016

2016 was undoubtedly an eventful year for the medical profession, with changes in the local indemnity environment and questions concerning the healthcare business landscape being at the forefront. *SMA News* covered these pressing issues extensively during the year.

To help doctors navigate the medical indemnity maze, we featured articles from experts in the field in the March and July editions, clarifying the misconceptions surrounding medical indemnity. In the May issue, we published the results of the Managed Care Survey 2015, a survey jointly conducted by SMA and the College of Family Physicians Singapore, while the August issue,

*Managed Care: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*, hosted balanced discussions on the topic.

Other interesting topics covered in the year included recognising drug abuse among patients, protecting children from sexual abuse, doctors' health, finding happiness and fulfilment, research and publication pressures, and honouring medical mentors, among others. The July *Doctors in Training* issue focused on Singapore's newest medical school, the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, while the November issue showcased the work of our emergency medicine colleagues.

Through our monthly columns, *SMA News* aspires to ignite a positive change in the practice of medicine and management of patients. To this end, the *Feature* column, the mainstay of each edition, aims to explore important issues in healthcare. Meanwhile, personal opinions and analyses of medical issues are discussed in the *Opinion* and *Insight* columns, respectively. In the *Interview* column, we feature prominent personalities who inspire with their stories. The

*SMA CMEP* column aims to develop good ethics, professionalism and a robust knowledge of health law in doctors, while the *Exec Series* hosts the discussion of matters relevant to medical practice management and *GP Matters* explores a wide variety of topics that concern doctors in general practice. On a lighter note, the *Indulge* column entertains with mini travelogues, art, book and music reviews, and write-ups on unique hobbies. 2016 saw the birth of a new column, *Reflections*, which features poems, funny or inspirational anecdotes, and memorable events. The first *Reflections* article in the December issue showcased the Jubilee anniversary celebration of the University of Singapore medical class of 1965.

*SMA News* will continue to give voice to healthcare issues that are important to doctors in Singapore. In so doing, we hope to engage our members, lead the profession and shape the healthcare environment for the benefit of doctors and patients.

# KEY FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

GROUP STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	2016	2015
Total Income	\$ 3,437,034	\$ 3,240,561
Total Expenditure	\$ 2,892,903	\$ 2,946,847
Surplus for the Year After Tax	\$ 544,131	\$ 293,714
Income		
Subscriptions	\$ 724,415	\$ 713,259
Commissions	\$ 1,224,834	\$ 1,139,300
Rebates	\$ 150,879	\$ 162,921
Courses and Events	\$ 536,186	\$ 563,823
Investments	\$ 238,718	\$ 60,646
Publications	\$ 453,315	\$ 515,728
Others	\$ 108,687	\$ 84,884
Total Income	\$ 3,437,034	\$ 3,240,561
Expenditure		
Administrative and Operating Expenses	\$ 527,858	\$ 553,469
Courses and Events	\$ 447,575	\$ 512,514
Publications	\$ 282,639	\$ 280,791
Staff and Related Expenses	\$ 1,634,831	\$ 1,600,073
Total Expenditure	\$ 2,892,903	\$ 2,946,847

GROUP STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2016	2015
Assets		
Non-current assets	\$ 6,708	\$ 2,630
Current assets	\$ 8,015,403	\$ 7,412,791
Total Assets	\$ 8,022,111	\$ 7,415,421
Equities and Liabilities		
Equity attributable to the Members of the Association	\$ 7,456,009	\$ 6,911,878
Non-current liabilities	\$ 0	\$ 0
Current liabilities	\$ 566,102	\$ 503,543
Total Equity and Liabilities	\$ 8,022,111	\$ 7,415,421



