

SERVICE BEFORE SELF

SMA 55TH
ANNUAL
REPORT
2014/2015



Singapore Medical
Association

SMA

*Jasa Utama,
'Service before Self'*

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.

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

ANNUAL REPORT



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PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

The Singapore Medical Association (SMA) and the medical profession weathered yet another busy and eventful year. In the last 12 months, SMA has stayed firmly on its course to rally doctors in Singapore towards higher standards of medical professionalism.

The core mission of the medical profession has always been to make a difference in the lives and health of our patients. At the macro level, this involves putting in place policies and systems that promote good delivery of care. At the individual patient level, it is represented by excellent diagnostic and therapeutic skills, and the ability to make sound clinical judgement in the face of complexity and uncertainty. Equally important is the emphasis of medicine as a moral community, guided by a professional ethos that encompasses virtues of altruism, respect, fidelity, justice and compassion.

The core mission of SMA is fully aligned with the above ideals of the medical profession. In addition to promoting patients' wellbeing and interests, SMA also believes that doctors are most effective and trusted by their patients when equipped with high professional morale and morals. Therefore, SMA is fully committed to ensuring that the practice environment for doctors in Singapore is reasonable and supportive, thereby freeing doctors from unnecessary encumbrances, and enabling them to devote their professional time and energy to the ethical provision of cure and care. As the professional body representing a majority of doctors in Singapore, SMA has been promoting its core mission via several key strategies.

One of SMA's key missions has been to enhance the level of trust between the profession and society, and that between doctors and patients. In Singapore today, patients rarely doubt the clinical competency of doctors, but quite a few lack confidence in the intent and conduct of doctors. SMA, through the positions that we take in relevant issues and the provision of educational activities that equip our doctors in ethics, professionalism and health law, has been relentlessly advocating and nurturing the trustworthiness of our doctors and the profession. Our efforts to promote doctor-patient communication have also contributed to more effective engagement between doctors and patients.

In addition, the SMA leadership has continued to advocate the role of SMA as the 'Voice of the Profession', by providing independent and constructive feedback to policy makers, regulatory agencies and other professions. SMA closely monitors the impact of healthcare policies on professional practice, and where necessary, we also collate useful feedback from our members and negotiate patiently for a fair and reasonable regulatory climate that will both uphold good clinical practice and cultivate good doctor-patient relationships. An example of this is our painstaking efforts in providing feedback, together with the Academy of Medicine, Singapore (AMS) and the College for Physicians, Singapore (CFPS) to help improve the draft for Singapore Medical Council's Ethical Code and Professional Standards.

SMA has stepped up its efforts to engage and collaborate with fellow professional bodies, medical alumni and relevant external partners, convinced that it will yield more coordinated and effective results in our projects and endeavours. At the international front, SMA has also stepped forward to assume leadership roles in regional federations of medical associations, learning actively from our engagement with leaders from other countries. As in previous years, SMA has made engaging junior doctors and medical students from within and without Singapore a priority. All these efforts serve to ensure that SMA continues to be a progressive professional body with a well-balanced suite of programmes for internal and external engagement.

The medical profession continues to be well regarded as a respectable profession, and locally at least, medicine remains the profession of choice for many idealistic and intelligent young men and women. However, it is important for the profession and its members to be sensitised and to remain in touch with some of the social realities faced by the rest of society. In this regard, the SMA Charity Fund is now into its 3rd year, having achieved its Institution of a Public Character (IPC) status since 27 December 2013. The SMA Charity Fund is set up to provide financial assistance for a variety of social concerns both within the profession and in the general community. These include helping exceptional medical students from needy families, promoting a culture of volunteerism among doctors and medical students, supporting community initiatives related to preventive medicine and providing regular education forum to the public. We believe that these efforts will complement well the ad hoc pro bono practice already undertaken by many of our doctors whenever they encounter needy patients in their practice.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all who have stepped forward to volunteer their valuable time and energy in the various committees in SMA. The achievement by SMA is truly the sum of all your efforts. I would especially like to put on record my sincere thanks to A/Prof Toh Han Chong for his ten years spent on transforming the image of SMA News as its Editor. Under his astute leadership, SMA News has become today a must-read for both doctors and non-doctors in the healthcare industry, and even journalists. I would also like to express my gratitude to the following former Presidents of SMA for their services as trustees: Dr Yong Nen Khiong (SMA Pte Ltd), Dr Khoo Chong Yew (SMA Trust Fund) and Dr Low Lip Pin (SMA Trust Fund). We are truly grateful for their many years of service as they step down from their responsibilities as trustees.

Through the many challenges faced, SMA and its leadership have emerged wiser and more resilient. It is regrettable that there are still a handful of doctors who fail to see the relevance of membership to their own practice. I am confident that many of the benefits and positive changes that we achieve through our patient engagement and late-night discussions extend beyond our members to help each and every registered practitioner in Singapore. But representation has both qualitative and quantitative relevance. While a strong leadership is critical to mapping out the values and strategies of SMA, the number of doctors under the flag of SMA is also essential for our mandate to be credible. It is therefore my earnest wish that the growth in SMA, which indirectly mirrors the development of the profession itself, will be in both depth and numbers. For those who have been firmly behind us, on behalf of the Council, I would like to express our sincere thanks. Let us soldier on together to further enhance the relevance and contribution of the profession to Singapore.



From Left-Right: Dr Wong Tien Hua, 1st Vice President; A/Prof Chin Jing Jih, President; A/Prof Toh Han Chong, 2nd Vice President



PRESIDENT

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| DR N K YONG | 1987-1989 |
| DR M S RASANKERIGAN | 1989-1990 |
| DR CHOO KEDANG | 1990-1993 |
| DR KOK SOO | 1993-1996 |
| DR NG PAK YEAN | 1996-1999 |
| DR LEE SAN | 1999-2003 |
| DR CHENG HOCK | 2003-2006 |
| DR LEE PHENG SOON | 2006-2009 |
| DR WONG CHANG YIN | 2009-2012 |
| DR CHONG YEH WOEE | 2012- |
| A/PROF CHIN JING JIH | 2012- |

PRESIDENT

| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| DR B R SREENIVASAN | 1959-1961 |
| DR SARVA COHEN | 1961-1962 |
| DR FOO CHEE GUAN | 1962-1963 |
| DR HO YUEN | 1963-1964 |
| DR ROBERT C K LOH | 1964-1965 |
| DR GOON SEK MUN | 1965-1966 |
| DR COLIN MARCUS | 1966-1967 |
| DR V THAMBILLAI | 1967-1968 |
| DR ARTHUR S M LIM | 1968-1969 |
| DR PHOON WAN ON | 1969-1970 |
| DR ARTHUR S M LIM | 1970-1971 |
| DR KOH ENG KHENG | 1971-1972 |
| DR CHEE AH LENG | 1972-1973 |
| DR PHOON WAN ON | 1973-1974 |
| DR CHOO JIM ENG | 1974-1975 |
| DR FREDERICK SAMUEL | 1975-1977 |
| DR CHOO JIM ENG | 1977-1979 |
| DR MAY GUAN KONG | 1979-1980 |
| DR N K YONG | 1980-1981 |
| DR LOW LIP PING | 1981-1982 |
| DR N K YONG | 1982-1985 |
| DR KHOO CHONG YEW | 1985-1987 |

HONORARY SECRETARY

| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| DR POH SOO KAI | 1959-1961 |
| DR RICHARD K H CHIN | 1961-1962 |
| DR UN HON HING | 1962-1963 |
| DR CHOW KHUEN WAH | 1963-1964 |
| DR WONG YIP CHONG | 1964-1965 |
| DR T A SIVAKURUMI | 1965-1966 |
| DR E S LEDNARD | 1966-1967 |
| DR PHOON WAN ON | 1967-1968 |
| DR GEORGE S C WONG | 1968-1969 |
| DR LUK YEW HEE | 1969-1970 |
| DR MAY GUAN KONG | 1970-1972 |
| DR CHOW BENG KENG | 1972-1974 |
| DR TOH KENG KAF | 1974-1978 |
| DR ALLAN Y H NG | 1978-1980 |
| DR LOO CHOON YONG | 1980-1981 |
| DR GOH LEE SAN | 1981-1982 |
| DR GAN CHOO KENG | 1982-1983 |
| DR TAN YEW CHEE | 1983-1985 |
| DR CLARENCE T T TAN | 1985-1988 |
| DR TAN YEW CHEE | 1988-1989 |
| DR TAY BOON KENG | 1989-1991 |
| DR JOHN H M LEE | 1991-1993 |

HONORARY SECRETARY

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| DR YAP LIP NEE | 1993-1995 |
| DR AU KAH KAY | 1995-1996 |
| DR WONG TIEN YIN | 1996- |
| DR WONG CHANG YIN | 2000-2011 |
| DR YUE WAI MUN | 2011-2012 |
| DR THAM TAT YEAN | 2012- |
| DR YUE WAI MUN | 2012- |
| DR RAYMOND CHUA S B | 2012- |
| DR ABDUL RAZAKJR OMAR | 2000-2011 |
| DR WONG TIEN HUA | 2011-2012 |
| DR DAN TENG MUI TAWY | 2012- |

SMA Council 2014/15

Front row (Left-Right):

Dr Lee Yik Voon (Hon. Asst. Treasurer, Executive Director), Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh (Hon. Treasurer), Dr Wong Tien Hua (1st Vice President), A/Prof Chin Jing Jih (President), A/Prof Toh Han Chong (2nd Vice President), Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui (Hon. Secretary), Dr Lim Keng Choon (Hon. Asst. Secretary)

Back row (Left-Right):

Dr Tan Yia Swam, Dr Bertha Woon Yng Yng, Dr Noorul Fatha As'art, Prof Wong Tien Yin (up to August 2014), Dr Benny Loo Kai Guo, Dr Tan Tze Lee, A/Prof Tan Sze Wee, Dr Chong Yeh Woei, Dr Wong Chiang Yin, Dr Toh Choon Lai, Dr Anantham Devanand

Not in photo:

Dr Abdul Razakjr Omar (up to July 2014), Dr Lee Pheng Soon, Dr Ng Chee Kwan (co-opted July 2014), A/Prof Nigel Tan Choon Kiat (co-opted September 2014)

HONORARY SECRETARIES' REPORT

The conclusion of 2014 brings yet another period of reflection on the happenings of the year, and with it, the need for conscious evaluation of our objectives and activities, such as the direction the Association is heading, the projects that were undertaken, as well as the causes we fought for. Numerous events have taken place since the writing of SMA's last annual report. However, even in today's healthcare landscape where everything is constantly in flux, SMA's *raison d'être* remains steadfastly unchanging – our members. Thus, much of what we did in 2014 focused greatly on recognising our members, as well as the many volunteers who have helped us achieve what we had set out to do.

With more than 100 doctors volunteering in 21 standing committees, forming the spine of SMA's work, and numerous passionate members who actively

participate in SMA's work by providing essential feedback through formal and informal channels, we set out to recognise their contributions, dedicating the December 2014 issue of *SMA News* to them. The views shared by these members and volunteers in the aforementioned issue of *SMA News* highlight the importance of a well-represented and balanced Medical Association with regard to our service toward Singapore's healthcare, reigniting the passion to serve.

As part of our ongoing efforts to express our gratitude for the continued support received, SMA in December 2014 held its 3rd Members' Appreciation Night – a movie premiere of the third instalment of *The Hobbit Trilogy* – for a crowd of more than 500 members, volunteers, donors and staff. In addition to it being an expression of appreciation, events like the Members' Appreciation Night allow the congregation of members across various age groups, specialisations and workplaces, encouraging the building of friendship and collegiality.

In 2014, SMA organised a total of 25 membership events attended by 2,521 participants, and 88 courses of different durations covering various topics, which were attended by 2,662 participants. A key event for the year was the SMA Annual Dinner 2014, which was graced by our Guest of Honour, the Minister for Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen, and chaired by Dr Lim Kheng Choon. During the dinner, we were pleased to confer the SMA Honorary Membership on three distinguished members of the medical profession – Dr Feng Pao Hsii, Dr Poh Soo Chuan and Prof Abu Rauff. Another major event, the 45th SMA National Medical Convention, Active with Allergies, which was chaired by Dr Tan Tze Lee and Dr Amy Stebbings, featured three symposiums and comprised 11 talks. It saw the participation of more than 340 members of the public and the medical profession. Also notable was the SMA Lecture 2014, Innovating for Future Health, which was delivered by Prof Tan Chorh Chuan, President of the National University of Singapore, and attended by 120 doctors and other healthcare professionals.

Special for us in 2014 was the appointment of SMA as the Chairperson of the Medical Association of South East Asian Nations (MASEAN) for two years on a rotational basis. Dr Wong Tien Hua was appointed as the Chairperson during the 16th MASEAN Conference held in Singapore. The ceremony, presided over by Guest of Honour, Dr Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State for Health, was attended by a total of 46 local and foreign delegates, and guests.

From Left-Right: Dr Lim Kheng Choon, Honorary Assistant Secretary; Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui, Honorary Secretary

The interests of our members are the driving force behind what we do. What we have done thus far could not have been achieved without continued support and membership. SMA currently represents more than 60% of locally trained doctors, and we hope that more will join us; it is only with meaningful representation and engagement of the medical profession can the work SMA does achieve a deeper, greater impact. Maintaining

the honour and interest of the medical profession is what makes SMA who we are; it is also what makes our volunteering here so much more meaningful and satisfying.

The SMA Secretariat, led by Dr Lee Yik Voon, Executive Director, supports the work of the SMA Council and its Committees, which wholly consists of volunteers. The Secretariat comprises a total of 24 paid staff, as at 31 December

2014. Chief Administrator, Mr Martin Ho, oversees the day-to-day operation of the Secretariat, which is broadly divided into four divisions – Membership, Publications, Courses and Corporate Services – managed by seven Heads of Department. Together with the SMA Council and Committees, we strive to steer the Association towards being the collective voice of the medical profession, to further the interests of our members and patients.

COUNCIL MEETING ATTENDANCE

Up to February 2015, a total of ten council meetings were convened to discuss the business and affairs of the Association. The attendance record of the meetings is as follows:

| Name | Apr '14 | May '14 | Jun '14 | Jul '14 | Aug '14 | Sep '14 | Oct '14 | Nov '14 | Jan '15 | Feb '15 | Total |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| A/Prof Chin Jing Jih | √ | √ | * | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | 9 |
| Dr Wong Tien Hua | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | # | √ | √ | 9 |
| A/Prof Toh Han Chong | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | # | √ | √ | * | √ | 8 |
| Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui | # | √ | √ | # | √ | √ | √ | * | √ | √ | 7 |
| Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh | √ | # | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | * | √ | √ | 8 |
| Dr Lim Kheng Choon | √ | # | # | √ | √ | * | √ | √ | # | # | 5 |
| Dr Lee Yik Voon | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | 10 |
| Dr Abdul Razakjr Omar [†] | # | # | # | # | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| Dr Anantham Devanand | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | # | # | √ | # | 7 |
| Dr Chong Yeh Woei | √ | # | * | √ | √ | √ | # | √ | √ | √ | 7 |
| Dr Lee Pheng Soon | * | √ | * | √ | √ | √ | * | * | * | √ | 5 |
| Dr Benny Loo Kai Guo | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | * | * | √ | √ | 8 |
| Dr Ng Chee Kwan ^{††} | - | - | - | - | √ | √ | √ | √ | # | √ | 5 |
| Dr Noorul Fatha As'art | √ | √ | * | # | # | √ | * | √ | # | √ | 5 |
| A/Prof Nigel Tan Choon Kiat [‡] | - | - | - | - | - | √ | √ | # | # | # | 2 |
| A/Prof Tan Sze Wee | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | * | √ | * | √ | √ | 8 |
| Dr Tan Tze Lee | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | * | √ | √ | * | 8 |
| Dr Tan Yia Swam | √ | # | √ | # | √ | √ | # | √ | √ | √ | 7 |
| Dr Toh Choon Lai | √ | * | * | √ | √ | √ | √ | * | √ | √ | 7 |
| Dr Wong Chiang Yin | * | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | * | √ | √ | 8 |
| Prof Wong Tien Yin ^{††} | # | # | # | # | # | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| Dr Bertha Woon Yng Yng | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | 10 |

Note: * Absent with apologies; * Overseas; † Council member up till July 2014; †† Co-opted July 2014; ‡ Co-opted September 2014; †† Council member up till August 2014

SMA COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

55th SMA Council 2014/2015

STANDING COMMITTEES

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

Administration Committee

A/Prof Chin Jing Jih, Chairperson
Dr Wong Tien Hua, Vice Chairperson
A/Prof Toh Han Chong, Vice Chairperson
Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui
Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh
Dr Lim Kheng Choon
Dr Lee Yik Voon

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
A/Prof Sophia Ang (till Dec '14)
Dr Chan Yiong Huak
Dr Chang Haw Chong
Dr Chuah Khoon Leong
Prof Fong Kok Yong
Prof Ho Nai Kiong (till Dec '14)
Dr How Choon How
Dr Hsu Pon Poh
Dr Lawrence Lee Soon-U
Dr Liau Kui Hin
Dr Citra Mattar
Dr Abdul Razakjr Omar
Dr Pwee Keng Ho
Prof Quak Seng Hock
Dr Ramani NV
Adj A/Prof Sim Kang
Dr Sitoh Yih Yian
Dr Benedict Tan
Dr Tan Cher Heng
A/Prof Kelvin KH Tan
A/Prof Tan Puay Hoon
Dr Darren Tay Keng Jun
A/Prof Samuel Tay Sam Wah
Dr Tay Seow Yian
A/Prof Cuthbert Teo
Dr Thng Choon Hua
Dr Gervais Wansaicheong (till Dec '14)

Dr Wong Moh Sim
Prof Wong Wai Keong

International Corresponding Editors

Prof Jafri Malin Abdullah
A/Prof Judy Hung (from Jul '14)
Prof Malai Muttarak
Prof Ng Kwan-Hoong
Prof Tan Siang Yong

Editorial Board – SMA News

A/Prof Toh Han Chong, Editor (till Jun '14)
Dr Tan Yia Swam, Editor (from Jul '14)
Dr Tina Tan, Deputy Editor (from Jan '15)
A/Prof Daniel Fung, Advisor (from Nov '14)
A/Prof Cuthbert Teo, Advisor (from Dec '14)
A/Prof Toh Han Chong, Advisor (from Nov '14)
Dr Martin Chio
Dr Jayant V Iyer
Dr Natalie Koh
Dr Leong Choon Kit (from Aug '14)
Dr Jeremy Lim (till Nov '14)
Dr Jipson Quah
Dr Jonathan Tan (from Aug '14)
Dr Jimmy Teo

Complaints Committee

Dr Toh Choon Lai, Chairperson
Dr Anantham Devanand, Vice Chairperson
Dr Lim Teck Beng
Dr Lynette Shek Pei-Chi
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, Vice Chairperson

Private Practice Committee

Dr Tan Tze Lee, Chairperson
Dr Toh Choon Lai, Vice Chairperson

Doctors-in-Training Committee

Dr Lim Kheng Choon, Chairperson
Dr Benny Loo Kai Guo, Vice Chairperson

Advisors

Dr Chong Yeh Woei
Dr Wong Tien Hua
A/Prof Paul Tambyah

Membership Committee

Dr Chong Yeh Woei, Chairperson
Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh, Vice Chairperson
Dr Lim Kheng Choon, Vice Chairperson
Dr Benny Loo Kai Guo

Wine Appreciation Chapter (SIG)

Dr Andrew YH Chin, Chairperson
Dr Chong Yeh Woei, Vice Chairperson
Dr Wong Chiang Yin, 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 Woo Yew Lok (till Oct '14)
Dr Colin Teo Kok Ann (from Oct '14)
Bowling:
Dr Valerie Teo

Dr Chiam Chiak Teng
Chess: Dr Jeevarajah Nithiananthan
Golf: Dr Denis Christopher Nyam NK
Pool: Dr Alvin Koo
Squash: Dr Jonathan Pang
Table Tennis: Dr Leow Khang Leng
Tennis: Dr Julian Theng
Volleyball: Dr Geoffrey Ng Guoyi

SIG (Special Interest Group)

Basketball:
Dr Christopher Chui Hoe Kong (till Oct '14)
Dr Colin Teo Kok Ann (from Oct '14)
Golf: Dr Denis Christopher Nyam NK
Soccer:
Dr Chng Nai Wee
Dr William Kristanto

Medical Informatics Committee

Dr Lee Yik Voon, Chairperson
Dr Chow U-Jin, Vice Chairperson
Dr Terence Tan Hsien Liang

Community Health Education Committee

Dr Tan Yia Swam, Chairperson

Medical History Awareness Committee

Dr Lee Pheng Soon, Chairperson
A/Prof Toh Han Chong, Vice Chairperson

Medik Awas Committee

Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui, Chairperson

ITE Certificate in Healthcare (Outpatient) Course Committee

Dr Wong Tien Hua, 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

2015 Convention Organising Committee

Dr Ng Chee Kwan, Chairperson
Dr Simon Chong, Vice Chairperson

2015 Dinner Organising Committee

Dr Benny Loo Kai Guo, Chairperson

ORGANISATIONS UNDER SMA'S GOVERNANCE 2014/2015

SMA Charity Fund

Board of Directors

Prof Wong Tien Yin, Chairperson
Mr Colin Lim Fung Wan
Mr Sitoh Yih Pin
A/Prof Tan Sze Wee
Prof Thio Li-Ann
Dr Charles Toh
Mr T K Udairam
Dr Wong Chiang Yin

Members of the Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Singapore Medical Association Private Limited

Board of Directors

Executive Directors

A/Prof Tan Sze Wee, Chairperson
Dr Chong Yeh Woei
Dr Lee Yik Voon
Dr Toh Choon Lai
Dr Wong Chiang Yin
Dr Wong Tien Hua

Non-Executive Directors

A/Prof Chin Jing Jih
Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui
Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh

Board of Trustees

Dr Tan Cheng Bock @ Adrian Tan
Prof Low Cheng Hock
Dr Yong Nen Khiong

Centre for Medical Ethics & Professionalism (CMEP)

Dr T Thirumoorthy, Executive Director
Dr Anantham Devanand, Deputy Director
Dr Gerald Chua, Deputy Director

Board Members

Dr Chong Yeh Woei
A/Prof Goh Lee Gan
A/Prof Lai Siang Hui
A/Prof Lee Kheng Hock

Prof Lim Shih Hui
Dr Tham Tat Yean
Dr Wong Kok Seng
Dr Bertha Woon

Ex-officios

A/Prof Chin Jing Jih
Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui

SMA Trust Fund Board of Trustees

Dr Khoo Chong Yew, Chairperson
Dr Tan Yew Ghee, Secretary
Dr Low Lip Ping, Treasurer
Prof Low Cheng Hock
Dr Tan Kok Soo

REPRESENTATIVES OF SMA 2014/2015

MOH Advisory Committee on Clinical Management of Dengue

Dr Wong Tien Hua

MOH CPG Prioritisation Committee

Dr Tan Tze Lee

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)

SMC CME Coordinating Committee

Dr Chong Yeh Woei
Dr Wong Chiang Yin (alternate)

AIC-CIC (CHAS Implementation Committee)

Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh

AIC-Community Health Centre (CHC)

Dr Lee Yik Voon
(Co-chair for CHC sub-group)

AIC GP Advisory Panel

Dr Chong Yeh Woei

Advertising Standards Authority of Singapore (ASAS)

A/Prof Tan Sze Wee

IRAS Taxpayer Feedback Panel (TFP)

Dr Chong Yeh Woei

MOM Workplace Safety & Health (Healthcare) Committee

Dr Wong Sin Yew

MOM Workplace Safety & Health (Healthcare) Capability Building Sub-Committee

A/Prof Tan Sze Wee

National Resuscitation Council

A/Prof Lim Swee Han

Office of the Public Guardian - LPA Cert Issuer Review Committee

Dr Anantham Devanand

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

Prof Low Cheng Hock

MIMS Honorary Editorial Advisory Board

Dr Lee Pheng Soon

Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants (ISCA) Investigation Committee Panel

Dr Wong Chiang Yin

Dr T Thirumorthy

Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh

Dr Bertha Woon

SMA-SAPI Joint Committee

Dr Lee Pheng Soon

Dr Lee Yik Voon

Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association (SANA)

Dr Thomas Lee Kae Meng

Singapore Heart Foundation Heart Safe Singapore Committee

Dr Abdul Razakjr Omar

Medical Association of South East Asian Nations (MASEAN) Council

Dr Wong Tien Hua, Chairperson

Dr Lee Yik Voon, Secretary General

Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh, Deputy Secretary General

Secretary General

Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui, Treasurer

MASEAN Councillors

A/Prof Chin Jing Jih, President

Dr Wong Tien Hua, 1st Vice 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

Dr Bertha Woon, CMAAO Councillor

SMA Spokespersons

A/Prof Chin Jing Jih

Dr Wong Tien Hua

Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui

SMA Honorary Legal Advisors

Mr Chan Hock Keng, Wong Partnership

Ms Kuah Boon Theng, Legal Clinic LLC

Mr Lek Siang Pheng, Rodyk & Davidson

Mr Edwin Tong, Allen & Gledhill

Professional Auditors

Kreston David Yeung PAC

Media & Communications

Ms Nalini Naidu, IMSG Pte Ltd

HONORARY TREASURERS' REPORT

We are pleased to report a surplus of \$427,252 for the SMA Group, which will be set aside for future capital expenditure. Our combined accumulated fund, which amounts to \$6.6 million, is expected to sustain the work of the SMA Group even in times of unexpected decrease in income.

In 2014, we remained committed to continuously advocate for an improved healthcare system in Singapore, for both doctors and patients. This focus on advocacy is resource-intensive, and thus, a large proportion of our resources was devoted to staff and related costs, to support the increased volume of work and to sustain the quality of our work. This reflects the direction that the Association is headed – to become a dynamic organisation helmed and propelled by volunteers and members, and ably supported by salaried staff. The next significant expense comprised expenditure related to resources, courses and activities targeted at our membership. These include our publications, course materials, seminars, and social and sports-related events, which are either complimentary or made available at a heavily subsidised rate to our members.

Our revenue for the year was generated from various sources. Membership subscription supplemented approximately one-quarter of our total annual expenditure. Other revenue sources that enabled us to be financially viable included income generated from our work as the representative office of indemnity providers,

advertisement income from our partners and commercial advertisers, and rebate income from the UOB-SMA Platinum Visa Card.

In 2014, our investment committee, chaired by the Executive Director of Singapore Medical Association Pte Ltd (SMAPL), continued to realign part of our investments in view of the current investment environment. Our annualised investment return improved from 2.29% to 2.71% since its inception in July 2008. We continued to invest mainly in bonds and to aim for a reasonable return of investment in a low-risk portfolio. The investment committee is also constantly on the look-out for possible investment opportunities in funds or other alternative investments, with the view of achieving potentially higher returns within acceptable risk.

Overall, a higher surplus was attained in 2014, and this improved performance

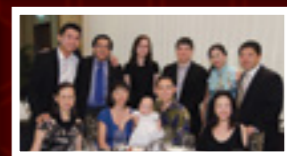
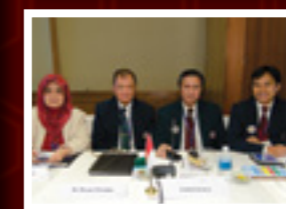
has enabled us to give back to needy medical students. Through SMAPL, SMA contributed \$100,000 in donations to the SMA Charity Fund (SMACF), an Institution of a Public Character (IPC) since December 2013. This donation, together with about \$223,000 raised from supporters and members of the profession, funded the work of SMACF in 2014. The Charity expended about \$309,000 in 2014, mostly through the award of the SMA Medical Students' Assistance Fund to 38 needy students from the three local medical schools.

Looking forward, we are confident that in 2015, SMA will remain financially sustainable as we seek to represent and support our membership through active engagement with policymakers, as well as through the creation of more resources, courses and benefits for our members.

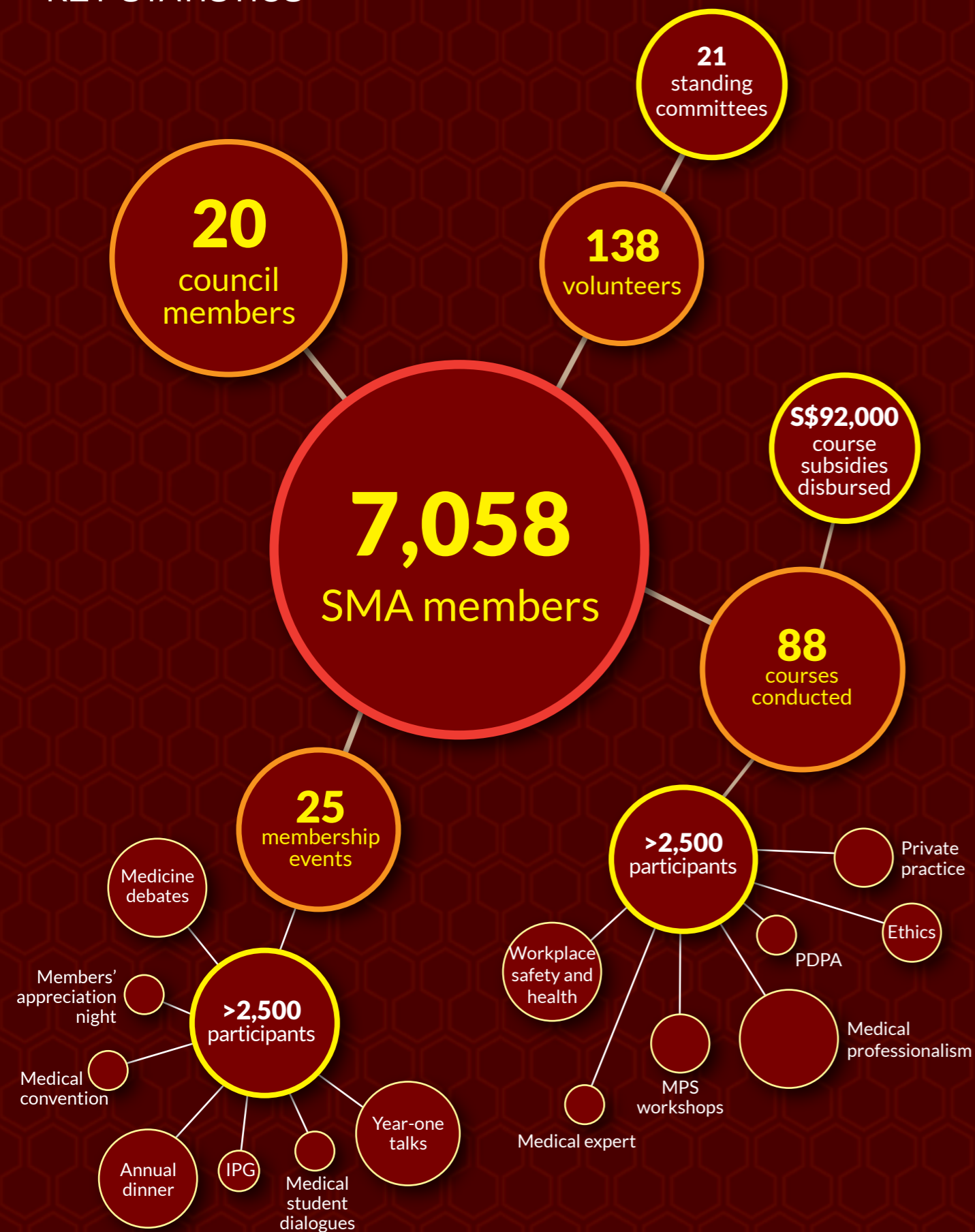


From Left-Right: Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh, Honorary Treasurer; Dr Lee Yik Voon, Assistant Honorary Treasurer

2014 HIGHLIGHTS



KEY STATISTICS



REPRESENTATION AND ADVOCACY

OUR APPROACH

As the national medical association, SMA is committed to engaging in dialogue with various stakeholders on issues related to patient care and medical practice, by highlighting concerns received via feedback from members, and proposing alternative policies, where applicable. At SMA, we adopt a wide spectrum of approaches, ranging from quiet diplomacy to public position statements, to help advocate the rights of patients and doctors.

2014 HIGHLIGHTS

- National Telemedicine Guidelines**
 SMA provided feedback to the Ministry of Health (MOH) on aspects pertaining to the practicality and the possible implications of telemedicine.
- Workplace Safety and Health Act**
 SMA suggested edits to the risk assessment checklist to help medical clinics comply with requirements under the Act. The risk assessment checklist was used at SMA's Workplace Safety and Health seminar held in November 2014.
- Guide to organising a primary care clinic during an influenza pandemic**
 SMA provided feedback on possible improvements to the existing guide.
- Personal Data Protection Act - Advisory Guidelines for the Healthcare Sector**
 SMA met with MOH to discuss data protection scenarios faced by the healthcare sector. We subsequently submitted feedback during the public consultation period, and organised a seminar for members in August and November 2014.

- Medical records**
 In light of the submission of queries to SMA by members unsure of how long medical records should be kept, SMA wrote to MOH to enquire about the ideal retention period of medical records. MOH's reply was published in SMA News' April 2014 issue. New MOH guidelines were subsequently published in January 2015.
- Medical students**
 SMA organised several dialogue sessions with students from the three medical schools, highlighting current medical issues and receiving feedback on issues related to medical education.
- Collegiality**
 SMA had regular meetings with representatives from the Academy of Medicine, Singapore (AMS) and the College of Family Physicians Singapore (CFPS). These dialogues assist greatly in the exchange of information and discussion of issues that affect the medical profession.
- Clinic licensing period**
 SMA provided feedback to MOH on the practicality of publishing the licensing period of medical clinics. We recommended the inclusion of information on why a particular clinic has a short licence in any public database. This will help patients understand that a short clinic licence does not automatically mean that the clinic has poor compliance or disciplinary records. The updated clinic directory was launched by MOH in August 2014.
- Regulation of liposuction**
 SMA provided feedback on the proposed changes to the regulation of liposuction. The finalised licensing conditions were published by MOH in October 2014.

- National Ethics Capability Committee**
 SMA was invited to be a member of the new committee, which is currently planning a national framework of ethics education for doctors, dentists, nurses and pharmacists in Singapore.
- Medical Protection Society (MPS)**
 SMA had several meetings with representatives from MPS to discuss various issues related to medical indemnity.
- Draft 2014 SMC Ethical Code and Professional Standards**
 SMA alerted members to the consultation exercise, and asked for feedback from members. We requested for a time extension, to allow members more time to review the long document. SMA subsequently drafted a position statement and asked for feedback from members, so as to better reflect the views of the medical profession. In all, 535 votes were received, of which 526 voted in support of our position statement. Feedback, including anonymised comments by individual SMA members, were submitted to Singapore Medical Council (SMC). SMA's feedback to SMC was shared with our members in full via e-mail on December 3, 2014. SMA also facilitated a joint AMS-CFPS-SMA letter to SMC, highlighting the concerns of the three professional bodies.
- Member assistance**
 SMA provided advice and assistance to a member with employment issues, and the issue was subsequently resolved.

MEDIA EXPOSURE

2014 CHALLENGES

With 7,058 members from diverse backgrounds, we realise that issues faced by the medical profession will invariably see opposing views and opinions. Thus, every position and opinion put forth by SMA has to take this into consideration. It is not always easy to stay true to our mission of advocating a better healthcare system for both doctors and patients, but the enthusiastic feedback and opinions received from our members encourage us in our endeavour.

MOVING FORWARD

The medical profession will continue to face challenges, both globally and locally, such as with possible pandemics and our ageing population. SMA will continue to represent and be an advocate for patients and doctors, and push for a more inclusive and collaborative healthcare landscape in Singapore.

I hope SMA will be recognised by both the society and medical profession as the moral compass and heartbeat of a caring medical landscape that is able to fairly protect the interests of all.

Dr Peter Loke,
SMA Member

MEDIA EXPOSURE

In 2014, SMA took official positions on important issues related to both doctors and patients, sparking active discourse and creating awareness of issues pertinent to our current medical landscape. These areas of concern include medical fee guidelines, healthcare manpower in the palliative care sector, and SMC's disciplinary processes. Aided by SMA publications' growing influence on the local healthcare landscape, we aim to continue bringing greater awareness to issues that impact both doctors and patients for the betterment of local healthcare.

7 March–28 March 2014

Leisure noise-induced hearing loss
Lianhe Wanbao, The Straits Times, The New Paper and Shin Min Daily News

The February 2014 issue of *SMJ* featured a research paper titled "The music listening preferences and habits of youths in Singapore and its relation to leisure noise-induced hearing loss". On 7 March, *Lianhe Wanbao* cited in its editorial that "one in six young persons in Singapore is at risk of developing leisure noise-induced hearing loss from music delivered via earphones." *The Straits Times, The New Paper* and *Shin Min Daily News* reported findings from this study in their 28 March newspaper editions.

7 July 2014

Healthcare manpower in the palliative care sector
TV News and Channel NewsAsia

It was reported that MOH estimates that manpower capacity in the palliative care sector will have to double from the current 150 to 300 by 2020, so as to meet the expected end-of-life care needs

of more than 10,000 Singaporeans. However, SMA 1st Vice President Dr Wong Tien Hua pointed out that it is difficult to make palliative care training compulsory for all doctors. He opined that the best way forward is to find out whether doctors have greater interest in treating elderly patients and chronic conditions, or are more accustomed to treating acute conditions.

25 July 2014

Singapore Medical Council's disciplinary process
TODAY

SMC announced that they broadly agreed with the recommendations made by the Review Committee (for Disciplinary Processes) to further enhance the local disciplinary framework for doctors. Dr Wong Tien Hua commented, "Many of the changes reflect the principles of greater transparency, natural justice, and a more efficient system to (reduce) the time required to clear individual complaint cases."

An issue that the Review Committee raised pertained to the current adversarial process; they proposed a shift in the disciplinary process from one that works upon charges levelled against a doctor to one with an inquisitorial framework. SMA welcomed this recommended shift in the disciplinary framework, as these changes would benefit the profession. Dr Wong further highlighted that an inquisitorial system offers the advantage of seeking the truth for all parties, instead of taking sides.

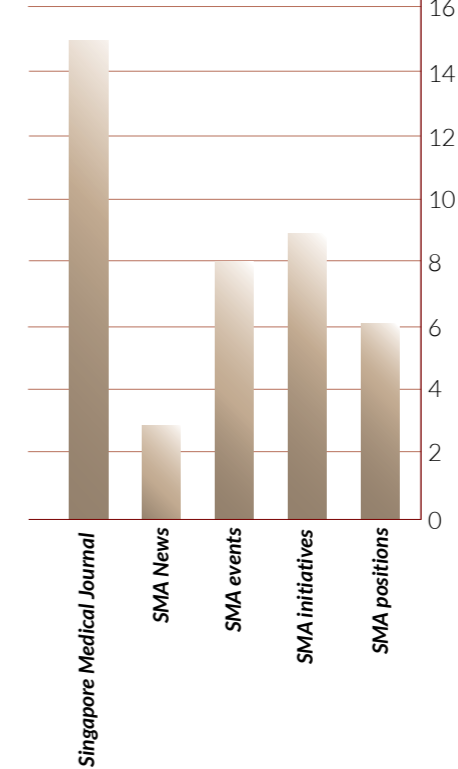
28 July–1 September 2014

Guidelines on Fees
AsiaOne, Channel NewsAsia, Lianhe Zaobao, The Straits Times, TODAY and TV News

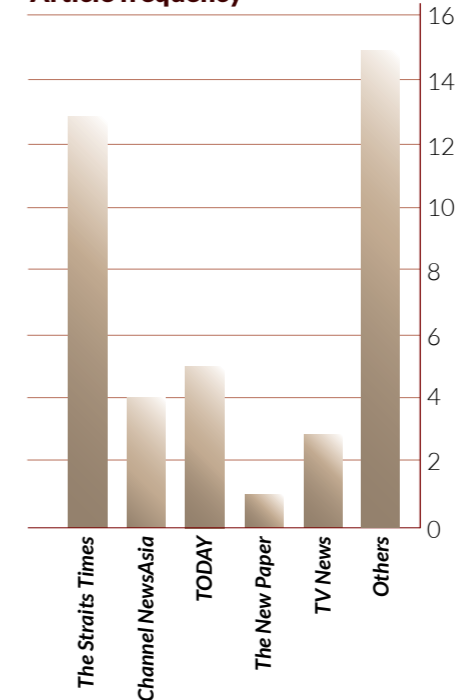
SMC expressed hopes in July 2014 that laws governing doctors' fee guidelines may be amended to override competition regulations in Singapore. Reports noted that in 2010, the Competition Commission of Singapore ruled against SMA's Guidelines on Fees (GOF) (in force 1987–2007). SMA's GOF was abolished because they were deemed to have breached Section 34 Prohibition of the Competition Act and interfered with free market competition. Some writers felt that the guidelines were relevant as a reference for doctors and patients; in the absence of fee guidelines, some doctors may increase their fees to test the limits of what the market can bear.

On 1 September 2014, various media outlets reported that MOH took the feedback received into account and published data on operation fees at public hospitals on its website, so as to increase transparency and help patients make more informed decisions. Dr Chong Yeh Woei, SMA's ex-President and a current SMA Council Member, opined that should SMA decide to republish the fee guidelines, time would be needed to regather the information, seeing as the Association has not drafted fee guidelines since 2006. SMA has emphasised the need to obtain approval from the authorities before republication of the GOF.

SMA's media mentions in 2014



Article frequency



28 March 2014

ONE IN SIX SINGAPORE YOUTHS FACES RISK OF HEARING LOSS: STUDY

The Straits Times, The New Paper and Shin Min Daily News

10 May 2014

MAKE HEALTHCARE JOBS MORE ATTRACTIVE BY RAISING SALARIES: NG ENG HEN

The Straits Times, Channel NewsAsia, Lianhe Zaobao and TV News

10 May 2014

SINGAPORE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOSTS 16TH MASEAN CONFERENCE

XinMSN News

27 July 2014

DOC, COULD YOU SPEAK SLOWER, MORE SIMPLY?

The Straits Times

28 July 2014

GUIDELINES ON DOCTORS' FEES COULD BE REINSTATED

TODAY

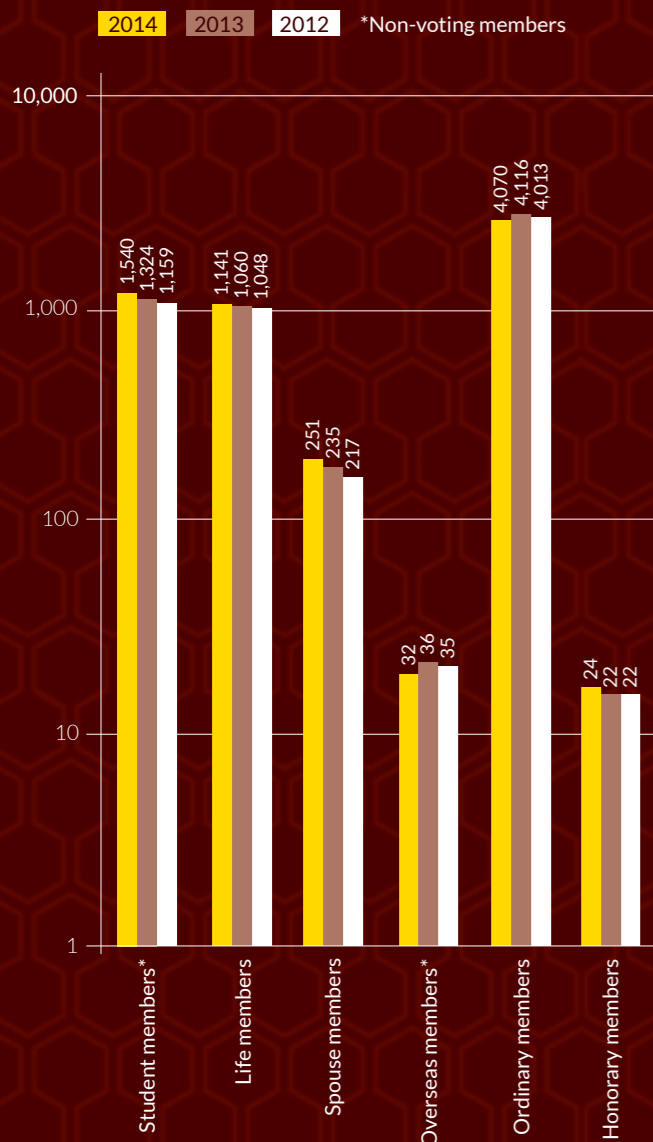
THE HEART OF OUR WORK

OUR APPROACH

Our members are at the heart of what we do. We remain focused on engaging the profession and delivering services that our members value. These include providing resources and opportunities to aid our members in their development as a medical professional and a leader in their respective fields.

2014 HIGHLIGHTS

- Broadening our representation**
 Complimentary SMA student membership was an initiative started in 2012 to engage local medical students as they train to enter the medical profession. This year, we continued to extend this collegiality to our future doctors by conducting a series of talks to share about the vision, mission and work of SMA. We also actively invited the graduating classes of medical students to convert their student membership to ordinary membership in order to enjoy the full benefits of being part of the largest independent professional body for medical doctors in Singapore. In addition, recruitment drives were conducted throughout the year to engage the medical profession at large. We are heartened that 750 new members have joined our ranks this year.
- Expanding our online resources**
 As more doctors take to online platforms to perform their day-to-day transactions, SMA has likewise worked to expand our online resources to members. Our range of online resources includes the SMA Forum and Ethics Consultation, which provide platforms for members to discuss challenges, raise concerns, as well as seek the opinion of their peers and other experts. SMA Jobs Portal and Locum Online provide avenues for members to seek out employment opportunities. Course materials from SMA Centre for Medical Ethics and Professionalism and other professional seminars, as well as *Singapore Medical Journal* CME questionnaires can also be accessed online by our members, thus providing ample opportunities for learning and growth.
- Interest groups and membership events**
 Numerous interest groups, ranging from sporting to lifestyle events, were held during the year. Started by members for members, these interest groups enable members to network and build friendships across ages, specialties and institutions in a relaxed and informal environment. In the course of the year, 25 events attended by approximately 2,500 members and their guests were organised.



We also collaborated with multiple organisations to provide members with tangible and unique benefits. These include the UOB-SMA Platinum Visa Card with perpetual fee waiver; discounted rates for the Medical Emergency Response Programme, insurance schemes, and medical equipment and books; exclusive benefits for luxury car purchases and servicing; and corporate hotel rates, among others.

- Feedback and mediation**
 SMA runs a feedback channel that allows the public to raise concerns regarding their experiences with doctors. This channel, unlike that of the Singapore Medical Council, does not have statutory powers, and the committee overseeing these complaints act as the middle persons to mediate between the parties. This feedback channel seeks to build trust between patients and their doctors, and to resolve miscommunication and other minor disputes through clear communication and discussion, with the help of the committee.
- Updating of membership database**
 Towards the end of 2014, we conducted a membership database updating exercise. This long-overdue update keeps the contact details of our membership current, allowing us to better engage our members and inform them of our advocacy work and upcoming programmes.



I belong to the SMA family, which has one voice for the medical fraternity across disciplines. We look after the welfare of our colleagues in all areas, from professional and academic issues, to social matters. We also work for the good of doctors, patients and the general public.

Prof Low Cheng Hock,
SMA Honorary Member

Membership Tally

| | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 |
|---|--------------|-------|-------|
| Total no. of members (at beginning of year) | 6,793 | 6,494 | 5,171 |
| Add | | | |
| No. of new members | 750 | 689 | 1,477 |
| Less | | | |
| No. of resignations/ deceased/ expiry of student membership | 382 | 323 | 105 |
| No. struck off in arrears | 103 | 67 | 49 |
| Total no. of members (at end of year) | 7,058 | 6,793 | 6,494 |

2014 CHALLENGES

Explaining the value proposition of the SMA membership continues to be a challenge in our recruitment and retention efforts, as the importance of professional representation to create a better medical practice environment is often overshadowed by the perceived lack of membership benefits.

Furthermore, as pre-emptive discussions and quiet negotiations are generally the preferred methods of problem-solving in the Singapore context, such close-door advocacy efforts embarked by SMA may not be apparent to our membership at large.

MOVING FORWARD

In 2015, we will seek to increase our recruitment and engagement efforts, to expand our current representation of more than 60% of locally trained medical professionals. We hope to further engage the foreign-trained doctors, who currently make up a much smaller proportion of our membership.

In addition, we will double our efforts to communicate to the medical profession about the roles and functions of the SMA, so that all medical practitioners – whether local- or foreign-trained, junior or senior, specialist or non-specialist – can better appreciate the need for strong representation by a well-supported independent professional body.

CENTRE FOR MEDICAL ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM

OUR APPROACH

The SMA Centre for Medical Ethics and Professionalism (CMEP) was officially launched in June 2000 to promote the art and science of medical ethics and medical care for the betterment of patient care and public health. SMA CMEP 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.

2014 HIGHLIGHTS

- We collaborated with the Academy of Medicine (AMS), the Law Society of Singapore (LSS) and the State Courts of Singapore (State Courts) to organise the inaugural AMS-LSS-SMA-State Courts Medical Expert Training Seminar. The objective of the seminar was to equip medical practitioners with the legal knowledge and skills required to prepare medical expert reports and give oral expert evidence in proceedings before the Singapore Courts. The trainees were required to complete a written assignment, which was to draft an expert report, and in a role-play situation, give oral evidence as an expert witness before a district judge in actual court rooms.
- We also organised a training workshop, Core Concepts in Medical Professionalism, which was designed to be a train-the-trainers programme that aimed to allow participants to gain a deeper understanding of the important concepts of professionalism.
- Partnering the Medico-Legal Society of Singapore (MLS), we organised a two-day Annual National Medico-Legal Seminar, Understanding Mental Capacity – Concepts and Current Practice. The seminar attracted a wide spectrum of participants from the healthcare and legal fraternities, such as doctors, nurses, lawyers, social workers and hospital administrators, who play distinct and equal roles that contribute to the well-being of the mentally incapacitated.

MOVING FORWARD

With 2015 marking the 15th anniversary of SMA CMEP, we have several projects in the pipeline (e.g. medicolegal talks and publications), which will be announced in stages. One such project is the current collaboration between SMA CMEP and the Office of the Public Guardian to develop an online learning tool and guide for medical practitioners regarding the assessment of mental capacity under the Mental Capacity Act. The objective is to provide medical practitioners with an overall understanding of the Act, as well as the key aspects of mental capacity and its assessment. It also aims to equip medical practitioners with the ability to put together a medical assessment report for the purposes specified in the Act. This project is targeted to launch in mid-2015.

OTHER SMA EVENTS

The 45th National Medical Convention, Active with Allergies, was held on 30 August 2014 at Sheraton Towers Singapore. Featuring three symposiums that comprised 11 talks, the event saw a turnout of more than 340 participants from the public and the medical profession. The Public Symposium aimed to empower its participants to manage their allergies so that they could live as normally as possible. The Lunch and Medical Symposiums, which were attended by doctors, provided a perfect platform for them to share their knowledge, expertise and experience on treating allergies, and to stay abreast of the latest developments in this area.

This year's SMA Lecture was delivered by Prof Tan Chorh Chuan, President of the National University of Singapore, Deputy Chairman of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), and a renal physician by training. The event, attended by 120 doctors and healthcare professionals, was held on 1 November 2014 at Hilton Singapore. Prof John Wong, Chief Executive of National University Health System, delivered the citation, commending Prof Tan for being a physician extraordinaire, scholar and leader who has made a huge impact on Singapore medicine over the last 20 years. Prof Tan's lecture, entitled Innovating for Future Health, provided an insightful analysis of the challenges confronting Singapore's healthcare, as well as a comprehensive account of innovations embarked on by the Ministry of Health and various hospitals to tackle these challenges. He also shared his views on pertinent steps that should be taken to sustain these efforts.

SMA CMEP activities in 2014

| No. | Date | Event | No. of attendees | Remarks |
|-----|-------------|--|------------------|--|
| 1 | 9–11 Jan | AST Ethics and Professionalism Course | 68 | |
| 2 | 25 Jan | A MedicoLegal Seminar: Understanding the Legal Responsibilities of Registered Medical Practitioners | 90 | In collaboration with Gleneagles Singapore |
| 3 | 27 Feb | Health Law Seminars for SingHealth Residents | 25 | |
| 4 | 27–29 Mar | AST Ethics and Professionalism Course | 66 | |
| 5 | 23 May | Health Law Seminars for SingHealth Residents | 20 | |
| 6 | 31 May | MPS-SMA Medical Experts Training Course | 60 | In collaboration with MPS |
| 7 | 28 Jun | AMS-LSS-SMA-State Courts Medical Experts Training (Day 1) | 45 | In collaboration with AMS, LSS and State Courts |
| 8 | 5 Jul | SMA Seminar: Core Concepts of Medical Professionalism | 55 | |
| 9 | 12 Jul | AMS-LSS-SMA-State Courts Medical Experts Training (Day 2) | 32 | In collaboration with AMS, LSS and State Courts. |
| 10 | 17–19 Jul | AST Ethics and Professionalism Course | 73 | |
| 11 | 7 Aug | Health Law Seminars for SingHealth Residents | 19 | |
| 12 | 7 Oct | Health Law Seminars for SingHealth Residents | 28 | |
| 13 | 9–11 Oct | AST Ethics and Professionalism Course | 67 | |
| 14 | 18 & 19 Oct | The Annual National Medico-Legal Seminar | 159 | In collaboration with MLS |
| 15 | 7 Nov | SMA Seminar: Engagement with Families During Consent Process – Ethico-Legal Challenges and Impact on Conflict Prevention | 42 | In collaboration with MLS |

AST: advanced specialty trainee; MPS: Medical Protection Society

Other SMA events in 2014

| Event name | No. of runs | No. of attendees |
|--|-------------|------------------|
| 45th National Medical Convention | 1 | 340 |
| Adult Heart Saver Course | 2 | 33 |
| Basic Cardiac Life Support Course | 19 | 130 |
| Basic Cardiac Life Support Instructor Course | 6 | 59 |
| MPS Mastering Adverse Outcomes | 8 | 135 |
| MPS Mastering Difficult Interactions with Patients | 7 | 123 |
| MPS Mastering Professional Interactions | 7 | 112 |
| MPS Mastering Shared Decision Making | 7 | 117 |
| MPS Mastering Your Risk | 8 | 138 |
| SMA Seminar: Personal Data Protection Act | 2 | 118 |
| SMA Lecture 2014 | 1 | 120 |
| SMA Seminar: A Bigger Prize | 1 | 26 |
| SMA Seminar: Tax Obligations on Medical Practice | 1 | 75 |
| SMA Seminar: Taking the Plunge – Going into Private Practice Symposium | 1 | 65 |
| SMA Seminar: Workplace Safety and Health | 1 | 43 |

MPS: Medical Protection Society



**A/Prof Poh Kian Keong,
SMJ Editor**

It gives me immense satisfaction to be given the opportunity to drive the journal forward. I hope to make *SMJ* a journal of choice for local readers and authors.



**Dr Tan Yia Swam,
SMA News Editor**

I hope to encourage a spirit of free discussion and exchange of ideas, and hopefully, spark a movement for change and improvement in the way we look after both our patients and ourselves.

ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE

SINGAPORE MEDICAL JOURNAL (SMJ)

OUR APPROACH

A commitment to lifelong learning is part of the professionalism that comes with being a medical doctor. *SMJ* has remained an open-access journal, as we recognise that broad access to research results is an essential component of lifelong learning. We provide access to information-rich literature in the form of scientific research papers, self-learning CME articles, as well as insightful discussions on practice guidelines, medicolegal issues and others. Through waiver of our article submission fee, we also encourage SMA members to share their knowledge and research results with the medical community.

2014 HIGHLIGHTS

- Besides PubMed, Index Copernicus, Western Pacific Region Index Medicus and ISI Web of Knowledge, *SMJ* has also been indexed by EBSCO Publishing Inc and accepted to the PubMed Central archive. This is in line with our goal to make our articles more searchable and accessible to researchers around the world.
- We continued to e-publish our accepted articles ahead of print throughout the year. This has substantially improved our publication turnaround time, enabling earlier publication, especially of time-sensitive research papers.
- The *Journal's* zero tolerance towards plagiarism and duplicate submission, coupled with our investment in technological aids to screen submitted manuscripts, has paid off in 2014, as we saw a drastic decline in such errant cases.
- This year saw a total of 553 manuscript submissions from more than 30 countries, with nearly half the submissions from Singapore. Our acceptance rate remained at around 40%. In all, 206 articles were published, with local papers making up 56% of the published articles.
- The online submission platform for our monthly SMC Category 3B CME questionnaires underwent a revamp to create a more user-friendly and accessible interface. This resulted in a nearly three-fold increase in participation from local doctors (3,687 versus 10,743 submissions in 2013 and 2014, respectively).

2014 CHALLENGES

Attracting high-quality research papers from local and overseas authors remains a continuing challenge. Another challenge is ensuring that submitted articles are processed, peer-reviewed and published in a timely manner.

MOVING FORWARD

We aim to attract more impactful research papers and reviews by expanding the *Journal's* network of local and international authors and editors.

In addition, more effort will be put into increasing the number of e-published ahead of print articles, as well as improving the overall turnaround time from manuscript submission to final decision and print.

Finally, there are also plans to introduce new article categories and to encourage article submissions that focus on research in medical education in the local context.

SMA NEWS

OUR APPROACH

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

2014 HIGHLIGHTS

- 2014 saw a renewal of leadership. After ten years at the helm, A/Prof Toh Han Chong stepped down as Editor and was succeeded by Deputy Editor, Dr Tan Yia Swam. New blood was infused into the Editorial Board with the addition of Dr Leong Choon Kit, Dr Jonathan Tan and Dr Tina Tan. Long-serving

members, A/Prof Daniel Fung, A/Prof Cuthbert Teo and A/Prof Toh Han Chong were promoted to Editorial Advisors, while Dr Jeremy Lim stepped down after serving for ten years on the board. In January 2015, Dr Tina Tan took on the role of Deputy Editor.

- Five themed issues were published in 2014. The April issue focused on family medicine, while the Doctors in Training issue in July brought attention to challenges faced by trainee doctors and medical students. The September issue centred on allergies in conjunction with the SMA Annual National Medical Convention 2014. Meanwhile, the October issue zoomed in on foreign-trained doctors, an important part of our local healthcare workforce. Finally, the December issue put the spotlight on the heart of SMA – our members and volunteers.
- The inaugural run of the *SMA News Life in Pixels Photo Competition*, held from February to October 2014, was met with encouraging response from SMA members. A total of 325 entries based on a single-word theme were received. Winners of all nine themes were then entered into a grand prize winner contest with online public voting.

2014 CHALLENGES

One of the challenges faced was keeping the content in *SMA News* relevant, interesting and useful to our doctors. Another goal that we constantly strive towards is creating an inclusive publication that encourages participation of doctors from across a range of ages, training backgrounds, specialties and nationalities.

MOVING FORWARD

There are plans to have regular informal networking sessions with writers to create a platform for gathering ideas and feedback, and to establish a group of regular contributors. Plans to introduce new article columns are also in the pipeline.

We also aim to engage newsletter editors of overseas medical associations to build friendship and encourage an exchange of ideas, particularly within the Medical Associations of South East Asian Nations.

Finally, with the success of the inaugural *SMA News Life in Pixels Photo Competition* in 2014, a second run of the photo competition will be held in 2015, with themes centred on SG50, in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Singapore's independence.

KEY FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Group Statement of Income and Expenditure

| | 2014 | 2013 |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Total Income | \$3,245,887 | \$2,831,706 |
| Total Expenses | \$2,818,635 | \$2,711,221 |
| Surplus for the Year After Tax | \$427,252 | \$120,485 |

INCOME

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Subscriptions | \$717,050 | \$710,751 |
| Commissions | \$1,046,082 | \$870,292 |
| Rebates | \$170,157 | \$175,896 |
| Courses and Events | \$463,761 | \$495,728 |
| Investments | \$194,218 | \$30,664 |
| Publications | \$569,487 | \$501,073 |
| Others | \$85,132 | \$47,302 |
| Total Income | \$3,245,887 | \$2,831,706 |

EXPENDITURE

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Administrative and Operating Expenses | \$591,017 | \$561,219 |
| Courses and Events | \$431,099 | \$429,282 |
| Publications | \$284,286 | \$317,801 |
| Staff and Related Expenses | \$1,512,233 | \$1,402,919 |
| Total Expenditure | \$2,818,635 | \$2,711,221 |

Group Statement of Financial Position

| | 2014 | 2013 |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Non-current Assets | \$18,885 | \$28,855 |
| Current Assets | \$7,093,197 | \$6,496,668 |
| Total Assets | \$7,112,082 | \$6,525,523 |

EQUITY AND LIABILITIES

| | | |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| Equity Attributable to Members of the Association | \$6,618,164 | \$6,190,912 |
| Non-current Liabilities | \$219 | \$368 |
| Current Liabilities | \$493,699 | \$334,243 |
| Total Equity and Liabilities | \$7,112,082 | \$6,525,523 |



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Association**

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MCI (P) 153/01/2015