

THE EDITOR'S MUSINGS

"How time flies" is soon going to be an over-used phrase of mine... every editorial I write seems to start with it! In this case, my maternity leave flew by and I officially returned to work in mid-February. Working mums can relate – while I miss my baby a lot, it does feel good to be back full steam doing something that I trained ten years for!

FOR DOCTORS...

This issue features an interview with Dr Teoh Ming Keng, a vascular surgeon who is now a medico-legal advisor with the Medical Protection Society (MPS). He highlights the key differences between MPS and an insurance company. This is in continuation of an earlier article on medical indemnity published in our November 2015 issue (<https://goo.gl/PvrE1J>). As mentioned before, MOH Holdings has changed their cover provider from MPS to Aon Risk Solutions (Aon) and *SMA News* is now working on an interview with Aon, which will be published in a later issue. In continuing education on medico-legal matters, Ms Rebecca Chew, a partner at Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP, has penned an article that describes the principles and processes that go on in a disciplinary hearing.

Dr Wong Chiang Yin writes about his trip to China, where he represented SMA in attending the centennial celebrations of a long-time partner, the Chinese Medical Association.

I am pleased to announce the first of a series of articles on pioneer doctors, in which we had an in-depth interview

with Dr Jerry Lim and the late Dr Moses Yu. We will continue this series in the coming months in order to celebrate the doctors who contributed to the beginnings of our local healthcare system. It is ambitious work and I hope for our readers' participation in additional nominations and recommendations so that *SMA News* can record and document the lives of our local heroes.

Also in this issue, Dr Desmond Wai offers tips on how to make referrals in the private setting. Dr Leong Choon Kit describes the wide range of practices and services GPs offer and shares his ideas on how to structure our primary healthcare services for the benefit of both doctors and patients.

FOR PATIENTS...

Dr Tan Su-Ming gives us another touching snippet of how she looked beyond the illness of her patient and saw him as a human being with vulnerabilities. Dr Wong Wee Nam retired earlier this year and he relates his emotional farewell and reflections on his career of serving patients, healing the sick and providing succour to those in need.

Medical student R R Pravin contributes an article on the role of art therapy for paediatric patients. A group of Year One students from NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine participated in Project Sothea, which provides free health screening and education for rural Cambodians. I am glad that our local students actively involve themselves in volunteerism and write in to share their experiences. Being in a first world country



Dr Tan Yia Swam is an associate consultant at the Breast Department 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.

Yia Swam
Editor

with readily accessible healthcare resources, many of us, both doctors and patients, have taken for granted the conveniences we enjoy. It is all too easy to complain of a two-hour waiting time in an air-conditioned clinic when we have run out of Facebook updates or Candy Crush "lives", when the fact is that in some of our neighbouring countries, it may take two hours just to get to the nearest hospital! I want to thank the doctors and nurses who lead such trips or supervise students on such projects – thank you for giving your time to help those in need and by being mentors to our young colleagues.

We would also like to thank all readers for supporting Life in Pixels, *SMA News*' very own photography competition, for the past two years. Stay tuned for the new competitions ahead! In next month's newsletter, we shall turn our attention to physicians' health, providing everyone with a not-so-subtle reminder to lose weight after all the feasting over the Lunar New Year period! ♦