

News from SMA Council

By Dr Yue Wai Mun, Honorary Secretary

1. SMA ETHICS FILES

Hearing care service provider offering 10% commission for referral of patients

The SMA Ethics Committee received an enquiry from one of our members regarding a hearing care service provider offering 10% commission when doctors refer patients to them. The hearing care provider was informed that **it is unethical for doctors to accept such an offer**. He has replied to say that another doctor had told him that such a practice would be unethical. He has since discontinued the promotional activity.

From the SMA Ethics Committee

2. CONGRATULATIONS

The 42nd SMA Council extends its congratulations to Emeritus Professor K Shanmugaratnam who was presented with the first Lee Foundation - National Healthcare Group Lifetime Achievement Award, for his significant contributions to the field of healthcare in Singapore.

3. UPCOMING SEMINARS IN 2002

Beginning January 2002, the SMA Centre

for Medical Ethics & Professionalism (CMEP) is organising a series of monthly seminars at SGH and TTSH, covering a wide spectrum of medical ethics and legal issues.

At SGH, we will be focusing on **Medical Negligence and Risk Management in Hospital Practice**.

The first 4 sessions are general legal issues that all practitioners must know. Lawyers from Allen & Gledhill will be giving an overview of what is involved in court proceedings, how judges decide cases, the general principles of the law of tort and the law of contract, the *Bolam* case, measure of damages, etc. These sessions are held on **every first Thursday of the month, from 5.30 pm to 7.00 pm, at the SGH PGMI**. Admission is free. The inaugural seminar is scheduled on 3 January.

At TTSH, the seminars are a continuation of the ones held in year 2001, with the focus on **Bioethics and Health Law** of selected specialties such as geriatrics, paediatrics, O&G, infectious diseases, psychiatry and organ transplantation. There are also sessions on legal interpretation of the MR Act and PHMC Act that all practitioners ought to

be familiar with. Seminars are held on **every second Thursday of the month, from 5.30 pm to 7.00 pm, at the TTSH Theatre**. Admission is free.

4. REQUEST FOR DUPLICATE RECEIPTS

The Secretariat often receives requests for duplicate receipts because of misplacing or non-receipt of the originals. Requests for duplicate receipts are especially overwhelming the few days before 15 April each year – for tax purposes. The other requests are for hospital administrative requirements.

We would like to inform doctors that **from 1 January 2002, a \$5.00 administrative charge will be levied for each duplicate receipt requested**. However, for requests made within 2 months from the date of payment, the administrative charge will be waived since the original receipts could have been lost in the mail. Please make it a point to check that you get your official receipts for membership or professional indemnity subscription payments **within 2 months**. Please also ensure the safe-keeping of these receipts. ■