

FOR DOCTORS, FOR PATIENTS

**SMA 56TH ANNUAL REPORT
2015/2016**



**Singapore
Medical
Association**

ABOUT SMA

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

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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Singapore Society of
Ophthalmology



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The new slogan of the Singapore Medical Association (SMA), 'For Doctors, For Patients', was unveiled at the SMA Annual Dinner on 16 May 2015 by our guest of honour, Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, President of the Republic of Singapore.

The new slogan has brought SMA's key vision and purpose into sharp focus. It emphasises the importance and centrality of the doctor-patient relationship, which is the medium of information exchange between the physician and his patient. The doctor-patient relationship provides the framework and forum for problem-solving, diagnosis and management. A good relationship is in itself therapeutic, and results

in better outcomes for all parties involved. In this era of increasing patient autonomy, the process of shared decision-making means that both the doctor and patient are involved when they make a choice from the bewildering array of treatment options available.

SMA supports doctors through its many programmes, activities and publications. By empowering our doctors to do their work ethically and with a high degree of professionalism, the downstream effect will be beneficial to patients as well. Since both the words 'Doctors' and 'Patients' appear in the slogan, there is no doubt that SMA's mission is centred on service to the

medical profession and the society at large.

The slogan came about after a review and re-examination of SMA's position in the healthcare landscape. Singapore's ageing population, changing demographics and increasing burden of chronic diseases require the healthcare sector to adjust and adapt. Likewise, the role of SMA as the national medical association has to change in order to meet the demands of both the medical profession and the public at large. The SMA Council must provide direction for future action and public engagement, and this was done during the SMA Council retreat on 30 May 2015.

Medical ethics and professionalism underlies the notion of a good doctor-patient relationship. The work of the SMA Centre for Medical Ethics and Professionalism (CMEP) has placed SMA in a strong leadership position in the areas of ethics, health law and professionalism. We are thankful to A/Prof T Thirumoorthy, Executive Director of SMA CMEP, for his hard work in spearheading the development of curriculum and content in this area.

SMA believes that a good doctor-patient relationship is something worth defending. Through SMA News, updates on our website and electronic communication channels, we seek to share some of the work that the Council had done behind the scenes. Through advocacy and constant engagement with stakeholders, we help to create a conducive environment for doctors to focus on the practice of medicine for the benefit of patients.

In 2015, the medical profession faced many challenges: disruptions to the long-running medical indemnity scheme; proposed changes to the ethical code and guidelines; concerns about assimilation and training of foreign-trained doctors; and emerging business practices threatening

professional autonomy, which need to be closely monitored. SMA acted swiftly to meet these challenges in the following ways: we advocated for alternative dispute resolution and tort reform to lower future medical litigation and indemnity costs; we gave feedback on the need for the ethical code and guidelines to be more practical to avoid the practice of defensive medicine; we commented on the need to assimilate foreign-trained doctors to help them understand Singapore's culture, customs and healthcare system; and we gave advice to members on business practices that we felt restricted professional autonomy and eroded the doctor-patient relationship. Our voice was heard because of your continued support and membership.

“
By empowering our doctors to do their work ethically and with a high degree of professionalism, the downstream effect will be beneficial to patients... there is no doubt that SMA's mission is centred on service to the medical profession and the society at large.
”

A good doctor-patient relationship mandates that the doctor must have the necessary medical knowledge to be clinically effective. The doctor has to keep up to date in his professional and clinical skills, and maintain a strong network of colleagues for advice and referral.

The *Singapore Medical Journal*, under the leadership of A/Prof Poh Kian Keong, continues to provide our members an avenue to publish their research and views. The waiver of the article submission fee for our members and the journal's largely local content further add value to our members.

During the year, SMA also worked with many stakeholders to create educational content to meet the needs of our members and the medical profession. The courses and events that we organised brought colleagues within the profession together to network and to learn. In this aspect, we will continue to look for more opportunities to collaborate with healthcare institutions, professional societies and relevant external parties. SMA is always on the lookout for new content and training, including e-learning and web-based tools, to help the medical doctor grow professionally in the changing healthcare environment. We hope that these seminars, workshops and online material will equip our members with the necessary skills and knowledge in their professional development.

What I have outlined above are some highlights of the work of SMA. In 2016, we will continue to create a more comprehensive and wider suite of courses and events to meet the diverse needs of our members. Together with the Council and more than 100 volunteers in the various committees, coupled with the support of more than 7,000 members, SMA will indeed be the Voice that shapes the healthcare environment for the good of doctors and patients. We seek your strong, continued mandate and membership as we work for the good of our patients in 2016.



From Left-Right: A/Prof Chin Jing Jih (1st Vice President), Dr Wong Tien Hua (President), Dr Toh Choon Lai (2nd Vice President)



Dr Tan Tze Lee
Council Member



Dr Tan Yia Swam
Council Member



A/Prof Toh Han Chong
Council Member



Dr Wong Chiang Yin
Council Member



Dr Bertha Woon
Council Member



Dr Ng Chee Kwan
Council Member



Dr Noorul Fatha As'art
Council Member



A/Prof Nigel Tan Choon Kiat
Council Member



Prof Tan Sze Wee
Council Member



Dr Anantham Devanand
Council Member



Dr Chong Yeh Woei
Council Member



Dr Lee Pheng Soon
Council Member



Dr Lee Yik Voon
Council Member/Executive Director



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



A/Prof Chin Jing Jih
1st Vice President



Dr Toh Choon Lai
2nd Vice President



Dr Wong Tien Hua
President

SMA COUNCIL 2015/2016

HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT



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

2015 saw our nation celebrate her Golden Jubilee. Despite her short history, Singapore has achieved remarkable successes, and our healthcare system is one such example. Just as the year was significant for the country, so too was it for SMA. Numerous events and programmes have taken place since the publication of the last annual report.

In the early part of the year, we grieved the passing of Mr Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore's first Prime Minister and SMA's Honorary Member. In many ways, his vision

and policies had shaped Singapore's healthcare system in its early years, the result of which is a healthcare system ranked one of the best in the world today. SMA paid tribute to the late Mr Lee in the April 2015 issue of *SMA News*.

At the SMA Annual Dinner in May 2015, we conferred the SMA Honorary Membership on Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, President of the Republic of Singapore. The conferment marked President Tony Tan's place in the esteemed ranks of revered clinicians and influential persons who have distinguished themselves in public life or rendered meritorious service to SMA or the medical profession. Special for us at the Dinner was the unveiling of the new SMA slogan 'For Doctors, For Patients', which encapsulates

our aim to focus our efforts towards protecting and enhancing the doctor-patient relationship.

Another notable occasion was SMA Lecture 2015, entitled 'Medicine and Diplomacy', where we were privileged to have Prof Tommy Koh share his insights on the many roles which our doctors can play to promote good relations with our neighbours and the world.

In the area of representation of the profession, the SMA Council's engagements with various government agencies and stakeholders played an important contributory role in shaping the policies and plans that were eventually implemented. Even though not every recommendation was taken up by the relevant body, it is our belief that the healthcare landscape is much more viable for medical practitioners because of our advocacy work and collective voice. In other consultations, either by individual or groups of Council members, we consistently sought to put the needs of the medical profession and the doctor-patient relationship at the forefront.

At the SMA Committee level, more than 100 doctors volunteered countless hours of their time to head various initiatives of the Council last year. An example is the work of the Professional Indemnity Committee chaired by Dr Lee Pheng Soon. In 2015, the professional indemnity scheme underwent numerous disruptions, which affected many of our members. These disruptions included changes to existing schemes and classification of risks, as well as the entry of new players with varying product offerings. An article to help our members understand and appreciate the differences of each indemnity offering was published in the November 2015 issue of *SMA News*.

The SMA Secretariat, led by Executive Director, Dr Lee Yik Voon, supports the work of the

SMA Council and Committees. The Secretariat comprises a total of 24 paid staff as at 31 December 2015. Chief Administrator, Mr Martin Ho, oversees the day-to-day operations of the SMA Secretariat, which is broadly divided into four divisions — Membership, Publications, Courses and Corporate Services — as well as the SMA Charity Fund.

The Singapore healthcare landscape is constantly evolving. Despite the ever-changing practice environment, SMA remains steadfast to our *raison d'être* — to serve and support our members. We believe that in a well-supported milieu for clinical practice, patients' interests can be best served. In the coming year, the SMA Council,

Committees and Secretariat strive to continue to work together for the Association, to be the collective voice of the medical profession and to further the interests of our members and patients.

COUNCIL MEETING ATTENDANCE

Up to February 2016, 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 '15	May '15	Jun '15	Jul '15	Aug '15	Sep '15	Oct '15	Nov '15	Jan '16	Feb '16	Total
Dr Wong Tien Hua	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	10
A/Prof Chin Jing Jih	✓	✓	○	✓	✓	✓	✓	○	✓	✓	8
Dr Toh Choon Lai	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	8
Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh	○	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9
Dr Lim Kheng Choon	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	●	7
Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui	✓	✓	○	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	8
Dr Benny Loo Kai Guo	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9
Dr Anantham Devanand	✓	✓	○	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9
Dr Chong Yeh Woei	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	x	✓	✓	✓	7
Dr Lee Pheng Soon	○	x	✓	○	✓	○	✓	○	✓	✓	5
Dr Lee Yik Voon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	10
Dr Ng Chee Kwan	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9
Dr Noorul Fatha As'art	✓	x	x	✓	✓	●	✓	✓	✓	●	6
A/Prof Nigel Tan Choon Kiat	x	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	○	✓	✓	7
Prof Tan Sze Wee	✓	✓	✓	✓	○	✓	✓	✓	○	✓	8
Dr Tan Tze Lee	✓	○	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	○	7
Dr Tan Yia Swam	x	✓	✓	✓	x	●	●	✓	○	✓	5
A/Prof Toh Han Chong	x	x	x	✓	✓	○	✓	✓	✓	○	5
Dr Wong Chiang Yin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	○	✓	✓	9
Dr Bertha Woon Yng Yng	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	10

○ Overseas ● Absent with apologies

STANDING COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

56TH SMA COUNCIL 2015/2016

STANDING COMMITTEES

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

Administration Committee

Dr Wong Tien Hua, Chairperson
A/Prof Chin Jing Jih, Vice Chairperson
Dr Toh Choon Lai, Vice Chairperson
Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh
Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui
Dr Lim Kheng Choon
Dr Benny Loo Kai Guo
Dr Lee Yik Voon

Editorial Board — Singapore Medical Journal

A/Prof Poh Kian Keong, Editor-in-Chief
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 Lawrence Lee Soon-U
Dr Liao Kui Hin
Dr Citra Mattar (till Dec '15)
Dr Abdul Razakjr Omar
Dr Ong Hean Yee
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 (from Jan '16)
Prof Tan Puay Hoon
Dr Darren Tay Keng Jin
A/Prof Samuel Tay Sam Wah
Dr Tay Seow Yian
A/Prof Cuthbert Teo Eng Swee
Dr Thng Choon Hua
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 Martin Chio (till May '15)
Dr Jayant V Iyer
Dr Natalie Koh (till Feb '16)
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
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
Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui
Dr Chong Yeh Woei
Dr Lee Yik Voon

Workgroup on Managed Care Survey

Dr David Cheong Cher Chee
Dr Eric Hong Cho Tek
Dr Leo Seo Wei
Dr Subramaniam Surajkumar
Dr Stephen Tong Jia Jong

Doctors-in-Training Committee

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

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
Dr Ng Chee Kwan

Wine Appreciation Chapter (SIG)

Dr Andrew YH Chin, Chairperson
Dr Chong Yeh Woei, Vice Chairperson
Dr Wong Chiang Yin, Vice Chairperson
A/Prof Lee Jian Ming Vernon
(from Feb '16)

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

Golf: Dr Chee Hsing Gary

Pool: Dr Alvin Koo

Squash: Dr Jonathan Pang

Table Tennis: Dr Leow Khang Leng

Tennis:

Dr Julian Theng/Dr Harold Choi

Volleyball: Dr Ravi Amran Cuttitan

SIG (Special Interest Group)

Basketball: Dr Colin Teo Kok Ann
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

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

2016-17 Convention Organising Committee

A/Prof Nigel Tan Choon Kiat, Chairperson

2016 Dinner Organising Committee

Dr Anantham Devanand, 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

ORGANISATIONS UNDER SMA'S GOVERNANCE 2015/2016

SMA Charity Fund

Board of Directors
Prof Wong Tien Yin, Chairperson
Mr Colin Lim Fung Wan
Dr Lim Kheng Choon (from May '15)
Dr Noorul Fatha As'art (from May '15)
Mr Sitoh Yih Pin
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
Prof Tan Sze Wee, Chairperson
A/Prof Chin Jing Jih
Dr Chong Yeh Woei
Dr Lee Yik Voon
Dr Wong Chiang Yin (till Apr '15)
Dr Bertha Woon (from Apr '15)

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 (from May '15)
Prof Low Cheng Hock
Dr Yong Nen Khiong (till Apr '15)

Centre for Medical Ethics & Professionalism (CMEP)

Dr T Thirumoorthy, Executive Director
(till Mar '16)

Dr Gerald Chua, Executive Director
(from Apr '16)

Dr Anantham Devanand, Deputy Director

Dr Gerald Chua, Deputy Director
(till Mar '16)

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 T Thirumoorthy (from Apr '16)
Dr Bertha Woon

SMA Trust Fund Board of Trustees

Dr Lee Pheng Soon, Chairperson
(from Apr '15)
Dr Tan Yew Ghee, Secretary
Dr Tan Kok Soo, Treasurer (from Apr '15)
A/Prof Cheong Pak Yean (from Apr '15)
Prof Low Cheng Hock

REPRESENTATIVES OF SMA 2015/2016

MOH Advisory Committee on Clinical Management of Dengue
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 Subcommittee for GP Communications & Engagement, Primary Care Action Plan Implementation Committee
Dr Wong Tien Hua

SMC CME Coordinating Committee
Dr Chong Yeh Woei
Dr Tan Tze Lee (Alternate)

Advertising Standards Authority of Singapore
Prof Tan Sze Wee

IRAS Taxpayer Feedback Panel
Dr Chong Yeh Woei (till Aug '15)
Dr Tan Tze Lee (from Oct '15)

MOM Workplace Safety & Health (Healthcare) Committee
Dr Wong Sin Yew

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

ISCA Investigation Committee Panel
Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh
Dr T Thirumoorthy
Dr Wong Chiang Yin
Dr Bertha Woon

SMA-SAPI Joint Committee
Dr Lee Pheng Soon
Dr Lee Yik Voon

Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association
Dr Thomas Lee Kae Meng

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
Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui, Treasurer

MASEAN Councillors
Dr Wong Tien Hua, President
A/Prof Chin Jing Jih, 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
Dr Wong Tien Hua
Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh

SMA Honorary Legal Advisors
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 TREASURER'S REPORT

We are pleased to report a surplus of \$293,714 for the SMA Group, which will be set aside for future capital expenditure and operational needs. Our combined accumulated fund, which amounts to \$6.9 million, is expected to sustain the work of the SMA Group even in times of unexpected decrease in income.

In recognition of the contributions of our members and volunteers, the expenditure in 2015 was significantly increased to fund more membership-related events and courses, such as photography workshops and the online learning module on mental capacity assessment. We also increased the number of partners and SMA collaterals for our members. This focus on quality membership activities reflects SMA's goal of providing ample opportunities for members to build collegiality and expand their network.

In 2015, the investment climate contributed to a challenging environment for investors to garner a positive rate of return.

In view of this, our investment committee, chaired by Prof Tan Sze Wee, Executive Director of Singapore Medical Association Pte Ltd, monitored the situation astutely and carefully. The committee's vigilant efforts paid off, as our investments, comprising mainly bonds and equities, made a positive return in 2015. Our annualised investment return of 2.53% since its inception in July 2008 is representative of our long-term aim for a reasonable return of investment in a low-risk portfolio.

Last year, discussions were held between SMA and the Alumni Association on possible extension of the current rental lease of the SMA office, which is set to expire in 2018, in line with the expiry of the master lease held by the Alumni Association. A Property Committee was set up to explore options to purchase or rent property for investment or operational purposes.

SMA Charity Fund (SMACF), a separate entity set up by SMA in 2013 to support needy medical students and promote volunteerism among the medical profession, renewed its Institution of a Public Character status for another two years from December 2014. Last year, SMACF was also accepted into the National Council of Social Services' Care and Share scheme. With the generous support of our well-wishers and members of the profession, SMACF was able to continue to positively impact the next generation of doctors in Singapore.

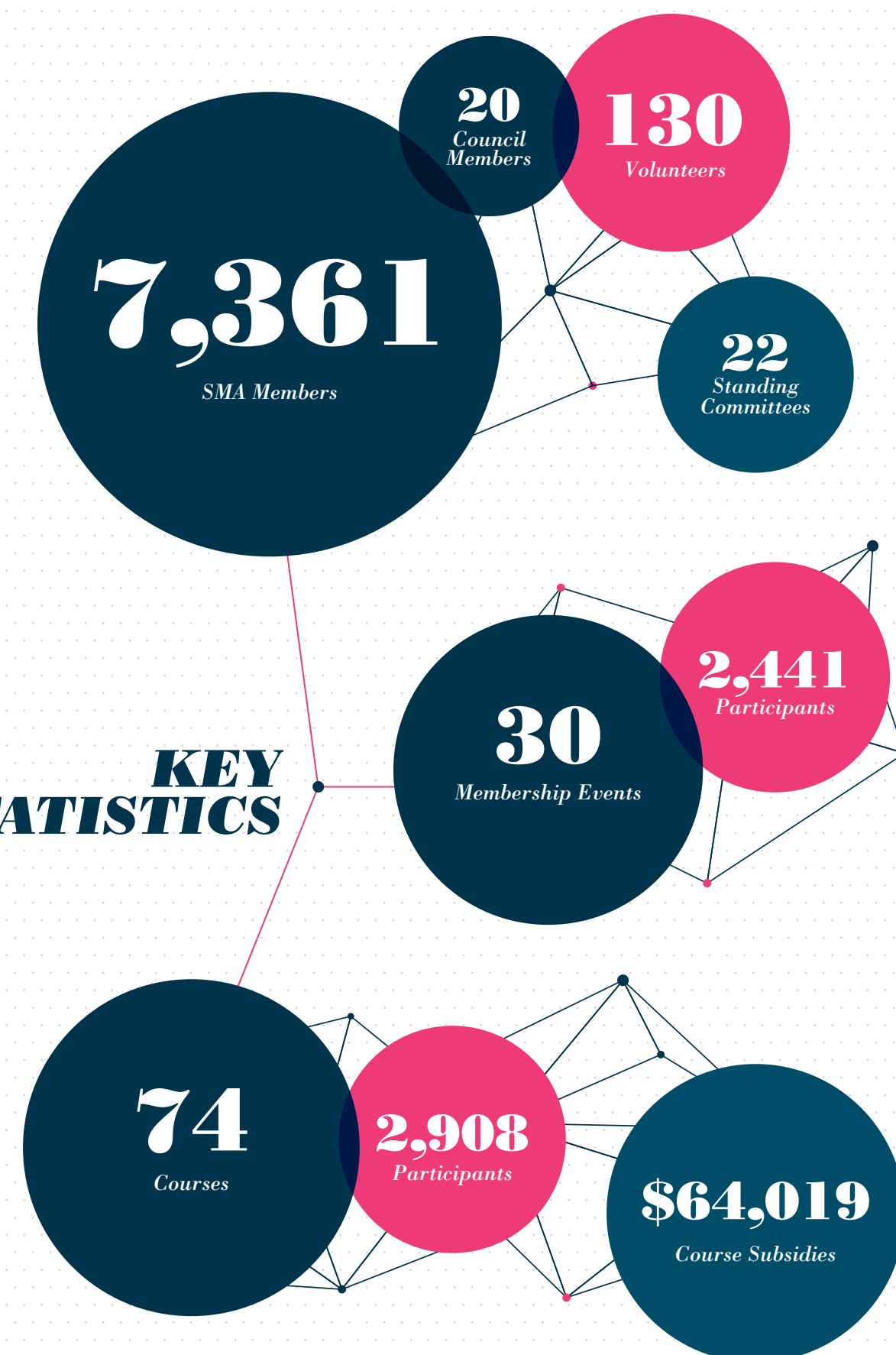
Transparency in the financial management of the Association has always been a guiding principle of SMA. With this in view, charts of SMA's income sources and key expenditure during the year have been made available on the SMA website (www.sma.org.sg/membership) from 2015. At a glance, the charts show that membership subscription contributed approximately 22% to SMA's annual operating expenditure, although 28% of the operating expenditure was devoted to membership-related events and courses. The next significant expense, which amounted to 27% of SMA's annual operating expenditure, comprised publications-related expenditure.

Membership representation and support is not simply a matter of financial sustainability; it is what SMA stands for and at the heart of what we do. In order to better represent the profession, SMA would need a larger pool of members who support and endorse our work. To this end, we will continue to engage and encourage more medical professionals to come alongside the Association to build a viable healthcare ecosystem for doctors and patients.

From Left-Right:

Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui (*Honorary Treasurer*), Dr Benny Loo Kai Guo (*Honorary Assistant Treasurer*)

KEY STATISTICS





Junior Doctors' Network meeting at the World Medical Association meeting in Oslo, Norway

April



46th SMA National Medical Convention, Good Urological Health

July



30th CMAAO General Assembly in Yangon, Myanmar



Medical Protection Conference – The Changing Medicolegal Landscape: Rising to the Challenge

September

2015 highlights

May



SMA Annual Dinner 2015



16th MASEAN Meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam

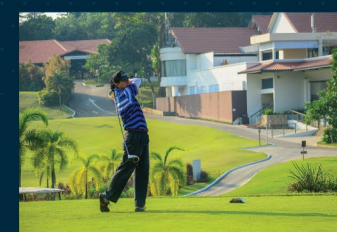


41st SMA-Eagle Eye Centre Inter-Hospital Soccer Tournament



August

SMA Annual Golf Tournament 2015 • Inter-Professional Games



REPRESENTATION AND ADVOCACY

MOH authorised officers after the procedure. The sample template has since been amended.

- **Managed care:** SMA collaborated with the College of Family Physicians Singapore (CFPS) on several projects, including a survey on managed care organisations conducted among SMA and CFPS members. This is an ongoing area of focus, and we hope to report on more details soon.

- **Medical appointment websites:** SMA received queries from members regarding inaccurate information on doctors and their medical clinics published on third-party medical appointment websites. SMA informed the respective companies that only information provided with consent may be published on their websites, and also provided feedback to the Advertising Standards Authority of Singapore.

- **Ministry of Health:** On various occasions, SMA met with MOH officials, including Minister Gan Kim Yong on 23 October 2015, to highlight various issues such as the future of primary care and the rising costs of medical litigation.

- **Health Promotion Board (HPB):** In a meeting with HPB CEO Mr Zee Yoong Kang to discuss possible collaboration, SMA reiterated our support for HPB's tobacco control measures. SMA subsequently showed this support at an SMA seminar by distributing smoking cessation collaterals to GPs to be used for information sharing with patients.

- **Medical indemnity:** SMA attended several meetings with representatives of indemnity providers to discuss various issues on medical practice coverage. An article on medical indemnity selection was published in the November 2015 issue of *SMA News*. SMA also advocated for tort law reforms and changes to

As Singapore's national medical association, SMA takes a leading role in influencing public policy, standards and regulations on behalf of our members and patients. Through quiet diplomacy and public position statements, SMA raises concerns and questions, presents feedback from the medical profession and suggests alternatives to the relevant policy-making 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.

SMA is concerned that the revised Code may inevitably encourage the practice of defensive medicine, resulting in negative effects on patient care in Singapore.

- **Finalised Ministry of Health (MOH) National Telemedicine Guidelines:** SMA commented that future revisions should not result in prohibitive costs, which make telemedicine untenable for smaller healthcare institutions with fewer resources.

- **Medical records:** SMA highlighted that the different requirements expected from electronic records vis-à-vis paper records, as set out in the National Guidelines for Retention Periods of Medical Records, do not appear to encourage the adoption of electronic medical records. SMA also gave feedback on the draft Specific Licensing Terms and Conditions (LTCs) on Medical Records for healthcare institutions. Most of SMA's recommendations were adopted in the final document.

- **Consent forms for aesthetic procedures:** SMA raised concerns over the sample template patient consent form for aesthetic procedures provided by MOH to clinics offering aesthetic procedures. The form appeared to require patients undergoing aesthetic procedures to give consent not only to undergo the procedure, but also to be contacted and interviewed by

2015 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Revised Singapore Medical Council (SMC) Ethical Code:** The proposed revision of the SMC Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines was presented for feedback following the first consultation carried out in 2014, during which SMA conducted an extensive feedback exercise among members. Coupled with input from SMA's honorary legal advisors, SMA reviewed the revision and highlighted that the existing 2002 SMC Ethical Code was fundamentally sound, requiring only an update and not a revamp. SMA opined that the revised Code would do little to champion professional ethics, and that its numerous provisions and explicit judgements may cause apprehension instead of budding aspiration for personal excellence.



• SMA Council meet-up session with student leaders from Duke-NUS and LKCMedicine



• Special interest group – Halloween Nite



• Medico-Legal Seminar on Mental Capacity – Assessment & Report Writing for Doctors



• SMA Council lunch meeting with Minister Gan Kim Yong at the SMA office



• 66th WMA General Assembly in Moscow, Russia

October

November

SMA Lecture 2015, Medicine and Diplomacy

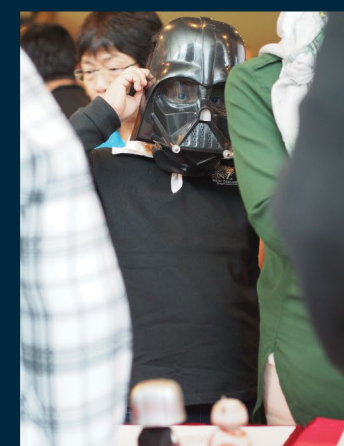


• SMA Council meet-up session with student leaders from NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine



December

SMA Members' Appreciation Nite movie event, Star Wars Episode VII: The Force Awakens



the medicolegal landscape, so as to lower the cost of medical indemnity and prevent the onset of defensive medicine, which will be detrimental to doctors and patients.

- **Licensing Terms and Conditions (LTCs) on Electrocardiography Stress Testing (EST):** After consultation with several senior cardiologists, SMA provided feedback to MOH that, in a hypothetical scenario, there will be liability concerns if a doctor calculates pre-test probability scores in accordance with the draft LTCs but does not proceed with EST, and the patient subsequently suffers from adverse outcomes. MOH replied via email on 10 June 2015 that it will support the doctor in such an event. The LTCs were amended as guidelines and formally issued on 14 December 2015.

- **Member assistance:** Queries from members concerning a range of issues were received throughout the year. Where appropriate, SMA raised these concerns to the relevant parties. For example, when a member sought help in recovering locum payments owed, SMA wrote to the clinic on behalf of the member, following which the issue was resolved expediently.

MOVING FORWARD

Highlights from the Honorary Secretary, a new column in the SMA News, was launched in 2016 with the aim of providing members with regular updates on SMA's work that relates to clinical practice and health regulation. As some issues take a longer period to resolve, SMA endeavours to provide members with "early warning" information to help them prepare for any changes in the local medical landscape.

MEDIA EXPOSURE

In 2015, 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. Some of these areas of concern that were highlighted by the media included post-retirement protection plan for obstetricians, rising medical litigation costs, and a focus on home care. SMA seeks to continue bringing greater awareness to issues that impact both doctors and patients for the improvement of local healthcare.

3 MARCH 2015

Protection for obstetricians: Urgent solution needed

The Straits Times

In response to the newspaper article titled 'Looming shortage of doctors to deliver babies', then SMA 1st Vice President Dr Wong Tien Hua pointed out that, in the absence of a post-retirement protection plan for obstetricians, the higher cost of delivery and looming shortage of experienced obstetricians require a viable solution so that a potential national crisis can be averted. SMA posited that the gravity of the current situation facing obstetricians, if left unaddressed, could result in a large number of babies born "uncovered" — a potential problem that should be prevented as Singapore experiences a rise in the number of babies.

24 APRIL 2015

Rising medical litigation costs may turn healthcare sickly

The Straits Times

With reference to then SMA President A/Prof Chin Jing Jih's *President's Forum* column in the March issue of *SMA News*, it was reported that Singapore needs to ensure that the cost of medical litigation is reasonable and fair to both doctors and patients. The report also added

that should this problem not be resolved, doctors in Singapore may avoid risky cases, refuse to practise in high-risk specialties, or even resort to defensive medicine, all of which are detrimental to patients.

16 & 17 MAY 2015

SMA Annual Dinner 2015

AsiaOne, Channel NewsAsia, Lianhe Zaobao and The Straits Times

Various media platforms reported on the SMA Annual Dinner 2015, held on 16 May 2015 at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel Singapore. Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, President of the Republic of Singapore, was conferred the SMA Honorary Membership 2015 at the event. In his speech, President Tony Tan emphasised the need to focus on primary and family care, and to renew support for geriatric medicine in view of our ageing population. He also encouraged the Association to create opportunities for mentoring at different levels of professional development. Dr Wong Tien Hua, President of the 56th SMA Council, echoed the President's sentiments, and opined that a strong doctor-patient relationship would ensure effective communication. At the event, the Association's new slogan, 'For Doctors, For Patients' was also unveiled.

13 AUGUST 2015

Medical watchdog incurs net legal expenses of around S\$800,000

TODAY

In its 2014 Annual Report, the Singapore Medical Council (SMC) published a net expenses of nearly S\$800,000 incurred in the last financial year. In 2013, SMA had requested that SMC make public its annual accounts, including the costs of administration and engaging counsel. Following the publication of SMC's financial accounts, SMA President

Dr Wong Tien Hua commented that this move reflected the principles of greater transparency and would help instill the public's confidence in bodies like SMC.

5 OCTOBER 2015

Many in Singapore nursing homes take wrong medication, dosage

The Straits Times

It was reported that three in five residents of nursing homes could be taking the wrong dosage or medication. The report quoted a research paper titled 'Pharmacist review and its impact on Singapore nursing homes', which was published

in the September issue of the *Singapore Medical Journal*. The study suggested that pharmacists' reviews of medication could save costs and reduce side effects from inappropriate medication or dosage. It also called for greater cooperation among physicians, nurses and pharmacists for the benefit of nursing home residents.

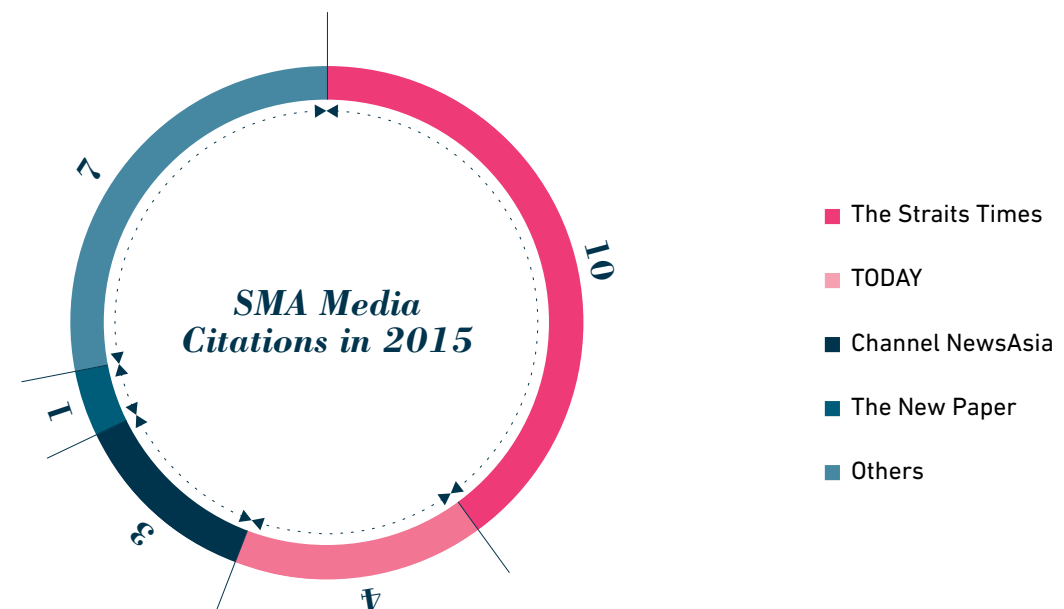
28 NOVEMBER 2015

SMA offers programmes to help foreign doctors assimilate here

The Straits Times

In response to the article 'Number of foreign doctors rising in Singapore

public hospitals and polyclinics', published in *The Straits Times* on 23 November 2015, SMA President Dr Wong Tien Hua wrote that SMA agrees that there is a need to assimilate medical professionals from abroad into the local environment, as Singapore is unique in its culture and customs. He also revealed that the Association has organised seminars for foreign-trained doctors since 2011.



25 FEBRUARY 2015

SMJ study: One in three cabbies report 'driver fatigue'

Channel NewsAsia and TODAY

17 APRIL 2015

SMA Chief: Docs need protection against excessive patient claims

The Straits Times

4 JUNE 2015

SMA President: Patient autonomy key part of medical ethics

The Straits Times

18 JUNE 2015

Patient autonomy in audits: MOH replies

The Straits Times

13 AUGUST 2015

Complaints against docs up, but few result in disciplinary inquiries

TODAY

THE HEART OF OUR WORK

SMA Membership aims to actualise the Association's vision, which is succinctly captured in our slogan 'For Doctors, For Patients'. We deliver value-added services to our members, such as professional resources, lifestyle events and networking opportunities, to aid our members in their professional and personal growth, in the hope that the benefits of a well-developed medical practitioner will translate to greater benefits for patients.

We have been strengthening our efforts to create greater value in our membership subscriptions by exploring ways to improve members' professional and personal lives. Over the last year, the Association continued to reach out to different segments of the medical profession to better understand the ever-changing medical education and practice landscape, and to create awareness of SMA's work and advocacy on behalf of the profession. In addition, SMA collaborated with various institutions to provide our members with an even wider variety of activities, such as a networking event, a job fair, and photography courses. We also worked closely with our promotional partners and collaborators to bring more exclusive privileges to our members throughout the membership year. Apart from the wealth of online resources available to our members, from 2015, members also have the convenience of paying the annual membership subscription fee online.

2015 HIGHLIGHTS

Broadening our representation

For the past four years, SMA has extended complimentary student

membership to local medical students and those studying abroad as they train to enter the profession. We also continued to reach out to medical professionals to better understand the challenges that they face in the industry, regardless of whether they are local- or overseas-trained, junior or senior, specialists or generalists.

As awareness of SMA and its work is still underappreciated in some sectors, recruitment drives were conducted throughout the year through SMA events and various platforms, which received strong support from healthcare institutions. We are encouraged by a significant increase of 303 members in our membership representation in 2015, and we are confident of receiving continued support and membership from the medical profession in 2016.

Diversifying membership events

Last year, SMA organised more than 30 sporting and lifestyle events, which were attended by approximately 2,400 SMA members and guests.

The 30th Inter-Professional Games (IPG) was held from August to October 2015, with the Institute of Engineers (IES) as the main convenor of the Games. A series of 12 games was played among members of SMA, IES, the Law Society of Singapore, Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants, Singapore Institute of Architects, and Singapore Institute of Surveyors and Valuers. SMA emerged as the first runner-up of IPG 2015, with stronghold championships in chess, pool and soccer.

SMA members also had the opportunity to take part in newly mooted lifestyle and practice-related events that the Association hosted in partnership with external organisations. These included photography courses with Canon Imaging Academy, a networking event with SPRING Singapore and a healthcare job fair with e2i.

Since 2012, SMA has organised an annual Members' Appreciation Nite, as part of our ongoing efforts to express gratitude for the continued support received. Following the premiere screenings of *The Hobbit* trilogy for the past three years, at last year's Members' Appreciation Nite, SMA members, committee members and volunteers were given the chance to purchase discounted tickets to the premiere screening of the highly anticipated *Star Wars Episode VII: The Force Awakens*. Over 510 SMA members and guests attended the event.

Collaborating with promotional partners

Our 12 official promotional partners have been providing tangible and exclusive privileges to enhance our members' professional and personal lives throughout the membership year. They include the UOB-SMA Platinum Visa Card with perpetual fee waiver, special subscription rates for online medical resources, discounts on books, unique corporate room rates, savings on travel packages and complimentary magazine subscription, among others.

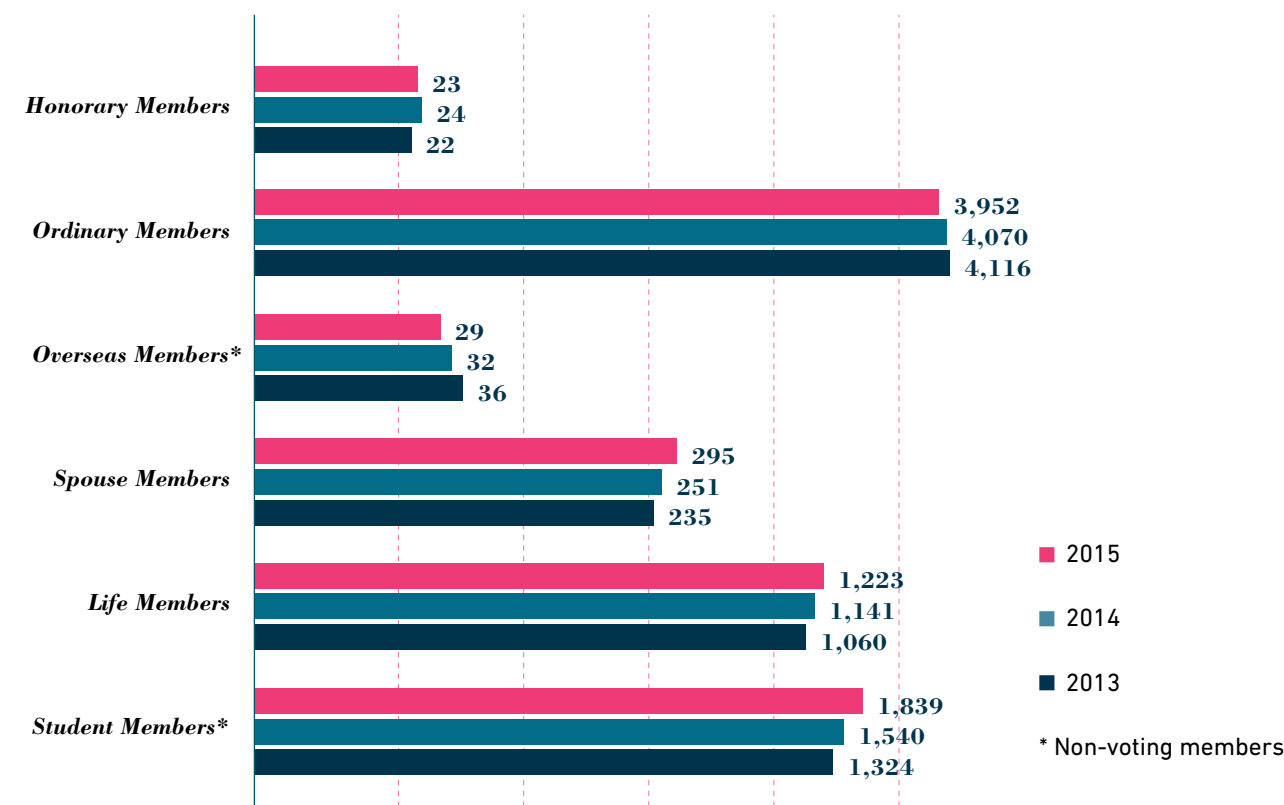
Utilising online platforms

As healthcare processes become increasingly digitised, SMA has

been working on maintaining and expanding our online resources for members. Some of our existing range of resources include online event registrations, online-accessible course materials from SMA Centre for Medical Ethics

and Professionalism and other professional seminars, *SMA News* and *Singapore Medical Journal (SMJ)* online publications, SMA Forum and Ethics Consultation, SMA Jobs Portal and Locum Online, and *SMJ* CME questionnaires.

More significantly, from 2015 onwards, SMA members are able to make payment for their annual subscription fees via our online payment portal at their convenience.



Membership Tally

	2015	2014	2013
Total no. of members (at beginning of year)	7,058	6,793	6,494
Add			
No. of new members	742	750	689
Less			
No. of resignations/deceased/expiry of student membership	327	382	323
No. struck off in arrears	112	103	67
Total no. of members (at end of year)	7,361	7,058	6,793

EMPOWERING THROUGH EDUCATION AND TRAINING

SMA Centre for Medical Ethics and Professionalism

2015 marks the 15th anniversary of SMA's Centre for Medical Ethics and Professionalism (SMA CMEP). SMA CMEP was officially inaugurated on 10 June 2000 to develop and promote the art and science of medical ethics and medical practice for the betterment of patient care and public health. It aims to provide education, leadership, resource and research covering these domains: Professionalism, Medical Ethics, Health Law and Medical Practice. In line with SMA's slogan, 'For Doctors, For Patients', SMA CMEP strives to build a strong doctor-patient partnership through educating, empowering and nurturing doctors to be competent, collegial and professional yet not neglecting personal efficacy and wellness; this will in turn benefit patients in the long run. In the *SMA News* June 2015 issue, a special section was set aside to mark SMA CMEP's 15th anniversary, with articles on medical professionalism written by guest writers.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2015

• **Core Concepts of Medical Professionalism:** This full-day training workshop held its second run on 4 July 2015 and was inaugurated to introduce important concepts of professionalism to healthcare professionals, especially the teaching faculty of medical schools and residency programmes. The workshop adopted an interactive teaching style to allow participants to gain deeper insights and acquire

skills to handle matters on medical professionalism. Topics included Professionalism, Doctor-Patient Relationship, Collegiality, Confidentiality and Privacy, Professional Accountability and Governance, Conflict of Interest, and an interactive discussion on Evaluation of Professionalism in Trainees. This event saw a turnout of 30 healthcare professionals. Feedback obtained through surveys included comments such as "an extensive programme" and "active interaction and participation is priceless".

• **Training Module on Mental Capacity Assessment:** Supported by the Office of the Public Guardian, SMA CMEP developed the educational module on Assessment of Mental Capacity under the Mental Capacity Act (MCA). Inaugurated in July 2015, it aims to provide understanding of the principles in the MCA, the application of these principles in the assessment of the individual, and the preparation and issuance of medical reports on mental capacity status as required under the MCA. Following the Online Training Module, a Medico-Legal Seminar on Mental Capacity was organised to further improve skills on mental capacity assessment and report writing. More than 100 doctors attended, and gave feedback that the seminar was useful, informative and practical.

• **Medical Ethics, Professionalism and Health Law Course:** This 2½ day course is mandatory for exit certification for advanced specialist trainees, family medicine trainees and residents. Currently,

five courses are run per year with plans to increase to six in 2017. Since the course commencement in 2004, SMA CMEP has run 38 courses and trained 2,369 trainees (as of January 2016).

Dr Gerald Chua will take over as Executive Director of SMA CMEP from 1 April 2016. We thank Dr T Thirumoorthy for his leadership, dedication and contribution as Executive Director for the past four years. Dr Thirumoorthy will continue to sit on the board of directors to assist and guide the execution of programmes. We look forward with confidence to the continued growth of SMA CMEP under the leadership of Dr Gerald Chua.

We also wish to record our sincere gratitude to the SMA CMEP Core Faculty who have contributed their time and effort in all our events (see side bar). Special thanks also goes out to the SMA CMEP and SMA Secretariat for the help rendered in running the events.

SMA CMEP CORE FACULTY

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

SMA CMEP Activities in 2015

Date	Event name	No. of attendees	Remarks
9 - 10 Jan	Medical Ethics, Professionalism and Health Law Course	66	For AST & FM trainees
30 Jan	Health Law Seminar for Singhealth Residents	25	Singhealth Residency
19 Mar	Health Law Seminar for Singhealth Residents	25	Singhealth Residency
26 - 28 Mar	Medical Ethics, Professionalism and Health Law Course	68	For AST & FM trainees
18 Apr	A Medico-Legal Seminar: SMC Disciplinary Process	52	Hosted by Camden Medical Centre
11 May	Health Law Seminar for Singhealth Residents	25	Singhealth Residency
21 - 23 May	Medical Ethics, Professionalism and Health Law Course	67	For AST & FM trainees
27 May	SMA Seminar: The Utility (Benefits and Limits) of Ethical Codes in Teaching and Training of an Ethical Clinician	37	In collaboration with MLSS
4 Jul	Core Concepts in Medical Professionalism	30	
13 Jul	Health Law Seminar for Singhealth Residents	25	Singhealth Residency
20 - 22 Aug	Medical Ethics, Professionalism and Health Law Course	71	For AST & FM trainees
17 Oct	Medico-Legal Seminar on Mental Capacity — Assessment & Report Writing for Doctors	103	
24 - 25 Oct	The Annual National MedicoLegal Seminar 2015	127 (Day 1) 123 (Day 2)	In collaboration with MLSS

AST: advanced specialty training; FM: family medicine; MLSS: Medico-Legal Society of Singapore

OTHER SMA EVENTS

• The 46th SMA National Medical Convention, 'Good Urological Health', was held at Sheraton Towers Singapore on 25 July 2015. In line with SMA's commitment toward doctors and patients, the annual convention addressed topics that are of current interest to both the medical profession and the public.

Around 400 members of the public attended the symposium, which covered various issues related to urological health and prostate problems. The lunch and medical symposium, attended by close to 100 doctors, introduced recent advances in treatment and featured a share-and-learn platform on managing urological conditions. The SMA Council thank Dr Ng Chee

Kwan and Dr Simon Chong Shih Jian, Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Organising Committee, respectively, as well as all the speakers for making the convention a resounding success.

• This year's SMA Lecture, entitled 'Medicine and Diplomacy', was delivered by Prof Tommy Koh, Singapore's Ambassador-at-Large. Held on 7 November 2015 at One Farrer Hotel & Spa, the lecture saw a turnout of close to 100 doctors and healthcare professionals. In his lecture, Prof Koh set forth that doctors on humanitarian medical mission are indirectly promoting good relations with other countries, thus representing Singapore on the world stage. The full transcript of the lecture is covered in the December issue of the *SMA News*.

• SMA, in collaboration with Singapore Cancer Society, conducted a series of cancer education seminars targeted at general practitioners. The seminars shared updates about the various cancers and treatment options available to patients. In 2015, the topics covered were cervical, colorectal and prostate cancers. Lung, gastric and breast cancers will be covered in the 2016 seminars.

Other SMA Activities in 2015

Event name	No. of runs	No. of attendees
SMA Lecture 2015	1	84
SCS-SMA Cancer Education Series 2015	3	271
SMA Seminar: Clinic Management System for Your Medical Practice	1	91
Medical Protection Conference 2015	1	208
Adult HeartSaver	2	19
Basic Cardiac Life Support Course	14	168
Basic Cardiac Life Support Instructor Course	2	17
Healthcare Course for Clinic Assistants	1	19
46th SMA National Medical Convention		
• Public Symposium	1	371
• Lunch Symposium	1	78
• Medical Symposium	1	77
MPS Workshops: Mastering Your Risk	7	118
MPS Workshops: Mastering Adverse Outcomes	9	155
MPS Workshops: Mastering Professional Interactions	3	56
MPS Workshops: Mastering Difficult Interactions with Patients	8	150
MPS Workshops: Mastering Shared Decision Making	4	81

MPS: Medical Protection Society; SCS: Singapore Cancer Society

Singapore Medical Journal (SMJ)

Lifelong learning is an integral part of a medical doctor's professional development. Since 1960, *SMJ* has provided doctors with free access to scientific research papers, insightful commentaries and reviews on a wide variety of topics, including practice guidelines and medicolegal issues, as well as continuing medical education (CME) articles for self-learning. *SMJ* has remained an open-access journal, as we recognise that broad access to research results and up-to-date medical information is an essential component of lifelong learning. Our members, who enjoy waiver of the article processing charge, are also encouraged to share their knowledge and research results with the medical community.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2015

Although *SMJ* remains committed to publishing high-quality research papers and articles that add to

ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE

the knowledge of physicians in Singapore, we have also seen more submissions from around the region and beyond, attesting to the increasing reach of the journal. In 2015, a total of 429 manuscripts were received from 30 countries. Singapore papers accounted for slightly over 50% of the manuscript submissions, followed by submissions from ASEAN, the Middle East, East Asia and South Asia. The manuscript acceptance rate remained constant, at around 40%.

SMJ publishes papers that cover all aspects of human health. These include commissioned reviews, commentaries and editorials, original research, CME articles, short communications in the form of letters to the editor, as well as a small number of rare case reports. Last year, a total of 183 articles were published, with original research papers making up the bulk of them. Our

monthly SMC Category 3B CME articles attracted an encouraging number of submissions from local practicing doctors. A total of 9,352 submissions were received for the 24 CME questionnaires.

In 2016, *SMJ* aimed to encourage more of our readers to access the journal electronically, in keeping with the global call to save the environment by reducing our carbon footprint. To optimise the online user experience, we have plans to upgrade the *SMJ* website to enhance its mobile responsiveness, search functions and web navigation.

To improve our publication turnaround time, resources have been allocated in 2016 to enable all accepted articles to be e-published ahead of print and indexed in PubMed within five months of acceptance. With this move, we hope to boost the impact and accessibility of papers published in our journal.



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 2015

The highlights of 2015 were undoubtedly the four themed issues. The first was the *Science of Love* issue in February, which covered a spectrum of loves in healthcare — from a doctor's passion for his profession and patients to finding love in the wards. July saw the *Doctors in Training* issue, which highlighted issues faced by trainee doctors and medical students, with a focus on the residency programme. In conjunction with Singapore's 50th year of nation building, the August *For Patients, For Nation* issue featured a series of articles that celebrated the nation's past achievements and looked to the future horizon of Singapore healthcare. In October, *SMA News* collaborated with the Singapore Armed Forces Medical Corps to publish the *Military Medicine* issue, which showcases the practice of military medicine in Singapore.

Through our monthly columns, *SMA News* aspires to ignite a positive change in the practice of medicine and management of patients in

Singapore. 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 respectively in the *Opinion* and *Insight* columns. In the *Interview* column, we feature prominent personalities who inspire with their success stories. To equip doctors to develop good ethics, professionalism and a robust knowledge of health law, the faculty of SMA CMEP contribute monthly articles to their eponymous column in *SMA News*, while the *Executive Series* column hosts the discussion of matters relevant to medical practice management. 2015 saw the birth of a new column, *GP Matters*, which explores a wide variety of topics that are of interest to doctors in general practice. On a lighter note, the *Indulge* column continues to entertain with mini travelogues, art, book and music reviews, and write-ups on unique hobbies.

2015 saw a revamp of the newsletter's page layout and masthead. The result is an updated look and feel from the January 2016 issue onwards. With clearly defined sections, clean and reader-friendly fonts, as well as clever use of graphics and colours, the newsletter has become easier to read, both online and in print. We hope readers will enjoy the new face and content of *SMA News* in 2016.

Our writers form the backbone of *SMA News*, as the success of a publication largely depends on the quality of its articles. Hence, the editorial board would like to take this opportunity to thank our prolific group of writers, both regular and budding ones, for their valuable contributions over the years. With their continued support, we look forward to bringing our readers even more educational, thought-provoking and interesting content in 2016.

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

KEY FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Group Statement of Income and Expenditure

	2015	2014
Total Income	\$3,240,561	\$3,245,887
Total Expenses	\$2,946,847	\$2,818,635
Surplus for the Year After Tax	\$293,714	\$427,252

Income

Subscriptions	\$713,259	\$717,050
Commissions	\$1,139,300	\$1,046,082
Rebates	\$162,921	\$170,157
Courses and Events	\$563,823	\$463,761
Investments	\$60,646	\$194,218
Publications	\$515,728	\$569,487
Others	\$84,884	\$85,132
Total Income	\$3,240,561	\$3,245,887

Expenditure

Administrative and Operating Expenses	\$553,469	\$591,017
Courses and Events	\$512,514	\$431,099
Publications	\$280,791	\$284,286
Staff and Related Expenses	\$1,600,073	\$1,512,233
Total Expenditure	\$2,946,847	\$2,818,635

Group Statement of Financial Position

	2015	2014
Assets		
Non-current Assets	\$2,630	\$18,885
Current Assets	\$7,412,791	\$7,093,197
Total Assets	\$7,415,421	\$7,112,082

Equity And Liabilities

Equity Attributable to Members of the Association	\$6,911,878	\$6,618,164
Non-current Liabilities	\$0	\$219
Current Liabilities	\$503,543	\$493,699
Total Equity and Liabilities	\$7,415,421	\$7,112,082



For Doctors, For Patients

2 College Road, Alumni Medical Centre Level 2, Singapore 169850

Tel: (65) 6223 1264 **Fax:** (65) 6224 7827 **Email:** sma@sma.org.sg

Website: www.sma.org.sg **UEN:** S61SS0168E

MCI (P) 033/01/2016