

PROFILE

TEXT BY

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*Legend*

1. A doctor clarifying his doubt during the question and answer segment

# INTRODUCTORY COURSE IN HEALTH LAW

On average, close to 80 doctors and hospital administrators attended each session. The course covered the basic concepts of health law, which is relevant to all practising doctors and of greater value to medical leaders and teachers, especially for those who have had no previous education in this area.

The course was delivered by the SMA Centre for Medical Ethics and Professionalism's (CMEP) regular core faculty which consisted of doctors and lawyers.

Participants gave feedback stating that the course is an "excellent series for doctors", has "interesting topics" and is a "good session where valuable knowledge [was] gained".

## Introduction to Health Law and Legal Responsibilities of Medical Practitioners

The first session, held on 4 June, was covered by Ms Rebecca Chew, deputy managing partner of Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP, and A/Prof Seow Wan Tew, head of the Department of Neurosurgery and deputy medical director of Academic Affairs at National Neuroscience Institution. Ms Chew gave an introduction to the law relating to healthcare professionals. A/Prof Seow then dealt with the relevant statutes that have major impact on medical practice.

## Understanding the Elements of Medical Negligence

The second session, held on 2 July, saw Mr Edmund Kronenburg, managing partner of Braddell Brothers LLP, speak about the concepts of medical negligence and the elements of negligence: duty, breach and damage. A/Prof Lee See Muah, senior consultant at Ng Teng Fong General Hospital and adjunct associate professor at Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, talked about the ethical and legal perspectives of informed consent.

## Professional Accountability and Misconduct

The third session, held on 6 August, was led by Mr Lek Siang Pheng, senior partner of Dentons Rodyk and Davidson LLP, and Dr Peter Loke, regional medical advisor of Syngenta Asia Pacific Pte Ltd. They looked at critical issues on the Medical Registration Act and the Singapore Medical Council Disciplinary Proceedings, as these affect the performance of individual doctors and medical practice.

## Medical Experts and Report Writing

In the fourth and final session held on 3 September, Ms Kuah Boon Theng, director of Legal Clinic LLC, and Dr T Thirumoorthy, immediate past executive director of SMA CMEP, discussed the roles of and what to expect as a medical witness, and gave tips on writing a medical report. The audience also clarified their doubts about the Bolam and Bolitho tests, issues of determining the professional standards, and disclosure of risk as a professional competency during the question and answer section.

We would like to thank speakers from the SMA CMEP core faculty for their time and effort, and JurongHealth for providing the venue and food. ◆

The Introductory Course in Health Law, a collaboration between SMA and JurongHealth, rounded up its last session on 3 September 2016 at the Ng Teng Fong General Hospital, Tower A, Auditorium. The course was held over the four first Saturdays from June to September, covering the following topics:

- Introduction to Health Law and Legal Responsibilities of Medical Practitioners
- Understanding the Elements of Medical Negligence
- Professional Accountability and Misconduct
- Medical Experts and Report Writing

