

PROFILE



REPORT BY

DR DANIEL LEE

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HIGHLIGHTS

FROM THE HONORARY SECRETARY

INTERVIEW ON ADVANCE MEDICAL DIRECTIVE

According to data from the Ministry of Health, more than 20,000 people in Singapore have signed the Advance Medical Directive (AMD), with more than 3,000 people signing it in the past year. On 4 June 2016, Channel 8's *News Tonight* featured a short interview with SMA Council Member A/Prof Chin Jing Jih. A/Prof Chin shared that doctors can assist patients with terminal illnesses to have a better understanding of palliative care and treatment to make the right choices based on their own values, via Advance Care Planning. A/Prof Chin also mentioned that the law has been in force for 20 years and that the Government may consider a review and public consultation to simplify the AMD procedures. Details of the interview are available at <http://goo.gl/2pjHaC>.

DOCTORS CRY FOUL OVER "UNFAIR" PRACTICES OF THIRD-PARTY AGENTS

On 10 June 2016, the *TODAY* newspaper reported that practices of third-party administrators may not be fair and ethical to both doctors and patients. These third-party administrators, also known as managed care companies,

have been charging doctors administrative fees for patient referrals, which may be a variable percentage of a doctor's professional fees. The majority of affected doctors are those in private practice.

SMA President, Dr Wong Tien Hua, expressed concern on how this and other factors could have an effect on the patients' best interests, and advised that patients and clients of these agents should be aware that such fees are being paid. Dr Wong also mentioned that SMA is seeking clarification with the Singapore Medical Council on this matter. Details of the report are available at <http://goo.gl/Hcporq>.

SMA-LEE FOUNDATION AWARDS

At the Duke-NUS Graduation Dinner on 3 June 2016, Dr Wong Tien Hua presented the SMA-Lee Foundation Achievement Prize to the top scorer at the Duke-NUS Exit Exam, and the SMA-Lee Foundation Teamsmanship Award to five graduating students who have demonstrated exemplary team values. In 2009, SMA and Lee Foundation jointly established the two awards to mark SMA's 50th anniversary. Lee Foundation kindly contributed a donation of \$200,000 towards the awards.