

# SMA Annual Dinner 2016

This year's SMA Annual Dinner, held at Raffles Town Club on 14 May, saw more than 380 members and guests gathered for an evening of delightful company and food. The Guest of Honour for the evening, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, was welcomed at the dinner with great enthusiasm by friends and colleagues as he greeted the many familiar faces while entering the ballroom. Aside from Minister Balakrishnan, a warm welcome was also extended to several Members of Parliament present: Dr Chia Shi-Lu, Dr Koh Poh Koon and Dr Lim Wee Kiak. The event officially commenced as Dr Wong Tien Hua, President of the SMA, addressed all attendees with his welcome speech and thereafter introduced the 57th SMA Council.

## TOKEN OF APPRECIATION

Dr Wong presented the Token of Appreciation to A/Prof Toh Han Chong in recognition and appreciation for his contributions to the SMA Council over the last 12 years. A/Prof Toh, deputy director at the National Cancer Centre, Singapore, has also been serving on the *SMA News* Editorial Board since 2002. During this time, he was the editor from 2004 to 2014 and assumed the role of the editorial advisor after stepping down, till today.

## CONFERMENT OF THE SMA HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

This year, three remarkable doctors were conferred the SMA Honorary Membership, the highest honour that the SMA can bestow on

persons who are distinguished in public life or who have rendered meritorious service to the medical profession or to the Association. A/Prof Lim Lean Huat, Prof Ong Yong Yau and Prof P Balasubramaniam received the awards from Minister Balakrishnan.

A/Prof Lim continues to run his own solo practice at the age of 75 and is very committed to teaching. He has held his post as Adj A/Prof of the National University of Singapore (NUS) Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine since 1995, focusing on respective family medicine programmes. Prof Ong has taken on many roles in his illustrious career and is currently the emeritus consultant, as well as the chair of bioethics committee, at the Singapore General Hospital where

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he was formerly the chief executive officer. Prof Balasubramaniam was the vice dean of the Faculty of Medicine, NUS, head of Spine Surgery at the National University Hospital (NUH) and deputy chairman of the Medical Board and director of Medical Affairs at NUH. Despite having retired in 1994, Prof Balasubramaniam continues to teach and guide orthopaedic residents at his home each week.

A/Prof Cheong Pak Yean, A/Prof Chow Wan Cheng and Prof Wong Hee Kit delivered the citations for A/Prof Lim, Prof Ong and Prof Balasubramaniam, respectively (see pages 13 to 17).

## SMA MERIT AWARDS

The SMA Merit Awards were presented to two recipients for their contributions to the SMA and medical profession, and social service to the community.

Mdm Mun Swee Heong is our oldest recipient yet, at 105 years old. The Association thanks Mdm Mun for her significant support of the SMA Medical Students' Assistance Fund and SMA Charity Fund (SMACF). As Mdm Mun was unable to attend the dinner, the award would be presented to her at a later date.

The second recipient of the SMA Merit Award is Dr Tham Tat Yean, who started serving the Membership Committee in 1998. He served on the SMA Council from 2000 to 2006 and was on the Complaints Committee from 2000 to 2009. Besides that, Dr Tham has also been serving on the SMA Ethics Committee since 2005 and SMA Centre for Medical Ethics and Professionalism (CMEP) from 2014 to 2016.

## SMA LONG SERVICE AWARDS

This year, the SMA Long Service Awards were presented to 12 individuals who have been actively involved in SMA's committees and work.

### 20 years of service

Dr Chong Yeh Woei: SMA Council since 1998; Membership



Committee since 2013; Private Practice Committee from 1996 to 2012; President of the Association from 2009 to 2012.

Adj Prof Tan Sze Wee: SMA Council since 1996; SMA Pte Ltd since 2000; SMACF since 2012.

### 10 years of service

Dr Daniel Kwek Seow Khee: teaching faculty for Medical Ethics, Professionalism and Health Law Course since 2005.

Dr Angel Lee Onn Kei: teaching faculty for Medical Ethics, Professionalism and Health Law Course since 2005.

Dr Peter Loke Chi Wei: SMA CMEP Committee since 2005; SMA Ethics Committee from 2005 to 2010; teaching faculty for Medical Ethics, Professionalism and Health Law Course from 2005 to 2015.

A/Prof Cuthbert Teo Eng Swee: *Singapore Medical Journal (SMJ)* Editorial Board since 2008; *SMA News* Editorial Board since 2011; director of SMA CMEP from 2004 to 2013.

Dr Allen Wang Aik Loon: SMA Complaints Committee since 2006.

Dr Wee Siew Bock: SMA Complaints Committee since 2006.

Dr Wu Huei Yaw: teaching faculty for Medical Ethics, Professionalism and Health Law Course since 2005.

Dr Jason Yap Chin Huat: teaching faculty for Medical Ethics, Professionalism and Health Law Course from 2004 to 2015; SMA CMEP from 2004 to 2011; SMA Ethics Committee from 2004 to 2007.





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**Staff**

Mr Martin Ho Tze Cheng: five years of service in the SMA Secretariat.

Ms Noor Azliena Bte Samhudi: 20 years of service in the SMA Secretariat.

**SMJ BEST RESEARCH PAPER AWARDS 2015**

The winners of the SMJ Best Research Paper Awards were selected from 70 original papers published in *SMJ* from January to December 2015. Each winning team was awarded a cash award, a certificate and a commemorative trophy sponsored by the SMA.

Dr Wang Yu Tien received the first prize on behalf of his team for their paper "Comprehensive psychological intervention to improve outcome in functional gastrointestinal disorder: a cohort study". Their cash award of \$3,000 was sponsored by Pfizer Pte Ltd.

The paper "Melatonin premedication versus placebo in wisdom teeth extraction: a randomised controlled trial" clinched the second prize. Adj Assistant Prof Edwin Seet received the award, including \$1,500 cash sponsored by AbbVie Singapore, on behalf of his team.

The third prize went to the paper "The assessment of combined first trimester screening in women of advanced maternal age in an Asian cohort". Dr Sarah Li Weiling accepted the award on behalf of her team. The cash award of \$500 was sponsored by AbbVie Singapore.

**AN EVENING TO REMEMBER**

Laughter and chatter filled the ballroom as guests and friends mingled and caught up over dinner. The SMA Annual Dinner 2016 saw students from the three local medical schools, established and experienced practitioners, as well as esteemed mentors and pioneers of the profession, all coming together for a memorable evening amid their busy schedules. The dinner ended on a joyous note and we look forward to seeing all members and guests again next year! ♦

*SMA thanks the sponsors of the SMJ Best Research Paper Awards 2015: Pfizer Pte Ltd and AbbVie Singapore. SMA also thanks Summit Planners Pte Ltd, 3M Singapore Pte Ltd, Laguna Bintan and Nestle Nespresso Singapore for their generous contributions to the SMA Annual Dinner 2016. The 57th SMA Council would also like to express their gratitude to all guests who attended the dinner and played a part in its success.*



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## PROFILE

TEXT BY

SYLVIA THAY

Senior Executive

## Legend

1. 57th SMA Council with distinguished guests
2. Mdm Mun Swee Heong, Merit Award recipient
3. Dr Tham Tat Yean, Merit Award recipient
4. Dr Toh Han Chong, Token of Appreciation
5. Dr Chong Yeh Woei, 20 years Long Service Award recipient
6. Adj Prof Tan Sze Wee, 20 years Long Service Award recipient
7. Dr Benny Loo, emcee for the evening
8. Dr Wang Yu Tien, SMJ Best Research Paper Award first prize recipient
9. Adj Assistant Prof Edwin Seet, SMJ Best Research Paper Award second prize recipient
10. Dr Sarah Li Weiling, SMJ Best Research Paper Award third prize recipient
11. Enjoying a fun-filled evening
12. Capturing the special moment with a wife
13. Distinguished guests smiling for the camera
14. SMA President and guests posing for a photo with Minister Vivian Balakrishnan
15. Guests engaging in a jovial conversation
16. SMA News Editorial Board and friends
17. Minister and Mrs Vivian Balakrishnan sharing a light-hearted moment

## LUCKY DRAW WINNERS

1. Ms Melissa Chua: 3M Littmann Electronic Stethoscope worth \$1,520 sponsored by 3M Singapore Pte Ltd
2. Mr Gordon Wong: 3D2N stay in Banyan Tree Bintan (inclusive of Golf/Spa for two pax) worth \$1,800 sponsored by Laguna Bintan
3. Ms Tan Rae-Ann: Nespresso Pixie Electric Titan machine with 100 coffee capsules and an automatic Aeroccino3 Black Milk Frother sponsored by Nestle Nespresso Singapore