

SMTA

NEWS



Vol. 46 No. 11 November 2014

MCI (P) 083/01/2014

**INNOVATING
FOR FUTURE
HEALTH**



November

By Dr Tan Yia Swam, Editor

Better Ways, Better Ideas, Better Tools

ON BEHALF of the SMA Council, I would like to thank all members who have responded to SMA's call for comments on the 2014 Singapore Medical Council (SMC) Ethical Code and Professional Standards. We have collated all the responses and will reply to SMC before the deadline.

Dr Jeremy Lim has decided to step down from the Editorial Board due to increased work commitments. We thank him for his years of contributions.

In this special issue, we report this year's SMA Lecture, "Innovating for Future Health" delivered by Prof Tan Chorh Chuan, as well as his citation by Prof John Wong. Prof Tan is an accomplished clinician and researcher, and summarised in his speech the key health challenges we will face in near future, as well as encouraged doctors to come up with new ways of treatment, when old ones may not suffice. To tie in with the lecture, held earlier this month, we have invited several doctors to share their innovations. When I think of "inventions", I visualise a magic pill or a fantastic machine that a regular person like me cannot possibly achieve! However, our writers share with us their creative approaches to healthcare technology, delivery and educational techniques.

Dr Anthony Tang dispels some of the myths and misconceptions surrounding being an inventor in his piece on medical device innovation. Dr Tung Yew Cheong sheds light on the Transformation of Care Project, a new concept in healthcare delivery, which is unlike the usual inpatient versus outpatient treatment. Dr Clive Tan and Dr Liew Li Lian write about another exciting new initiative, Virtual Hospital, and the challenges and advantages in implementing it. Multiple disciplines are truly integrated and this is probably a positive step away from the traditional model of physician-led care.

Dr Jipson Quah checks out useful apps for doctors, and also interviews Dr Lim Heng Lip about the latter's plans for new healthcare apps. A/Prof Alfred Kow talks about PASSED: a really fun way to teach medical practice. It almost makes me wish that I could be a medical student all over again! And in the style of the great Asimov, Dr Leong Choon Kit postulates how a typical doctor's day will be like in 2050.

Dr Chan Yeow writes about his hospital's Home Ventilation and Respiratory Support Service, through the most effective way - by telling a real-life story. I want to thank Albert for his generosity of spirit in sharing the difficulties that his late wife, Lai Lai, encountered, and their triumph over illness. Dr Chan demonstrates how we doctors act as the bridge to make technology accessible for patients, but to always remember that patients are at the heart of everything we do, and should never be overshadowed by the thrill of a new technology.

Dr Chong Yeh Woei and Dr Bertha Woon recount the recent 29th CMAAO General Assembly, a collaboration of international doctors that fostered friendships and promoted exchange of ideas in regional healthcare policies.

Enjoy all these, and more.

Update: one of the contributors for the October issue is no longer part of the advanced specialty training programme. We thank him for sharing his story, and wish him all the best in his future endeavours. ■



Dr Tan is now an associate consultant at the Breast Unit of KK Women's and Children's Hospital. She continues to juggle the commitments of being a doctor, a mother, a wife, and the increased duties of SMA News Editor. She also tries to keep time aside for herself and friends, both old and new.