

PROFILE

TEXT BY

JENNIFER LEE*Deputy Manager,
SMA Charity Fund**Legend*

1. Dr Lim Kheng Choon
2. Dr Noorul Fatha As'art
3. Maria Noviani with her poster presentation at the 11th International Congress On Systematic Lupus Erythematosus

2015

SMACF YEAR IN REVIEW



It has been a momentous year for SMA Charity Fund (SMACF). We are truly heartened by the support received from the medical profession thus far. This year, we anchored several key programmes, and some of our bursary recipients have completed their medical studies and are moving on to the next phase in their pursuit of medicine.

In 2015, SMACF received full National Council of Social Service membership and inclusion into the Care & Share movement by Community Chest, the latter allowing for approved donations to be matched by the Government. These memberships have enabled SMACF to partner other stakeholders to enlarge our social impact and further our causes. We also appointed two new directors, Dr Lim Kheng Choon and Dr Noorul Fatha As'art, as directors of the SMACF Board in July this year. This appointment will ensure that there is continuity and succession planning for SMACF. Both Dr Lim and Dr Noorul also serve on the SMA Council.

SMACF has a long journey ahead as we strive towards developing compassionate professionals. With your relentless support, our goal is certainly attainable!

EMPOWERING A DREAM

The SMA Medical Students' Assistance Fund (SMA-MSAF) continues to be one of our core programmes. Since 2007, SMA-MSAF has disbursed more than half a million dollars in financial

assistance, empowering many needy medical students to pursue their dream of becoming doctors. In 2015, the fund was disbursed to 40 needy medical students from Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School (Duke-NUS), Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCMedicine) and Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (YLLSoM).

The gift of a bursary is important to medicals students dealing with financial challenges. The costly fees and expenses of a medical education is often a huge burden for underprivileged medical students, pushing many to seek part-time work to lighten their families' financial load.

To better understand the needs of our medical students in today's changing environment, we revisited the Medical Student Living Expenses survey, with YLLSoM in the lead and assistance from LKCMedicine and Duke-NUS. The collated findings will enable SMACF to better strategise our bursary programme in order to help more medical students fulfil their aspirations.

PROVIDING EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

SMACF also supports underprivileged medical students in their research and further education pursuits. This comes in the form of sponsorship for participation in medical conferences or elective postings overseas. Such sponsorships provide equal opportunity for

underprivileged students to extend their medical knowledge beyond the local context, exposing them to different medical systems, spectrums of diseases and patients. One such recipient this year is Ms Maria Noviani, a Doctor of Medicine student from Duke-NUS, who presented her research findings on “Breastfeeding Practice in Patients with Systematic Lupus Erythematosus” at the 11th International Congress on Systematic Lupus Erythematosus in Austria, with a partial learning grant from SMACF.

INCULCATING COMPASSION

Besides supporting medical students, SMACF also aims to benefit the community through healthcare projects, with the aim of inculcating the values of compassion and service among the medical professionals and students. One of the flagship projects we supported, Public Health Screening 2015, held in October this year, saw an increase of over 50% in volunteering hours rendered over the two-day event. The event brought basic health screening programmes to the heartland, creating greater health awareness among citizens above 40 years old. Project Legacy is another supported programme that encourages medical students to help palliative care patients to

celebrate their lives by leaving keepsakes for their loved ones. Additionally, SMACF supported two new projects of YLLSoM and LKCMedicine, the Freshmen Orientation Camp Community Involvement Programme, which seeks to inculcate in freshmen the value of giving to the society.

RECOGNISING THE MENTORS

The making of our future medical professionals falls on the shoulders of inspiring educators and mentors today. The Wong Hock Boon-SMACF Outstanding Mentor Award was presented to eight medical educators this year, to recognise their commitment towards educating and shaping our future medical professionals. ◆

Donations to SMACF can be made online at the SG Gives website (<http://www.sggives.org.sg/smacf>). The 300% tax deduction for donations made to SMACF will end on 31 December 2015. All donations are to reach SMACF by 31 December to enjoy the enhanced tax benefits.

The SG Gives website will be transiting to the new Giving platform (<http://www.giving.sg>) from 1 January 2016 onwards. More details will be released on our website in December 2015.

YOUR SUPPORT IS IMPORTANT!

Your support towards the Fund has far-reaching impact on the future of healthcare. SMACF is happy to announce a total receipt of \$250,000 in donations from January to October 2015, including the pledged matching grant from the Care & Share Movement and donations from SMA. SMACF extends our sincere thanks to the following donors for their generosity toward the Fund:

- Dr Ang Xin Yu, Alicia
 - Dr Noreen Chan
 - Charles Toh Clinic Pte Ltd
 - A/Prof Cheong Pak Yean
 - Mr Chew Kwee San
 - Dr Chu Siu Wen
 - Dr Chua Seng Chew
 - Dr Dohadwala Kutbuddin
 - Dr Fareed Husain Yusuf Kagda
 - Dr Goh Boon Cher
 - Integrated Marketing Solutions Group Pte Ltd
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 - Dr Lew Yin Choo, Laura
 - Dr Lim Hwee Leng
 - Dr Lim Juay Yong
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 - Dr Loh Kia Ee, Sheila
 - Prof Low Cheng Hock
 - Mr Mohamed Baisal S/O Abdul Nassar
 - Dr Ng Lee Beng
 - Dr Ng Swee Cheng
 - Dr Ong Cheng Choon
 - Dr Ong Chiou Li
 - Dr Ong Choo Phaik, Caroline
 - Dr Ong Eng Cheng
 - Dr Ong Eng Kang
 - Dr Oon Chiew Seng
 - Dr Peh Lai Huat
 - Mr Ian Phoon
 - Pocari Sweat Singapore (Pocari Sweat Run 2015)
 - Dr Raut Pradeep Prakash
 - Safer Wireline Operations Research & Development (SWORD) Pte Ltd
 - Singapore Medical Association
 - Dr Tan Cheng Lim
 - Dr Tan Wu Meng
 - Dr Tay Sok Hoon
 - Dr T Thirumorthy
 - Ms Claryn Wong
 - Mr Mildred Yong Lu De
- All other donors who wish to remain anonymous

The list may not be exhaustive. If we have inadvertently omitted the names of any donors, we apologise for the oversight.

