

SINGAPORE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

52nd Annual General Meeting Minutes

15 April 2012 (Sunday), 2 pm

Alumni Auditorium

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

Members Present: 50

In Attendance:

Mr Martin Ho, Deputy Chief Administrator

Ms Chua Gek Eng, HR Administrator

Mr Lee Sze Yong, Assistant Manager

At 2 pm, there were insufficient members for quorum. The Honorary Secretary, Dr Wong Tien Hua, adjourned the meeting temporarily. At 2.18 pm, with 50 members signed in, the President, Dr Chong Yeh Woei, called the meeting to order.

The Constitution requires an attendance of 50 for quorum. Therefore, the meeting could consider proposed amendments of the Constitution and Rules of the Association.

At the request of the Chairman, all who were present rose and observed a minute of silence in memory of the 13 members of the Association who passed away since the last Annual General Meeting (AGM).

1. GROUND RULES

- 1.1 President, Dr Chong Yeh Woei, thanked members for attending the SMA AGM.
- 1.2 Honorary Secretary, Dr Wong Tien Hua highlighted the Ground Rules and sought members' cooperation to speak at the microphone and to identify themselves by name for the recording of the proceedings. Otherwise, it would be at the discretion of the Honorary Secretary to include or exclude views expressed in the recording of the proceedings.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 51st SMA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 2.1 The minutes were adopted as proposed and seconded by Dr Wong Chiang Yin and Dr Toh Choon Lai respectively.

3. PROPOSAL TO SHIFT AGENDA ITEM – PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

- 3.1 It was proposed to bring forward the constitution amendments to the start of the meeting agenda. The move was proposed by Dr Wong Chiang Yin and seconded by Dr Lee Pheng Soon. Members present agreed by show of hands to bring forward this item.
- 3.2 Four scrutineers were nominated to oversee the voting process: Dr Andrew Chin, Dr Lee Pheng Soon, Dr Loong Tse Han, and Dr Sebastian Leong.

- 3.3 Dr Wong Tien Hua explained the voting process to members present. Each member was given five voting slips for the five proposed amendments. Members were asked to indicate a cross in the box provided to support, reject or abstain the amendment.
- 3.4 Dr Chong Yeh Woei explained the reasons behind the first proposed amendment to create a SMA Charity. He highlighted that members had responded tremendously to the SMA Medical Students' Assistance Fund, with about \$1 million collected, and currently parked under NUS. In line with SMA's growth and evolution, it was time for SMA to do it independently. Dr Chong invited Dr Wong Chiang Yin to provide more comments. Dr Wong established the Medical Students' Assistance Fund in 2007.
- 3.5 Dr Wong Chiang Yin explained that SMA first started by conducting a fundraising drive five to six years ago. The beneficiary was Club Rainbow. SMA then decided to move on to helping medical students. NUS was chosen as a partner as it's IPC status allows donors to enjoy tax deductions. With the 3rd medical school (Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, jointly setup by Imperial College London and Nanyang Technological University) soon to be created, SMA needs to engage all three schools. The trustees of the SMA Trust Fund have also been consulted on SMA's proposals.
- 3.6 Dr Wong Tien Hua then took members through the rest of the proposed amendments; (2) allow ordinary members to retain their privileges (e.g. right to vote) if they become a Honorary member; (3) clarify that spouse members are allowed to vote and/or hold office; (4) procedural change to renumber a section explaining that student members are not eligible to vote and/or hold office; (5) change to clarify that free spouse membership is linked to the ordinary member.
- 3.7 The floor was then opened for questions and comments.
- 3.8 Dr Tham Hoe Meng asked how termination of spouse membership would be handled in the event of a divorce. Dr Chong Yeh Woei clarified that the SMA Council would only consider termination in the event of divorce, and that it would not actively monitor changes to the marriage status of members.
- 3.9 Dr Soh Choon Wee enquired on who had made the proposed amendments. Dr Chong Yeh Woei explained that the amendments were proposed by the SMA Council. Dr Wong Chiang Yin reminded that all SMA members have the right to propose resolutions or amendments under SMA's constitution. The proposals will then be considered at the AGM.
- 3.10 Dr Petrina Law enquired on the contents of Article V section iii. The enquiry was made in relation to Amendment 3, which mentioned the abovementioned section. Dr Wong Tien Hua read out the section to members present. A copy of the SMA constitution was also provided to Dr Law.
- 3.11 Voting commenced, and the AGM proceedings continued while counting took place.

4 ANNUAL REPORT

- 4.1 Dr Wong Tien Hua took members through several sections in the annual report.
- 4.2 SMA conducted a revamp of its annual report. The new format included the following sections:
- Highlights of the Year (pages 30 to 35)
 - Putting Patients First (pages 36 to 37)
 - Voice of the Profession (pages 38 to 39)
 - Developing the Profession (pages 40 to 41)

5 AUDITED STATEMENTS OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

- 5.1 Council member, Dr Tan Sze Wee, presented the accounts for SMA Pte Ltd (SMAPL). Dr Tan highlighted that SMAPL was able to get a 3% to 4% yield in spite of recent market volatility. The investment portfolio will be rebalanced if necessary.
- 5.2 Honorary Treasurer, Dr Lee Yik Voon, presented the accounts for SMA. He highlighted an increase in total income. This was mainly due to increase in income from courses. However, expenses have also increased due to an increase in headcount in the secretariat.
- 5.3 Dr Wong Chiang Yin proposed and Prof Wong Tien Yin seconded to pass the statement of accounts.

6 ELECTION OF SMA HONORARY MEMBERS

- 6.1 The House considered the proposal of the 52nd SMA Council to elect Mr Lee Kuan Yew as a SMA Honorary Member.
- 6.2 The floor was then opened for questions and comments.
- 6.3 Dr Aloysius Teo questioned on the reasons behind the recommendation. He highlighted that Mr Lee Kuan Yew was a guest in the past, but SMA did not confer the honorary membership then. He would not support the proposal. He highlighted several doctors who were detained without trial.
- 6.4 Dr Wong Chiang Yin explained that the current SMA Council would not be able to comment on why previous councils did not confer SMA's Honorary Membership on Mr Lee Kuan Yew. SMA had previously conferred Honorary Membership on Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, and it was timely to do the same for Mr Lee Kuan Yew. The current SMA Council had proposed Mr Lee after due consideration, taking into account his contributions to Singapore.
- 6.5 Dr Chong Yeh Woei commented that Mr Lee had made vast contributions to Singapore, especially in public health. He felt that this move would be viewed positively, and that SMA had come full circle after 50 years. Dr Chong acknowledged the sacrifices made by members over the years.
- 6.6 The House voted by majority (via show of hands) to elect Mr Lee Kuan Yew as a Honorary Member in accordance with Article IV section iv of the SMA Constitution. The conferment of Honorary Membership will be held during the SMA Annual Dinner on 12 May 2012 at Marina Bay Sands.

7 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SMA CONSTITUTION

- 7.1 Dr Wong Tien Hua announced the results of the vote:

	Amendment	Support
1.	To incorporate a company limited by guarantee to carry out charitable activities	96%
2.	To allow ordinary members to retain their privileges if they become an Honorary member	92%
3.	To clarify that spouse members are allowed to vote and/or hold office	86%
4.	Procedural change to renumber a section explaining that student members are not eligible to vote and/or hold office	90%
5.	To clarify that free spouse membership is linked to the ordinary member	94%

7.2 A two-thirds majority is needed for amendments to be passed. As such, the five amendments were passed.

8 ELECTION OF 53rd SMA COUNCIL

8.1 The names of the eight Council Members who would be serving their second year on the 53rd Council were announced:

Dr Abdul Razakjr Omar
Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui
Dr Lee Pheng Soon
Dr Tan Yia Swam
Dr Toh Choon Lai
Dr Wong Chiang Yin
Prof Wong Tien Yin
Dr Bertha Woon Yng Yng

8.2 By the stipulated deadline of 15 March 2012, ten nominations were received for the ten vacancies. The ten nominees were therefore elected to the 53rd Council.

8.3 The 18 members of the 53rd SMA Council were announced:

Dr Abdul Razakjr Omar	Dr Noorul Fatha As'art
Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui	Dr Tan Sze Wee
Dr Chia Ghim Song	Dr Tan Yia Swam
A/Prof Chin Jing Jih	Dr Toh Choon Lai
Dr Chong Yeh Woei	Dr Toh Han Chong
Dr Chow U-Jin	Dr Wong Chiang Yin
Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh	Dr Wong Tien Hua
Dr Lee Pheng Soon	Prof Wong Tien Yin
Dr Lee Yik Voon	Dr Bertha Woon Yng Yng

8.4 The two new Council members were introduced. Dr Chia Ghim Song graduated from Duke-NUS, and is currently a first year transitional resident. Dr Lee Hsien Chieh Daniel graduated from the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, NUS, and is currently Assistant Director, Operations, at Changi General Hospital.

9 ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS FOR YEAR 2012/2013

9.1 Dr Chong Yeh Woei began by announcing that he was stepping down as SMA President after three terms. It was a great pleasure for him to serve the membership. He then proceeded to conduct the election of Executive Officers.

9.2 Only one nomination was received for each of the seven posts of President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Assistant Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Assistant Treasurer.

9.3 The following were elected Office Bearers of the 53rd SMA Council:

Office	Nominee	Proposer	Seconded
President	A/Prof Chin Jing Jih	Dr Chong Yeh Woei	Dr Wong Chiang Yin
1st Vice President	Dr Chong Yeh Woei	Dr Wong Tien Hua	Dr Tan Sze Wee
2nd Vice President	Dr Wong Tien Hua	Dr Chong Yeh Woei	Dr Toh Choon Lai
Honorary Secretary	Dr Tammy Chan	Dr Chong Yeh Woei	Dr Soh Choon Wee
Honorary Assistant Secretary	Dr Lee Yik Voon	Dr Chong Yeh Woei	Dr Wong Chiang Yin
Honorary Treasurer	Dr Tan Sze Wee	Dr Chong Yeh Woei	Dr Toh Choon Lai
Honorary Assistant Treasurer	Dr Chow U-Jin	Dr Chong Yeh Woei	Dr Wong Tien Yin

- 9.4 A/Prof Chin thanked members present. He highlighted that doctors are facing exciting times, with rapid changes. He reminded members to do that “special thing” for patients.
- 9.5 He also thanked Dr Chong Yeh Woei and Dr Wong Chiang Yin (the two immediate past presidents) for their contributions to SMA. He proposed for the various SMA initiatives to gather momentum. He called for members to better enable themselves to benefit patients.
- 9.6 Dr Chong Yeh Woei thanked the three previous Councils, the secretariat, and members for supporting him. He recounted the various challenges during the past three years, e.g. H1N1, amendments to the Medical Registration Act, residency programme, etc.

10 APPOINTMENT OF CHARITY TRUSTEES FOR SMA TRUST FUND

- 10.1 Members present voted by majority (via show of hands) to approve the appointment of the following Charity Trustees for a three-year term from 2012 to 2015:

Dr Khoo Chong Yew (Chairman)
Prof Low Cheng Hock
Dr Low Lip Ping
Dr Tan Kok Soo
Dr Tan Yew Ghee

11 APPOINTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL AUDITORS

- 11.1 The House unanimously approved the reappointment of B P Yap and Company as Professional Auditors for the ensuing year.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 12.1 No additional matters were raised.

There being no other matters, Dr Chong Yeh Woei thanked members once again for attending this year’s AGM. The meeting was declared closed at 3.20 pm.

DR TAMMY CHAN
Honorary Secretary
53rd SMA Council