



Shaping the Healthcare Landscape

SMA 54th Annual Report
2013/2014



Singapore Medical
Association



CONTENTS

- 01 About SMA
- 02 President's Message
- 04 SMA Council 2013/2014
- 06 Honorary Secretary's Report
- 07 Honorary Treasurer's Report
- 08 SMA Committees & Representatives
- 11 Key Statistics
- 12 Highlights of the Year
- 14 Representation & Advocacy
- 16 Media Exposure
- 18 The Heart of Our Work
- 20 Supporting Education & Training
- 22 Access to Knowledge
- 24 Key Financial Highlights
- 25 Compact Disc
 - 53rd Annual General Meeting Minutes
 - SMA Financial Report 2013
 - Membership Listing 2013
 - SMA Charity Fund Financial Report 2013
 - SMA 54th Annual Report 2013/2014
 - SMA Charity Fund Annual Report 2013
 - Report from Affiliate Society, Singapore Society of Ophthalmology



Positive animal samples in China

ABOUT SMA

The Singapore Medical Association (SMA) was formed in 1959, and is the national medical organisation representing the majority of medical practitioners in both the public and private sectors.

OUR MOTTO

Jasa Utama, or 'Service before Self'

OUR OBJECTIVES

- To promote the medical and allied sciences in Singapore
- To maintain the honour and interests of the medical profession
- To foster and preserve the unity and aim of purpose of the medical profession as a whole
- To voice its opinion, and to acquaint the Government and other relevant bodies with the policies and attitudes of the profession
- To support a higher standard of medical ethics and conduct
- To enlighten and direct public opinion on the problems of health in Singapore
- To publish papers, journals and other materials in furtherance of these objectives

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



President
A/Prof Chin Jing Jih



1st Vice President
Dr Wong Tien Hua



2nd Vice President
Prof Wong Tien Yin

The year saw SMA and our members go through a year full of challenges, changes and new practice realities. While change is now seen as the only constant, SMA has strived to steer the profession in a direction consistent with, and befitting of, our profession's privileged status. Even as we adapt to our ever-changing environment, we steadfastly adhere to our fundamental ethical and professional values of being patient-centric, altruistic and trustworthy. SMA has also chosen to focus on areas that deserve the medical profession's attention and active participation, so as to remain effective and relevant to the needs of our patients and society. Most of these strategic areas involve mid-to-long-term projects that will continue in the coming years.

In this busy year, SMA continued to unwaveringly emphasise its role as the voice of the profession. We proactively monitored various new and impending developments, obtained feedback from members and communicated patiently with relevant stakeholders to convey SMA's concerns, and simply, offered SMA's support where and when appropriate. In all these engagements, SMA strives to uphold respect for involved parties and promote collegial and sensible resolution of issues, while always keeping in mind the interests of patients and taking into consideration the challenges faced by our practitioners. We are indeed grateful to members who have provided objective, rational and farsighted feedback together with reasonable and constructive suggestions on how things can be further refined. SMA has also actively participated by providing the medical profession's views and positions on issues of importance. These include issues related to professional behaviour on online social networks, the drivers of healthcare costs, the new Personal Data Protection Act

and its implications on medical practice, education and research, the Workplace Safety and Health Act, and income tax obligations of doctors. SMA also collaborated with the Singapore Human Resource Institute to enhance the understanding of medical practice among human resources professionals. In our activities, SMA sensibly and peacefully advocates for reasonable and fair working environment and social conditions for doctors, so that they can devote their fullest attention and energy to what they have been trained to do – healing and comforting patients. A stable professional environment is also important if we want to continue to attract the best minds and hearts to the medical profession.

To further strengthen collaboration between the various stakeholders in healthcare, SMA has continued to focus on its key strategy of facilitating a professional platform for constructive dialogue. The improved communication achieved through such discussions is critical in providing a balanced and practicable practice environment, addressing the need to ensure patient safety and practice sustainability. Stakeholders such as doctors, allied health partners, policy makers, regulators and the pharmaceutical industry have benefitted, and will continue to do so, from this enhanced communication and better understanding of one another's role and position in the healthcare ecosystem. Ultimately, these interactions also help to build trust, which is the key ingredient for successful long-term collaborations.

Internally, SMA has also looked into creating opportunities for dialogue between the public and private healthcare sectors, with the aim of advancing better alignment in professional practice. Our rapidly ageing population places a demand on

our healthcare system and resources beyond the individual effort of either the private or public healthcare sector. In the past few years, SMA has been working to help the private and public healthcare sectors focus more on commonalities, rather than differences, so as to develop the trust necessary for both sectors to work closely together in an integrated system, and develop a sense of collective ownership of and accountability for Singapore's healthcare challenges.

The leadership in SMA has been concerned about the undesirable cost and adverse effects of a highly regulatory-centric healthcare practice environment, resulting in the undesirable but inevitable response of defensive medicine. We are convinced that maintaining professional self-regulation is the most appropriate model for setting and enforcing professional standards that will benefit patients and the public. As a proactive response, SMA increased its efforts to equip members with the necessary skills and knowledge in medical ethics, health law and other relevant topics, such as alternative dispute resolutions, mediation and professional communication, through courses organised by the SMA Centre for Medical Ethics and Professionalism (CMEP) and educational articles in *SMA News*. In order to better equip doctors invited to sit on complaints committees and disciplinary tribunals, competencies for sitting in judgement of peers were also covered.

The *Singapore Medical Journal (SMJ)*, which has seen a gradual rise in impact factor and readership in recent years, will see a change in the editorship this year. After a four-year stint, Professor Teo Eng Kiong has decided to pass the baton to Associate Professor Poh Kian Keong, due to the former's busy commitments as Chairman, Medical Board of Changi General Hospital. I would like to register our deepest appreciation of Prof Teo for his dedication and excellent leadership in directing the continued growth of *SMJ*. Running a successful medical publication is never an easy task, as it requires both academic rigor and a good grasp of readers' needs and expectations. Success can only be achieved at an incremental pace through many years of industry and persistence. The present and future achievement of *SMJ* must certainly be celebrated as a collective effort of all past and present Editors and editorial boards. I wish Prof Teo every success in his future endeavours, and at the same time, welcome A/Prof Poh, in whom I have confidence that the good work of his predecessors will be continued.

This year, SMA was also honoured by three prominent speakers who shared their wisdom and expertise with the medical profession. First, we heard from Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon, who delivered the SMA Lecture 2012,

“Even as we adapt to our ever-changing environment, we steadfastly adhere to our fundamental ethical and professional values of being patient-centric, altruistic and trustworthy.”

titled “Euthanasia, a matter of life or death?” This was followed by the SARS 10th Anniversary Commemorative Symposium in May 2013, where the National University of Singapore President (and the Ministry of Health Director of Medical Services during the outbreak) Professor Tan Chorh Chuan delivered a keynote address, “Lessons we have learnt and lessons we have yet to learn from the 2003 SARS outbreak”. In October 2013, we had Mr Ngiam Tong Dow, a retired senior civil servant who served with distinction for 40 years, speaking on “Developing Singapore as an international medical centre”. The lectures by these eminent and well-qualified speakers provided much food for thought and lively discussion, both within and without the medical community.

As reflected by this Annual Report, this has been a rather busy and exhausting year. We hope that we have served members and the profession well, as we remain steadfast in our commitment to improve patient care, doctors' welfare and the overall healthcare environment in Singapore. As the professional organisation that strives to represent all doctors in Singapore, SMA will continue to adopt an inclusive approach towards all doctors, aligned in our common and collective commitment to professionalism. We therefore hope that all medical professionals in Singapore, whether in clinical practice or administrative support, be they specialists or general practitioners, will all join us in our endeavours and enable us to be more effective in our advocacy for patients and doctors.

SMA COUNCIL 2013/2014



President
A/Prof Chin Jing Jih



1st Vice President
Dr Wong Tien Hua



2nd Vice President
Prof Wong Tien Yin



Honorary Secretary
Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui



*Honorary Assistant Secretary /
Executive Director*
Dr Lee Yik Voon



Honorary Treasurer
A/Prof Tan Sze Wee



Honorary Assistant Treasurer
Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh



Council Member
Dr Abdul Razakjr Omar



Council Member
Dr Chia Ghim Song



Council Member
Dr Chong Yeh Woei



Council Member
Dr Chow U-Jin
April – September 2013



Council Member
Dr Anantham Devanand
From September 2013



Council Member
Dr Lee Pheng Soon



Council Member
Dr Lim Kheng Choon



Council Member
Dr Noorul Fatha As'art



Council Member
Dr Tan Tze Lee



Council Member
Dr Tan Yia Swam



Council Member
Dr Toh Choon Lai



Council Member
Dr Toh Han Chong



Council Member
Dr Wong Chiang Yin



Council Member
Dr Bertha Woon

HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT



Honorary Secretary
Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui

This 2013 annual report seeks to recognise members who volunteered their services through our committees and workgroups, and share some of the work done by SMA throughout 2013. We hope that SMA members will continue to remain engaged in the medical profession and communicate with us. It is always heartening to hear from our members – be it concerning issues faced, concerns raised, or simply, encouragement on work well done.

Constantly engaging with the relevant policy-making bodies, members and other stakeholders throughout 2013, SMA continued on our commitment to sharing the insights and views of the medical profession. We believe that a strong and well-represented association is necessary to maintain the honour of the medical profession and represent its interests, as well as to advocate the well-being of patients in Singapore.

One of the most significant milestones for SMA in 2013 was the incorporation of the SMA Charity Fund (SMACF), approved by the Ministry of Health as a registered charity and an Institution of a Public Character. Governed by an independent board, SMACF brings together the social concerns of SMA members and SMA, providing greater focus on charity and social concern, and creating a lasting impact on society and the medical profession. Several key events also took place in 2013 to encourage thought leadership within the medical profession. They include the 2012 SMA Lecture by Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon, the SARS 10th Anniversary Symposium, the 44th SMA National Medical Convention on women's health, and the 2013 SMA Lecture by Mr Ngiam Tong Dow, among many others.

Our monthly publications, *SMA News* and the *Singapore Medical Journal (SMJ)*, have always been central to SMA's work, and continue to be so. In addition to publishing information and announcements from SMA, *SMA News* also publishes opinions and insights on matters relevant to the medical profession, and serves as a platform for the discussion of essential skills and experiences that shape the medical professional. Since its establishment in March 1960, *SMJ* has consistently sought to publish quality research and papers contributing to the medical profession.

When the haze engulfed Singapore in 2013, the measures SMA had taken to protect our members were put to the test. Our stockpiling of N95 masks, albeit a modest quantity, for emergencies was rewarded, enabling us to provide N95 masks at a time when they were not easily available. This played a part in ensuring the continued effective functioning of the healthcare system in difficult times. With the aim of serving society and the medical profession, SMA also embarked on several collaborations and endeavours, such as that with the Office of the Public Guardian, with whom we developed a training course for issuers of the Lasting Power of Attorney; and with the Singapore Human Resources Institute, organising a course for human resources practitioners to help them better understand the work of medical doctors.

SMA's membership is an integral part of why we do what we do. With meaningful representation and engagement of the medical profession, the work we do will be able to achieve a deeper, greater impact.



Honorary Assistant Secretary
Dr Lee Yik Voon

HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

We are pleased to report a surplus of \$120,383 for the SMA Group, which will be set aside for future capital expenditure. Our combined accumulated fund amounts to \$6.2 million, which will be able to sustain the work of the SMA Group, even in times of unexpected decrease in income.

Our focus in 2013 remained on the need to effectively engage our stakeholders, which include policy makers, and SMA's membership and partners. The increased volume of our work requires continuous investment into our manpower resources to ensure that the quality of our work is sustained. The competitive manpower market has also driven up the cost of manpower retention, resulting in higher manpower expenses, with a lower turnover rate. Our series of courses, seminars and publications continue to grow in relevance and content as we proactively shape them to meet the needs of our membership. For our members, these courses, seminars and publications are either complimentary or made available at a heavily subsidised rate, so as to equip our members with the knowledge and information needed to be an engaged member of the medical profession.

The increase in our expenditure is partially offset by an increase in revenue, which was generated from the higher volume of commission work done in 2013. The one-off project income from the development of course material for the Office of the Public Guardian also contributed to 2013's revenue, which was increased compared to the previous year. In 2013, our investment committee, chaired by the Executive Director of Singapore Medical Association Pte Ltd, decided to realign part of our investments, moving from single bonds to managed bond funds. This was done to obtain a more diversified investment portfolio with a diversified risk and a potential for higher returns. Our annualised investment return, calculated from the initial date of investment in July 2008, was 2.29% due to a challenging year for bond-related investments; the effects of US monetary policies were felt in the price movements of the bond funds, negatively impacting its prices in the middle of 2013. Nonetheless, we maintained the same policy in spite of the short-term fluctuations. Our investments continue to consist mainly of bonds, and we continue to aim for a reasonable return in a low-risk portfolio.

Looking forward, we are confident that in 2014, SMA will remain financially sustainable, as we seek the support and membership of the medical profession. We expect an increase in commission income, which will be used to invest in manpower and other resources to increase the benefits of SMA membership, and create more courses for our members. Your support of SMA, especially in the form of membership, will allow us to function as an effective and credible voice of the profession.



Honorary Treasurer
A/Prof Tan Sze Wee



Honorary Assistant Treasurer
Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh



SMA COMMITTEES & REPRESENTATIVES

54th SMA Council 2013/14

STANDING COMMITTEES

The SMA President and Honorary Secretary are ex-officios of all committees.

Administration Committee

A/Prof Chin Jing Jih, Chairperson
Dr Wong Tien Hua, Vice Chairpersons
Prof Wong Tien Yin
Dr Tammy Chan
Dr Lee Yik Voon
A/Prof Tan Sze Wee
Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh

Editorial Board – *Singapore Medical Journal*

Prof Teo Eng Kiong, Editor (*till Dec '13*)
A/Prof Poh Kian Keong, Editor
(*from Jan '14*)
Dr Ang Tiing Leong, Deputy Editor
(*from Jan '14*)
A/Prof Mahesh Choolani, Deputy Editor
Prof Wilfred CG Peh, Advisor
Prof Teo Eng Kiong, Advisor (*from Jan '14*)

Specialty Editors

Dr Daphne Ang
A/Prof Sophia Ang
Dr Chan Yiong Huak
Dr Chang Haw Chong
Dr Chuah Khoo Leong
Prof Fong Kok Yong
Prof Ho Nai Kiong
Dr How Choon How
Dr Hsu Pon Poh
Dr Lawrence Lee Soon-U
Dr Liao Kui Hin
A/Prof Tchoyoson Lim (*till Feb '13*)
A/Prof Kenneth Mak (*till Dec '13*)
Dr Citra Mattar
Dr Abdul Razakjr Omar (*from Jan '14*)
Dr Pwee Keng Ho
Prof Quak Seng Hock (*from Jan '14*)
Dr Ramani NV
Adj A/Prof Sim Kang
Dr Sitoh Yih Yian
Dr Benedict Tan
A/Prof Benny KH Tan (*till Dec '13*)
Dr Tan Cher Heng
A/Prof Kelvin KH Tan
A/Prof Tay Puay Hoon
A/Prof Tan Ru San (*till Dec '13*)
A/Prof Samuel Tay Sam Wah
Dr Tay Seow Yian
A/Prof Cuthbert Teo Eng Swee
Dr Thng Choon Hua
Dr Gervais Wansaicheong
Dr Wong Moh Sim
Prof Wong Wai Keong

International Corresponding Editors

Prof Jafri Malin Abdullah
Prof Giuseppe Guglielmi (*till Dec '13*)
Prof Malai Muttarak
Prof Ng Kwan-Hoong
Prof Tan Siang Yong
Prof Gary Tse (*till Dec '13*)

Editorial Board – SMA News

Dr Toh Han Chong, Editor
Dr Tan Yia Swam, Deputy Editor
Dr Martin Chio
A/Prof Daniel Fung
Dr Jayant V Iyer
Dr Natalie Koh
Dr Lim Boon Leng (*till Jun '13*)
Dr Jeremy Lim
Dr Jipson Quah
A/Prof Cuthbert Teo
Dr Jimmy Teo

Complaints Committee

Dr Abdul Razakjr Omar, Chairperson
Dr Toh Choon Lai, Vice Chairperson
Dr Diana Tan
Dr Lim Teck Beng
Dr Wee Siew Bock
Dr Fabian Yap
Dr Soh Wah Ngee
Dr Lynette Shek
Dr Tan Tze Lee
Dr Allen Wang

Ethics Committee

Dr Wong Chiang Yin, Chairperson
Dr Noorul Fatha As'art, Vice Chairperson
Dr Devanand Anantham
Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh
Ms Kuah Boon Theng
A/Prof Lim Yean Teng
Dr Andrew Loy Heng Chian
Dr Andrew Pan Beng Siong
Dr Lawrence Tan Wei Meng
Dr Tham Tat Yean
Dr T Thirumoorthy
Dr Christine Yap Hui Ann

Professional Indemnity Committee

Dr Lee Pheng Soon, Chairperson
Dr Bertha Woon, Vice Chairperson

Private Practice Committee

Dr Abdul Razakjr Omar, Chairperson
Dr Tan Tze Lee, Vice Chairperson

Doctors-in-Training Committee

Dr Chia Ghim Song, Chairperson
Dr Lim Kheng Choon, Vice Chairperson

Advisors

Dr Chong Yeh Woei
Dr Wong Tien Hua
A/Prof Paul Tambyah

Membership Committee

Dr Chong Yeh Woei, Chairperson
Dr Chia Ghim Song, Vice Chairperson
Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh,
Vice Chairperson

Wine Appreciation Chapter (SIG)

Dr Andrew YH Chin, Chairperson
Dr Chong Yeh Woei, Vice Chairperson
Dr Wong Chiang Yin, Vice Chairperson

Dance (SIG)

Dr Wong Sin Hee, Chairperson

Sports & Games Committee

Dr Chia Yih Woei, Chairperson
Dr Chan Kwai Oon, Golf Chairperson
Dr Chng Nai Wee, Soccer Chairperson
Dr Woo Yew Lok, Basketball Chairperson

Medical Informatics Committee

Dr Lee Yik Voon, Chairperson
Dr Chow U-Jin, Vice Chairperson

Community Health Education Committee

Dr Tan Yia Swam, Chairperson

Medical History Awareness Committee

Dr Lee Pheng Soon, Chairperson
Dr Chia Ghim Song, Vice Chairperson

Medik Awas Committee

Dr Tammy Chan, Chairperson

ITE Certificate in Healthcare (Outpatient) Course Committee

Dr Wong Tien Hua, Chairperson
Dr Tammy Chan, Vice Chairperson

Social Concerns Committee

Prof Wong Tien Yin, Chairperson
A/Prof Tan Sze Wee, Vice Chairperson

SMA-SNA CPR Training Programme Committee

A/Prof Lim Swee Han, Chairperson
 Dr Chee Tek Siong
 Dr Choo Kay Wee
 Dr Nelson Chua
 Mr Goh Teck Koon
 Ms Celestine Fong
 Ms Christina Loh

2014 Convention Organising Committee

Dr Tan Tze Lee, Chairperson
 Dr Amy Stebbings, Vice Chairperson
 Dr David Cheong
 Dr Eng Soh Ping
 Dr Low Sze Sen
 Dr Pang Yoke Teen

2014 Dinner Organising Committee

Dr Lim Kheng Choon, Chairperson

SARS 10th Anniversary Symposium Organising Committee

Dr Wong Chiang Yin, Chairperson

16th MASEAN Conference (Singapore)

Dr Wong Tien Hua, Chairperson

ORGANISATIONS UNDER SMA'S GOVERNANCE 2013/2014**SMA Charity Fund****Board of Directors**

Dr Charles Toh, Special Advisor to Board
 Prof Wong Tien Yin, Chairperson
 Mr Colin Lim Fung Wan
 Mr Sitoh Yih Pin
 A/Prof Tan Sze Wee
 Prof Thio Li-Ann
 Mr T K Udairam
 Dr Wong Chiang Yin

Members of the Company Limited by Guarantee

A/Prof Chin Jing Jih
 Dr Chong Yeh Woei
 Dr Wong Chiang Yin

Singapore Medical Association Private Limited Board of Directors**Executive Directors**

Dr Wong Chiang Yin, Chairperson
 Dr Chong Yeh Woei
 Dr Lee Yik Voon
 Dr Toh Choon Lai
 Dr Wong Tien Hua

Non-Executive Directors

A/Prof Chin Jing Jih
 Dr Tammy Chan
 A/Prof Tan Sze Wee

Board of Trustees

Dr Tan Cheng Bock @ Adrian Tan
 Prof Low Cheng Hock
 Dr Yong Nen Khiong

Centre for Medical Ethics & Professionalism (CMEP)

Dr T Thirumoorthy, Executive Director
 Dr Anantham Devanand, Deputy Director
 Dr Gerald Chua, Deputy Director

Board Members

Dr Chong Yeh Woei
 A/Prof Goh Lee Gan
 A/Prof Lai Siang Hui
 A/Prof Lee Kheng Hock
 Prof Lim Shih Hui
 Dr Wong Kok Seng
 Dr Bertha Woon

Ex-officios

A/Prof Chin Jing Jih
 Dr Tammy Chan

SMA Trust Fund

Dr Khoo Chong Yew, Chairperson
 Dr Tan Yew Ghee, Secretary
 Dr Low Lip Ping, Treasurer
 Prof Low Cheng Hock
 Dr Tan Kok Soo

REPRESENTATIVES OF SMA 2013/2014**MOH Advisory Committee on Clinical Management of Dengue**

Dr Wong Tien Hua

MOH Allergy Review Sub Group of the National Medication Safety Taskforce

Dr Tammy Chan

MOH CMIO Taskforce

Dr Tammy Chan

MOH CPG Prioritisation Committee

Prof Wong Tien Yin

MOH Medical Advisory Panel on Driving

Dr Chong Yeh Woei (Chairperson)

SMC CME Coordinating Committee

Dr Chong Yeh Woei
 Dr Wong Chiang Yin (1st alternate)
 A/Prof Tan Sze Wee (2nd alternate)

AIC-CIC (CHAS Implementation Committee)

Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh
 Dr Chow U-Jin
 Mr Martin Ho (alternate)

AIC GP Advisory Panel

Dr Chong Yeh Woei

HPB School Health Service's Referral Process

Dr Lee Yik Voon
 Dr Tammy Chan (alternate)

HSA Regulatory Forum for Healthcare Practitioners

Dr Bertha Woon

MOM Workplace Safety & Health (Healthcare) Committee

Dr Tan Yia Swam
 Mr Lee Sze Yong (alternate)

MOM Workplace Safety & Health (Healthcare) Practices Sub-committee

Dr Abdul Razakjr Omar

MOM Workplace Safety & Health (Healthcare) Capability Building Sub-committee

A/Prof Tan Sze Wee

National Resuscitation Council

A/Prof Lim Swee Han

Advertising Standards Authority of Singapore (ASAS)

A/Prof Tan Sze Wee

The Courage Fund Limited, Board of Trustees & Board of Directors

Prof Low Cheng Hock

Singapore Dental Association Ethics Committee

Dr Wong Chiang Yin

ITE Health Care Training Advisory Committee

Dr Lee Yik Voon

MIMS Honorary Editorial Advisory Board

Dr Lee Pheng Soon

Biomedical Standards Committee (BMSC), Standard Council, SPRING Singapore

A/Prof Tan Sze Wee

IRAS Taxpayer Feedback Panel (TFP)

Dr Chong Yeh Woei

ICSA Investigation Committee PanelDr Wong Chiang Yin
Dr T Thirumoorthy**SMA-SAPI Joint Committee**Dr Lee Pheng Soon
Dr Lee Yik Voon**Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association**

Dr Brian Yeo

Singapore Heart Foundation Heart Safe Singapore Committee

Dr Abdul Razakjr Omar

IDI-SMA Joint Committee**(Memorandum of Understanding on Publicity Guidelines & Code of Ethics on Hospital Promotion)**Dr Chong Yeh Woei
Dr Lee Yik Voon
Dr Tammy Chan**Medical Association of South East Asian Nations (MASEAN) Council**Dr Wong Tien Hua
(Incoming Chairperson)
Dr Lee Yik Voon (Secretary General)
Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh
(Asst Secretary General)
Dr Tammy Chan (Treasurer)**MASEAN Councillors**A/Prof Chin Jing Jih (President)
Dr Wong Tien Hua (1st Vice President)**The Confederation of Medical Associations in Asia and Oceania (CMAAO)**Dr Chong Yeh Woei, Vice Chairperson
Dr Bertha Woon, CMAAO Councillor**SMA Spokespersons**A/Prof Chin Jing Jih
Dr Tammy Chan
Dr Wong Tien Hua**SMA Honorary Legal Advisors**Mr Chan Hock Keng – Wong Partnership
Ms Kuah Boon Theng – Legal Clinic LLC
Mr Lek Siang Pheng – Rodyk & Davidson
Mr Edwin Tong – Allen & Gledhill**Professional Auditors**

Kreston David Yeung PAC

Media & Communications

Ms Nalini Naidu – IMMSG Pte Ltd

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Up to February 2014, ten ordinary and two additional Council Meetings were convened to consider the business and affairs of the Association. The attendance record of the meetings is as follows:

Name	Ordinary										Total	Additional	
	Apr '13	May '13	Jun '13	Jul '13	Aug '13	Sep '13	Oct '13	Nov '13	Jan '14	Feb '14		9 May '13	9 Oct '13
A/Prof Chin Jing Jih	✓	✓	✓	#	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9	✓	✓
Dr Wong Tien Hua	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	#	#	✓	8	✓	#
Prof Wong Tien Yin	#	✓	#	✓	✓	✓	✓	#	✓	✓	7	#	*
Dr Tammy Chan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	10	✓	✓
A/Prof Tan Sze Wee	#	✓	*	#	✓	*	✓	✓	✓	*	5	#	✓
Dr Lee Yik Voon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	10	✓	✓
Dr Daniel Lee	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	10	✓	✓
Dr Abdul Razakjr Omar	#	✓	✓	✓	#	✓	#	✓	#	#	5	#	✓
Dr Anantham Devanand †	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	#	✓	4	#	✓
Dr Chia Ghim Song	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	#	✓	#	✓	✓	8	✓	✓
Dr Chong Yeh Woei	✓	✓	✓	#	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	#	8	✓	✓
Dr Chow U-Jin ‡	#	#	#	#	#	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Dr Lee Pheng Soon	*	*	*	✓	*	✓	✓	✓	#	*	4	#	✓
Dr Lim Kheng Choon	✓	✓	#	✓	✓	✓	✓	#	#	#	6	#	#
Dr Noorul Fatha As'art	✓	#	#	✓	✓	✓	#	✓	✓	#	6	#	#
A/Prof Tan Tze Lee	✓	✓	#	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9	#	#
Dr Tan Yia Swam	#	✓	✓	#	✓	✓	✓	✓	#	*	6	*	✓
Dr Toh Choon Lai	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	10	✓	✓
Dr Toh Han Chong	#	#	#	#	✓	*	*	#	*	✓	2	#	✓
Dr Wong Chiang Yin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	10	✓	✓
Dr Bertha Woon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	#	✓	✓	9	#	✓

Note: # Unable to attend; * Overseas; † Joined in September 2013; ‡ Council member from April to September 2013

KEY STATISTICS

20 council members and

110 doctors in

21 standing committees serving

6,905 SMA members.

27 membership events,

with **> 2,000** attendees.

83 courses conducted for

2,572 participants,

with **S\$36,000** course
subsidies disbursed.





HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR



REPRESENTATION & ADVOCACY

SMA takes a leading role in influencing public policy, standards and regulations on behalf of our members and patients, to shape a more inclusive and collaborative healthcare landscape.

While the Ministry of Health and the Singapore Medical Council are tasked with the regulation of the medical profession, SMA, as neither the extension of the Ministry nor part of the Singapore Medical Council, aims to maintain the honour and interests of the medical profession. To this end, SMA must continue to vigorously represent its members' views and engage in a good and transparent practice of feedback, which should comprise questions, discussion and dialogue. This must be ever present, especially in cases where the soundness of policy decisions that affect the medical profession and patients need to be assessed. Indeed, SMA cannot be credible and earn the respect of its members if it does not serve its primary objective of putting the interests of the patients and the medical profession first. A strong and well-represented SMA is necessary to maintain the honour of the medical profession and to represent its interests, as well as to advocate the overall well-being of patients in Singapore.

Representing the medical profession, SMA raises concerns and questions, presents feedback from the medical profession, and suggests alternatives to the relevant policy-making bodies. In some instances, quiet discussion and soft influence helped put forward our concerns and views, and in others, vigorous questions and stated positions encouraged more meaningful and engaged discussions. Even though there were times when SMA's views and suggestions were not accepted by the policy-making bodies, the subsequent explanation and education that the medical profession received by these bodies on the decisions made have helped to shape a more inclusive and collaborative healthcare landscape.

We at SMA believe that the support of the medical profession plays an integral role in the functioning of the Association. Together with this support, the medical profession and the Association can work toward enhancing the trust patients have in the medical profession.

SMA'S KEY ENGAGEMENTS IN 2013

- Following consultation with members and interested stakeholders, SMA raised our concerns and provided a thorough review of Singapore Medical Council's current disciplinary and complaints committee, and its processes. The issues raised were published in the April 2013 issue of *SMA News* to encourage meaningful discussion and engagement of all involved parties.
- SMA raised concerns about a human resource-related policy and its impact on doctors in training. Concerns about the policy's negative impact on staff were conveyed to the relevant policy-making body.
- SMA is involved in the review of the Maintenance of Competency Framework, so as to provide our view on the proposed changes. Our position remains that changes made should act to further the competency and training of the medical profession, without any excessive or misaligned demands that detract from the objective.
- SMA enquired and received replies on the recognition of the Singapore residency system in Malaysia, and shared the received replies in the March 2013 issue of *SMA News*.
- Due to changes in the Singapore Medical Council IT system that affect practicing certificate renewals and the CME qualifying period, SMA highlighted the need for a clearer explanation of the implications of these changes, so as to ensure that medical professionals do not inadvertently miss the necessary requirements due to inaccurate interpretation of the changes.
- SMA supported the Ministry of Health's Health Advisory on haze, with endorsement and co-signing of the Advisory.
- SMA engaged with the Ministry of Health in order to provide feedback on the proposed Advisory Guidelines for the healthcare sector on the Personal Data Protection Act.
- To allay the fears and concerns of the general medical profession, SMA posited the need for greater clarity and understanding of the Family Medicine Clinics proposed by the Ministry of Health.
- SMA wrote to the Ministry of Manpower to suggest a change in the structure of the medical examination form for domestic helpers in order to provide greater clarity and accountability of the investigating doctor.



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Doctors' concerns not frivolous: SMA

The Straits Times, 11 January 2013

SMA calls for more transparency in dealing with errant doctors

TODAY, 30 April 2013

Tenth anniversary of SARS: The lessons learnt from the battle against SARS

Lianhe Zaobao, 20 May 2013

SMA explains aim of giving feedback

The Straits Times, 22 May 2013

More than 300 healthcare workers mark SARS 10th anniversary

Channel NewsAsia, 31 May 2013

Time to revisit medical fee guidelines

The Business Times, 19 July 2013

Missing medical student's research published in Singapore Medical Journal

The Straits Times, 8 December 2013

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In 2013, SMA continued to focus on advocating for both doctors and patients. Committed to shaping Singapore's healthcare landscape for the better, we organised numerous events and lectures relating to continuing medical education and public health.

Having also produced publications that were vigorously monitored and cited by local media, our work has sparked active discourse and created awareness of issues pertinent to our current medical landscape, positively influencing the future of healthcare in Singapore.

Significant citations of SMA's publications by notable local media outlets, such as the *Straits Times*, *TODAY*, and Channel NewsAsia, on issues ranging from governance of medical doctors to new research findings published in *SMJ* demonstrate our commitment to furthering progress in healthcare.

In 2014, we aim to continue bringing greater awareness to issues that impact both doctors and patients.

19 December 2012–22 May 2013

Singapore Medical Council disciplinary process *The Straits Times and TODAY*

In the November 2012 issue of *SMA News*, Dr T Thirumoorthy, the Director of SMA CMEP, discussed the effectiveness of the disciplinary process for cases of professional misconduct in Singapore. His article spurred a series of articles from the public, doctors, the Singapore Medical Council (SMC), and SMA. Together with Dr Tammy Chan, SMA's Honorary Secretary, and Dr Wong Chiang Yin, Chairman of the SMA Ethics Committee, Dr Thirumoorthy also wrote SMA's second letter, stating that they were “glad to note that the review committee has been formed since SMA's last Forum letter”, in addition to SMA's suggestions on how to improve SMC's disciplinary process for errant doctors.

20 March 2013–9 April 2013

SMA Lecture 2012

The Straits Times

Following Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon's speech at the SMA Lecture 2012, the *Straits Times* featured various articles quoting Chief Justice Menon, who suggested that Parliament should decide whether voluntary euthanasia, also known as assisted suicide, is to be allowed in Singapore. With Chief Justice Menon citing the case of Singaporean lawyer Suzanne Chin, who woke up despite being declared brain-dead, a full report on Chin followed.

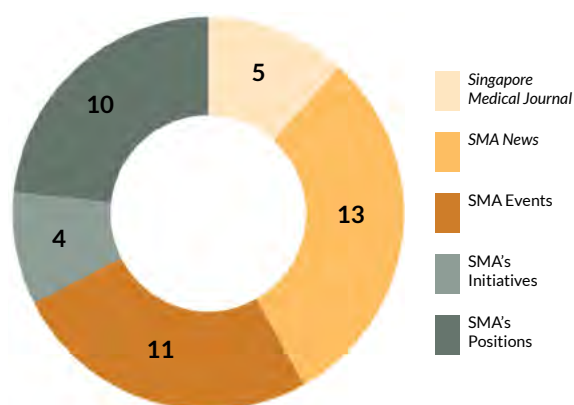
43
citations in
various local
media

20 May 2013–1 June 2013

SARS 10th anniversary

Channel NewsAsia, Lianhe Zaobao, The Straits Times and TODAY

With 2013 marking the 10th anniversary of the SARS outbreak in Singapore, a commentary by Dr Wong Chiang Yin, President of SMA 2006–2009 and Chief Operating Officer at Singapore General Hospital during the SARS outbreak, touched on the lessons learnt from the pandemic, and three key principles for controlling infectious diseases. Additionally, the SMA SARS 10th Anniversary Symposium was reported on numerous media platforms. The welcome address by current SMA President A/Prof Chin Jing Jih was quoted by a *Straits Times* article, in which he praised less publicised heroes of the healthcare sector, such as those working in primary care, who were among the first to come into contact with SARS patients.

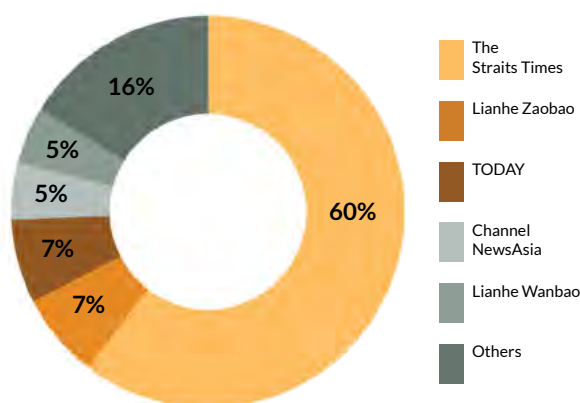


3 July 2013–26 October 2013

Ethical limit for medical fees

Lianhe Zaobao, The Business Times and The Straits Times

Discussing the difficulties that doctors face in determining the 'ethical limit' for the fees they charge, especially for doctors in the private sector, the articles also noted that SMA's 1987 Guidelines of Fees was withdrawn in 2007 to avoid contravening the Competition Act. A *Straits Times* article reported on Parkway Pantai's October 2013 publication of a price list for 30 common procedures at its hospitals, based on patients' medical bills in the preceding year. SMA's current 1st Vice President, Dr Wong Tien Hua, has stated SMA's support of Parkway Pantai's release of their price list; SMA is a strong advocate of fee and price transparency in the medical profession, so as to serve and safeguard the interest of patients.



THE HEART OF OUR WORK

Our members
are at the
heart of what
we do, and
we focus on
delivering
services that
our members
value.

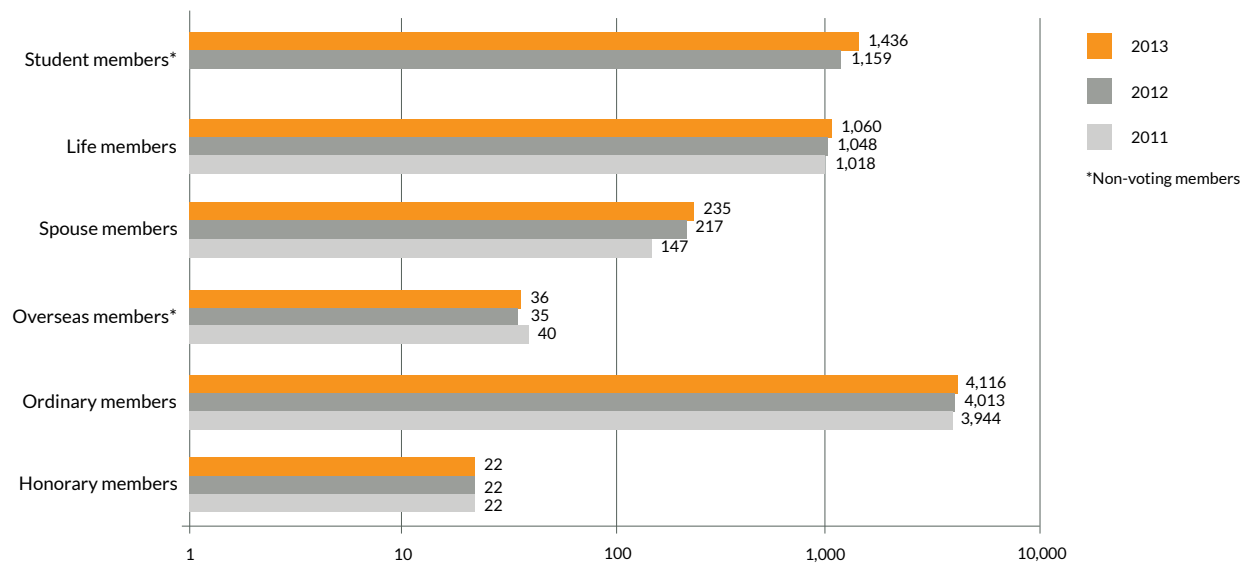
SMA MEMBERSHIP

Since 1959, with the ultimate aim of benefitting the healthcare sector in Singapore, SMA has continually striven to be the voice of the medical profession, advocating and representing the interests of both medical doctors and medical students. As a not-for-profit professional body that seeks to serve the public, SMA believes in upholding the spirit of *Jasa Utama*, where we put Service before Self.

In 2013, we focused not only on value-added membership privileges for our loyal members, but also on giving back to society by advocating medical education and medical research – in the interests of the public health and medical landscapes. SMA also organised membership events such as the annual Inter-Professional Games (IPG). The IPG, in collaboration with six different professional bodies, aims to foster relationships and camaraderie through sports such as basketball, bowling and tennis. Besides this, SMA also provides professional support to its members in the form of social networking events where hundreds of doctors and other professionals tap on the opportunity to build up business networks and connect with one another. Not forgetting the highlight of the year, all SMA members were cordially invited to the SMA Annual Dinner to celebrate some of the most respected and outstanding doctors, in recognition of their contributions to SMA, the medical profession, or the community.

With over 6,900 current members and growing, SMA has over the years experienced a healthy increase in membership numbers, which attests to increasing recognition and support of our mission and values by the medical profession at large. However, this is not an end in itself. Our long-term vision remains the advocacy of a better, all-rounded





healthcare system for a better quality of life for both doctors and patients. Indeed, to meet the current practising needs of doctors, SMA Membership has over the past few years aimed to balance patients' interests with the needs and aspirations of doctors by offering various professional services, medical resources and lifestyle benefits via avenues such as the SMA Forum, Locum Listing, and Directory of SMA Doctors, which help provide a reliable platform for doctors to discuss and explore healthcare issues, have their voices heard, search prospective contacts and make their profiles (including their specialisations and qualifications) searchable to enable easier patient access.

MEMBERSHIP TALLY

	2013	2012	2011
Total no. of members (at beginning of year)	6,494	5,171	5,077
Add			
No. of new members	689	1,477	308
Less			
No. of resignations/deceased	211	105	157
No. struck off in arrears	67	49	57
Total no. of members (at end of year)	6,905	6,494	5,171



SUPPORTING EDUCATION & TRAINING

SMA ACADEMY

As the training arm of SMA, SMA Academy focuses on education and training, so as to provide doctors with the necessary skill sets. SMA Academy comprises SMA Centre for Medical Ethics and Professionalism (CMEP), Medical Practice Management (MPM), Special Interest (SI), and a section catering to nonmedical doctors (NMD). At SMA Academy, we believe that a good and successful doctor is more than just a competent clinician; he/she must also possess a strong sense of ethics and professionalism, have a thorough understanding of health law, and have medical practice management skills. SMA Academy thus aims to equip doctors with the resources and training needed in these areas. In 2013, SMA Academy organised a total of 83 events, which included seminars, workshops, symposiums and courses. These events were attended by a total of 2,572 people, of which 1,200 were SMA members.

CENTRE FOR MEDICAL ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM

Since its formation in 2000, SMA CMEP has been instrumental in promoting continuing education and academic training in Clinical Ethics, Health Law, Professionalism and Medical Practice. SMA CMEP aims to provide leadership in the areas of academic training, discussion, resource development and research, so as to support a high standard of medical professionalism.

AST Course on Professionalism and Ethics

Significantly, SMA CMEP conducts the Ethics Course for advanced specialty trainees (ASTs), which focuses on ethics, health law and professionalism (i.e. AST Ethics Course). This two-and-a-half-day course is mandatory for exit certification of all ASTs, family medicine (FM) trainees, and residents. Since the commencement of the courses in 2004, SMA CMEP has trained a total of 1,676 trainees.

Delivering the highest quality courses for the continual medical education of our members is of utmost importance to us.

AST Ethics Course Highlights

- No. of years: 10
- No. of runs: 29
- No. of doctors trained: 106
- No. of ASTs: 1,570
- No. of FM trainees: 1,676

>90% of attendees from the past 12 months found the Ethics Course useful and relevant

Feedback on the PDPA Seminar

30.7% had a good appreciation and understanding of PDPA **before** the seminar

92.6% had a good appreciation and understanding of PDPA **after** the seminar

96.3% found the seminar useful

Event	Organiser	No. of runs
38th Medico-Legal Seminar and Workshop (Day 1)	CMEP	1
Adult Heart Saver Course	NMD	2
Basic Cardiac Life Support (BCLS) Course	NMD	14
BCLS Instructor Course	NMD	2
BETC Symposium – Engineering in Medical Device	SI	1
CPR+AED Course	NMD	2
Death Certification	CMEP	1
Finance for Medical Practitioners	MPM	1
How to Pay Doctors – Ethical Challenges and Practical Considerations in the United States	CMEP	1
Mediation and Alternative Dispute Resolution	CMEP	1
Medical Ethics, Professionalism and Health Law Course	CMEP	5
Medical Negligence in Singapore – An Update Based on Analysis of Recent Court Cases	CMEP	1
MPS Mastering Adverse Outcomes	CMEP	8
MPS Mastering Difficult Interactions with Patients	CMEP	10
MPS Mastering Professional Interactions	CMEP	5
MPS Mastering Shared Decision Making	CMEP	9
MPS Mastering Your Risk	CMEP	9
MPS-SMA Medical Expert Training Course	CMEP	1
Personal Data Protection Act	MPM	1
SARS 10th Anniversary Symposium	SI	1
SMA Lecture 2012	SI	1
SMA Lecture 2013	SI	1
SMC Disciplinary Process and Sentencing	CMEP	1
Tax Obligations on Medical Practice	MPM	1
Unlocking the Medical Practitioners' Code	MPM	1
Workplace Safety and Health	MPM	1
Understanding Consent in Medical Practice – Coming to Grips with the Legal and Ethical Implications	CMEP	1
TOTAL		83

38th Annual Medico-Legal Workshop and Seminar 2013

SMA CMEP, in collaboration with the Medico-Legal Society of Singapore (MLS), organised the 38th Annual Medico-Legal Workshop and Seminar 2013, which is MLS' annual programme highlight. This was a two-day event comprising a workshop on *Disciplinary Inquiries in Healthcare: The Fundamentals, Principles and Process* held on the first day, and a seminar on *Insurance Claims and Liabilities in Healthcare* on the second day. This collaboration was a success, with the event fully subscribed and a total attendance of 231. The feedback received was also positive, with more than 95% of responses stating that the event met their expectations, and the concepts presented were useful and relevant.

MEDICAL PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

MPM focuses on providing doctors with the skills needed to manage their medical practice, such as the development of leadership skills and business acumen, and finance and human resource management. These management skills serve to enhance doctors' management of their practice, in areas such as financial management and human resource. With increased effectiveness in doctors' management of their practice, better patient care can be effected.

SMA Seminar: Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA)

With the Do Not Call (DNC) registry and its accompanying main data protection obligations taking effect on 2 January 2014 and 2 July 2014 respectively, MPM, together with the Personal Data Protection Commission (PDPC), organised a seminar to address the concerns around PDPA's impact on medical practice, research and the medical profession. The seminar was attended by more than 70 medical professionals, and they engaged in a lively discussion with the panel made up of representatives from the PDPC and Ministry of Health.

SPECIAL INTEREST

SARS 10th Anniversary Symposium

2013 marked the 10th anniversary of the SARS outbreak in Singapore, and SMA organised a commemorative event on 31 May 2013 to remember the sacrifices of healthcare workers and revisit the lessons learnt from the outbreak. Minister for Health, Mr Gan Kim Yong, graced the event as the Guest of Honour, with the keynote address presented by Prof Tan Chorh Chuan, President of National University of Singapore, who was the Director of Medical Services (DMS) during the 2003 outbreak. More than 300 healthcare professionals attended the symposium where they observed a minute of silence, revisited the key events of the outbreak, gained insights on dealing with future epidemics, and received updates on new threats such as the Influenza A epidemic and the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome.

Our publications provide access to scientific knowledge and current healthcare issues to help members stay up-to-date.

SMJ KEY STATISTICS

842 new submissions
from **35** countries

467 reviewers

228 articles published

54% of published
papers were local

3,687 SMC Cat 3B
CME submissions

110,671 hits on
PubMed LinkOut

SINGAPORE MEDICAL JOURNAL

In 2013, *SMJ* continued to see a healthy number of manuscript submissions from both local and overseas authors, with 842 new manuscripts submitted from 35 countries. In the second quarter of the year, a one-time article processing charge (APC) per submission was introduced, and SMA members, who enjoy full waiver, accounted for some 20% of the total submissions. As expected, we saw a slightly more than 30% drop in manuscript submission, but this was balanced out by the lower number of articles rejected outright at initial screening and after peer review, as compared to previous years. The lower submission rate and better quality articles received not only reduced the strain on our limited resources, but also allowed our reviewers to focus their expertise on more deserving manuscripts.

2013 also saw the integration of a plagiarism software with our online manuscript submission and peer-review system, which enabled a seamless and effective way of identifying problematic manuscripts. This had in turn shortened the processing time of new manuscripts. Another new initiative in 2013 was the assignment of a digital object identifier to every published article. This move ensured more stable linking and enhanced the online search of our electronic documents, as well as enabled the journal, for the first time, to publish accepted articles ahead of print, thus substantially reducing the backlog of accepted articles.

A total of 228 papers were published in 2013, with Singapore papers making up about 54% of them. We published four themed issues – Cardiology, Gastroenterology, Endocrinology, and Sports & Rehabilitation Medicine – all of which were well received by readers. 26 continuing medical education (CME) articles were published, attracting an encouraging 3,687 submissions to the SMC Category 3B CME Programme.

In 2013, we bid a fond farewell to Prof Teo Eng Kiong, who completed his four-year term as Editor-in-Chief, and thank him for his able leadership of the *Journal*. We also extend a warm welcome to A/Prof Poh Kian Keong as he assumes editorship in 2014. We thank our readers, authors, reviewers and editors for their support and hard work over the past year, without which *SMJ* could not have made such excellent progress.

"I congratulate the SMA News Editor and his Editorial Board on recent excellent issues, especially the issue commemorating the SARS crisis, and also commend his team on a newsletter well worth reading."

– Dr Yong Nen Khiong via email on 11 June 2013

SMA NEWS

Highlights of 2013

The highlights of 2013 were undoubtedly the four themed issues. The first was the issue in May, commemorating the 10th anniversary of Singapore's triumph against a virus that changed the world. The stories of different healthcare workers intertwined to form a poignant chapter on the war on SARS and how it was eventually won. This issue was given out at the SMA SARS 10th Anniversary Symposium on 31 May 2013.

In addition to carrying articles about doctors in training year-round, July saw the Doctors in Training issue, which highlighted issues faced by trainee doctors and medical students, with some sharing their experiences in and outside the healthcare setting. In this issue, *SMA News* also interviewed the deans of the three local medical schools, who discussed the approaches the different institutions were taking to nurture the next generation of doctors in Singapore.

Our September issue, *Balancing Policies, Politics and Profits in Healthcare*, included a focus on doctors' fees, goals for local healthcare, and the mistreatment of both healthcare workers and injured foreign workers. Closing the year with the Women in Medicine issue, *SMA News* celebrated women doctors from the local healthcare landscape, featuring an analysis on women leaders in healthcare, as well as articles discussing work-life balance and sexual harassment in the workplace.

Our Bread and Butter

SMA aims to be the voice of the medical profession. To this end, the Feature column, the mainstay of each edition of *SMA News*, continued to explore important issues in healthcare, such as the pertinent concern of the effect of a rushed doctor on the quality of patient care. Meanwhile, doctors also contributed their personal opinions and analyses of medical issues to the

Opinion and Insight columns, respectively. In our Interview column, we continued to feature prominent personalities who inspire with their individual success stories. To equip doctors to develop good ethics and professionalism, a robust knowledge of health law and medical practice management skills, SMA CMEP continued to contribute monthly articles to their eponymous column in *SMA News*, while the Executive Series column hosts the discussion of matters relevant to medical practice management.



KEY FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

GROUP STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	2013	2012
Total Income	\$2,787,006	\$2,881,479
Total Expenses	\$2,666,623	\$2,600,737
Surplus for the Year After Tax	\$120,383	\$280,742

INCOME		
Subscriptions	\$666,051	\$667,732
Commissions	\$870,292	\$807,427
Rebates	\$175,896	\$189,312
Courses and Events	\$495,728	\$588,712
Investments	\$30,664	\$155,953
Publications	\$501,073	\$462,503
Others	\$47,302	\$9,840
Total Income	\$2,787,006	\$2,881,479

EXPENDITURE		
Administrative and Operating Expenses	\$516,621	\$538,024
Courses and Events	\$429,282	\$625,678
Publications	\$317,801	\$288,659
Staff and Related Expenses	\$1,402,919	\$1,148,376
Total Expenditure	\$2,666,623	\$2,600,737

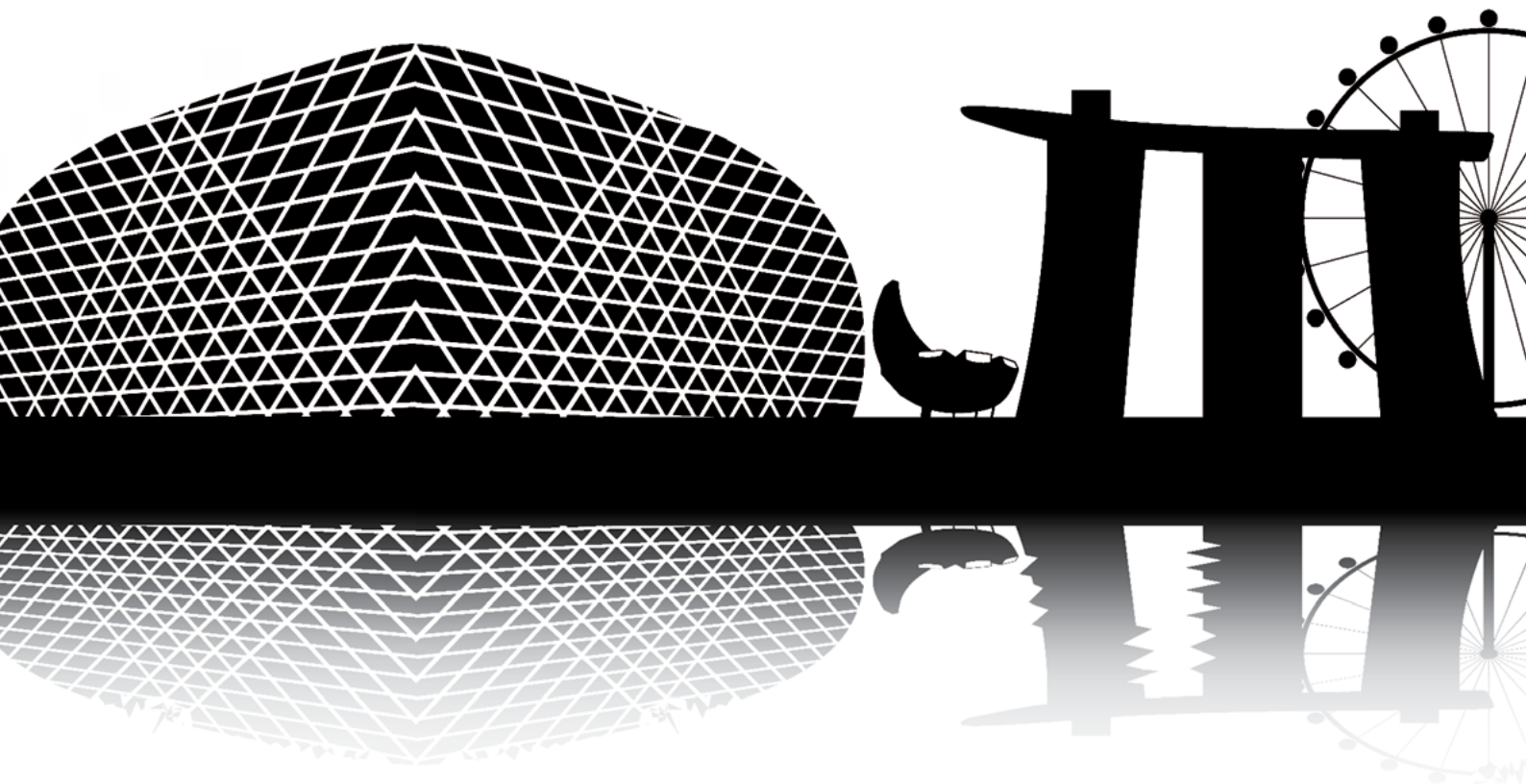
GROUP STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2013	2012
ASSETS		
Non-current Assets	\$28,855	\$2,273,291
Current Assets	\$6,496,668	\$4,077,789
Total Assets	\$6,525,523	\$6,351,080
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Equity Attributable to Members of the Association		
Total Equity	\$6,190,810	\$6,070,427
Non-current Liabilities	\$470	\$470
Current Liabilities	\$334,243	\$280,183
Total Equity and Liabilities	\$6,525,523	\$6,351,080



Shaping the Healthcare Landscape

SMA 54th Annual Report
2013/2014



Singapore Medical Association

2 College Road, Alumni Medical Centre Level 2, Singapore 169850
Tel: (65) 6223 1264 Fax: (65) 6224 7827
• Email: sma@sma.org.sg • Website: www.sma.org.sg • UEN: S61SS0168E

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