

THE EDITOR'S MUSINGS

I cannot believe that it's already the end of the year!

This year flew by especially fast, probably due to my own altered perception. Life has been busy on the personal level, with the older child (aged four) demanding my attendance at school events and the younger one (aged one) cruising and walking, requiring my full attention to prevent him from getting into accidents! Career continues to progress and I must thank my head of department and my division chair for being so nurturing, and for being very supportive of my work with the SMA. Every month's thematic issue brings about a flurry of email exchanges; we actually have to plan at least three months ahead of print, so maybe that's why my sense of time is so warped.

For the profession, it has been an eventful year. SMA President Dr Wong Tien Hua touches on the year's major medical issues and relevance of the SMA Lecture's topic. We also carry a report of the SMA Lecture on Health and Human Rights, delivered by SMA Lecturer Prof Sir Sabaratnam Arulkumaran.

Prof Tan Ser Kiat gave his permission for us to print the eulogy he delivered for Dr Kwa Soon Bee. *SMA News* had tried on several occasions to interview Dr Kwa, but he has

always declined and requested for privacy. Let us not forget his many contributions to healthcare.

One of my aims for the newsletter is to feature significant member events. In this issue, we present the class of 1965, who had their Jubilee anniversary last year, and hope to follow up with the class of 1966 and so on.

We also have a selection of heart-warming articles. Dr Wong Sin Hee pens a charming and inspiring account of his experience attending the 32nd Postgraduate Course in Palliative Medicine. Dr Suzanne Goh shares a deeply personal experience on the use of the Son-Rise Program® in interacting with her son, who has autism. Dr Tanja Biermann is a dear old friend of mine from Germany who was here for an orthopaedic fellowship some time ago – she writes of her enjoyable experience here.

Something educational: Mr Matthew Saw discusses the 2016 edition of the Singapore Medical Council Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines (ECEG). Remember, ignorance is no excuse. It would be wise to read through the ECEG at some time, and pay attention to the particular areas that affect your practice. Doctors in restructured hospitals, whether senior or junior, should also be clear



Dr Tan Yia Swam is a 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.

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Editor

on what your medical protection entails. Don't be caught by surprise when stuff happens. Dr Tan Chi Chiu has written a piece explaining the origin of the SMC ECEG, as well as his personal take, which will be published in our March 2017 issue.

I hope members enjoyed the SMA Member's Appreciate Nite's movie event to catch *Rogue One* (NOT Rouge One...). I also want to put down my appreciation to my staff: Sylvia, Jo-Ann and Sarah, for their tremendous work over the year; and also to my brilliant Editorial Board, for all their wonderful insights, comments, innovation and leadership in the various projects we have embarked on.

I wish you all happy holidays and safe travels (you know which country I'm referring to, right?!) ♦