



SMA OFFERS PROGRAMMES TO HELP FOREIGN DOCTORS ASSIMILATE HERE

This letter was first published in the *Straits Times Forum* page on 28 November 2015.

We refer to the article, "Number of foreign doctors rising in public sector" (23 November 2015).

The growth in the number of people residing in Singapore and its ageing population has had a far-reaching impact on the medical institutions and its fraternity, including the pressing need for more doctors.

We agree with the Ministry of Health that there is a need to assimilate the medical professionals from abroad into the local environment.

Foreign-trained doctors include both foreign doctors and Singapore doctors trained overseas.

The percentage of foreign-trained doctors in Singapore has grown slightly, from 36.45 per cent in 2011 to 41.42 per cent last year.

The SMA started organising seminars for foreign-trained doctors in 2011, as Singapore is unique in its customs and practices.

These seminars were organised to provide insights into the Singapore healthcare system, including the intricacies of Singaporean culture and customs, and help foreign doctors better understand and assimilate into our society.

We hope that foreign-trained doctors who currently do not voluntarily join medically related professional bodies, which can help them understand local contextual issues and interact with the local medical fraternity better, will find the SMA and our educational outreach and development programmes helpful in understanding the local culture and clinical practice environment.

Dr Wong Tien Hua
President
Singapore Medical Association

56th

SMA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Please mark your calendar

Date : Sunday, 17 April 2016
Time : 2 pm – 4 pm (Buffet lunch will be served from 1 pm)
Venue : Alumni Auditorium, Level 2 Alumni Medical Centre, Singapore 169850

E-Annual Report: The SMA Annual Report 2015-2016 and audited Financial Statements ending 31 December 2015 will move from print to electronic platform as part of SMA's ongoing efforts to support environmentally sustainable practices by reducing our carbon footprint. Members can access and read the Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements from the SMA website. A downloadable PDF version will be made available online, for members who wish to print a hardcopy for your own reference.

Members who prefer to receive a printed copy may submit your request by returning the AGM Response Slip to the SMA Secretariat via **fax: 6224 7827** or **email: gekeng@sma.org.sg**, or **respond online: <https://www.sma.org.sg/agm>** by **1 March 2016**. A limited quantity will be printed for mailing to members upon request.

In summary, please submit the following documents to **the Honorary Secretary by 12 noon on 1 March 2016 (Tuesday):**

1. Your letter, if you wish to propose Resolutions and Constitution Amendments [Article XI Section 1(iii) and Article XII Section 2, SMA Constitution]
2. The Nomination Form if you wish to nominate candidates to fill the ten vacancies in the 57th SMA Council [Article VIII Section 3a, SMA Constitution]. The Form is circulated with the Notice of AGM in the January mailbag.
3. The Response Slip (which is also circulated with the Notice of AGM in the January mailbag) to
 - (a) Request for a printed copy of the Annual Report
 - (b) Confirm your attendance for AGM and to sign up for AGM lunch. ◆

DR DANIEL LEE HSIEN CHIEH
Honorary Secretary
56th SMA Council