

SMA Annual Medical Ethics Convention 2001



The Convention saw a good turn-out from the medical community.



Dr T Thirumoorthy, Director of CMEP.



A/Prof Goh Lee Gan, Chairman of SMA Ethics Committee.

This year's SMA Ethics Convention, organised by the Centre for Medical Ethics & Professionalism (CMEP) was held from 1 - 4 November 2001 (Thursday - Sunday) at the Tan Tock Seng Hospital's Theatre. The Convention was well attended by more than 100 medical doctors and hospital administrators.

WORKSHOP ON "THE MAKING OF AN ETHICS CONSULTANT"

The 2 1/2 -day workshop, jointly organised by SMA and TTSH, was targeted at doctors who are involved in ethics consultation work, particularly those who serve on Ethics and Complaints Committees, Hospital Advisory or Medical Boards, or who want to start ethics consultation work.

The course director, Prof Tan Siang Yong, is a physician, lecturer in health law, and clinical ethicist from the University of Honolulu, Hawaii. He is also Director of the St Francis International Centre for Healthcare Ethics in Honolulu.

The workshop introduced participants to the basic concepts, principles, methods and literature for the understanding of ethical issues in clinical care, and how they can be applied to besides ethics consultation. Participants were also taught methods for analysing ethical cases in clinical practice, and equipped with competencies needed as an ethics consultant, including ethical assessment skills, process skills, and mediation skills.

ETHICS CONVENTION

The 1 1/2 -day programme started on 3 November with the soft launch and demonstration of **SMA @xpress**. Spearheaded by the SMA IT Committee, this Handheld Computing Project will introduce a convenient mobile channel for rapid dissemination of relevant health care information.

This was then followed by the Practice Management Seminar on **"Maids Employment Medical**



Left to right: Dr Yeo Khee Quan, A/Prof Mary Rauff, Mr K Shanmugam, Prof Low Cheng Hock, Mr Tan Tee How, Dr Yue Wai Mun.



Prof S Y Tan presenting the USA perspective on informed consent.

Examination". Pertinent issues such as the ethical and legal aspects of the doctor as a medical examiner, HCG testing and how to minimise non-detection were discussed. This seminar will be reported in greater detail in subsequent issues of the SMA News.

The Convention resumed the next day with a Medical Ethics and Health Law Seminar on "**Informed Consent**". Topics covered included an overview to informed consent, as well as its medical

and legal aspects. Cases from USA were also considered.

In the afternoon, a seminar on "**Preparing for the Court Room**" started with a talk on the coroner's court and then proceeded to enlighten the audience on the role of the doctor as a defendant and expert witness.

SMA LECTURE

The SMA Lecture 2001 on "**Testing the Bolam Test: Consequences of Recent Decisions**" was delivered by Mr K Shanmugam, Senior Counsel and partner in Allen & Gledhill. The citation was given by A/Prof Mary Rauff from the Department of O&G in NUH. The lecture dealt with the developments in the *Bolam* test and outlined the interpretation of the test by Singapore courts in recent cases. It will also deal with the importance of the *Bolam* test to the practice of medicine and how it affects society in general. The abstract of the SMA Lecture and the citation will be published in the next issue of the SMA News. ■

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Mr Palakrishnan, Senior Counsel and President of the Law Society, giving a talk on "The Legal Aspect of Informed Consent".



Left to right: Dr Clarence Tan, Ms Kuah Boon Theng, Mr Lek Siang Pheng, A/Prof Goh Lee Gan, Dr Yeo Khee Quan, Dr Joanna Lin