

THE EDITOR'S MUSINGS

In case you missed the cover, this August issue focuses on managed care. We have invited many different people for articles, with quite a few who declined. Of those who did accept, I hope I have managed to piece together a fairly balanced discussion. Dr Bertha Woon's Feature article shares tips on understanding the finer points in a contract, especially for our independent private practitioners. We also hear from doctors who have been, or still are, on managed care schemes – Dr Chong Yeh Woei (GP) and Dr Ng Chee Kwan (urologist). SK Warrior explains to us what managed care is, in really basic terms, and how we are all impacted: as doctors and as patients.

I had not really thought about it before but I realised, while preparing for this issue, that as an employee of the Singapore Health Services (specifically KK Women's and Children's Hospital [KKH]), I'm also in a way covered by managed care. Medical benefits for obstetrics are extended to me, but only if I'm a patient with KKH; anywhere else, I will have to pay in full. I'm cool with that; but it made me realise that there *may* be a situation where patients under TPA contracts do not get the care they need, if limited only to a panel group of doctors.

I also have the honour of having the SMA Hobbit make a guest appearance in these pages. While Hobbit's language is a tad strong, I think I can forgive a 111-year-old. Of note, Hobbit still blogs at <https://hobbitsma.wordpress.com>. (Well done, old lass, for keeping up with technology!) Dr Peter Loke gives his personal opinion of ethical considerations in the application of managed care – a good read, with food for thought, and especially insightful due to his experience as part of the teaching faculty for SMA Centre for Medical Ethics and Professionalism.

The Indulge article by Dr Chang Tou Liang brings us to Hong Kong, but it's not on the usual sightseeing, shopping and eating. Instead, he explores the Ping Shan Heritage Trail, which I've bookmarked for my future trip! After the recent public highlight on the controversy of medical leave for foreign workers, Dr Alex Wong, a young GP, shares his experience and opinion on how best to handle such situations.

We continue A/Prof Cuthbert Teo's historical account of local medicine; this is the seventh instalment and it brings us to modern history, including events that occurred during the



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Yia Swam
Editor

Japanese Occupation. It is a gripping read and I hope that readers who have experienced some of these moments personally will be open to having my team interview you for a first-hand account.

Lastly, and most significantly, Dr T Thirumorthy and Dr Tan Suat Hoon pay tribute to the late Dr Ong Beng Hock, a great mentor and doctor, and a founding father of dermatopathology. I hope that young doctors will always appreciate our seniors for what they have done in establishing good foundations, enabling us to explore our various subspecialties. Remember and honour our current mentors, and even more so for the generations before. Don't get so caught up in chasing a residency programme and mastering the science of medicine, that you forget the heart and soul of healing. ♦