

# SIMIA NEWS



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## *Women* *in* **MEDICINE**

A Year-End Special

# CELEBRATING WOMEN IN MEDICINE

By Dr Tan Yia Swam, Deputy Editor

**T**ime sure flies by! Just this time last year, the *SMA News* Editorial Board welcomed Dr Natalie Koh on board, and now it is my pleasure to co-edit this year's Christmas issue with her. When the Editorial Board decided to dedicate this edition of *SMA News* to female doctors, we cracked our heads thinking of noteworthy names to feature, and came up with a whole mountain. As there are so many outstanding women in Medicine now, we could not fit as many of you as we would have liked into these limited pages!

It is our honour to have A/Prof Chow Wan Cheng, Chairman of the Division of Medicine in Singapore General Hospital, share the trajectory of her illustrious medical career (page 12). We also hope you enjoy all the other interview snippets from a wide spectrum of female doctors. We originally hoped to have a representative sampling, but alas, many of the doctors we approached were a tad shy, and we blame ourselves for not knowing enough people.

We also have an article from medical student Nicolea Tan, who offers interesting insights from what she observed between doctors and nurses at work (page 32). Her piece reminds me that collegiality and professionalism are easy to say, but hard to do. With a toddler watching my every move and learning from me at home, I realise how important it is to set a good example for him to learn from. Similarly, when at work, we constantly look up to our seniors and presumably betters to learn these soft skills from. Working in different hospitals and different teams have taught me the value of good working relationships formed on competency, mutual respect and the common goal of doing what's right for the patient, instead of protecting one's turf.

In this issue, we want to pay tribute to all women in Medicine: no matter what field you are practising in, whether you are working part-time or full-time, regardless of marital status or if you have any children. The modern career woman has to juggle so many expectations and wear so many hats, we salute all of you. Let's celebrate all our varied achievements this Christmas! **SMA**



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