

News from SMA Council

By Dr Tham Tat Yean,
Honorary Assistant Secretary

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1. WORKING GROUP ON PREVENTING MEDICAL ACCIDENTS AND PROMOTING PATIENT INFORMATION

As directed by the SMA Council, the Ethics Committee has formed a Working Group on Preventing Medical Accidents and Promoting Patient Information. Members of this Workgroup are from the medical and legal fraternities and representatives of the MPS and UNITED. The formation of this workgroup was motivated by claims reported in the local press, the perception of the SMA Council and the Ethics Committee of the need for reform, and the desire of the SMA as well as the Medical Defence Organisations – MPS and UNITED, to deal with the root causes of medical litigation and complaints. This Working Group aims to produce its report to the SMA Council and the Ministry of Health by July 2002.

Definitive Terms of Reference of the Workgroup:

To Review:

i) the situation in Singapore and world-

wide (USA, UK, Malaysia, New Zealand and Australia) with regard to patient dissatisfaction, adverse outcomes, complaints and medical litigation,

- ii) the quantum of award for damages in the medico-legal cases in Singapore and worldwide, as well as to explore the place of mediation in Singapore,
- iii) how medical risks and accidents could be reduced, and
- iv) the place of a satisfying doctor-patient relationship, doctor-patient communication and adequate information provision, in the reduction of complaints and medical litigation.

To Recommend:

- i) a practice guideline that could be introduced to healthcare providers

to promote adequate information provision and satisfying doctor-patient relationship as measures to reduce medical litigation, and

- ii) the quantum of award for damages in the medico-legal cases, as well as to explore the place of mediation in Singapore.

2. COLLECTION OF SINGAPORE DOCTORS DIRECTORY 2001/2002 AND SMA TIE/SCARF

Members who have not collected their copy of the Singapore Doctors Directory 2001/2002 can still collect it from the SMA Secretariat during office hours (Mon to Fri 9 am to 6 pm, Sat 9 am to 1 pm). Members can also collect their SMA tie or scarf at the same time. ■

42nd SMA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date : **7 April 2002 (Sunday)**

Time : **2.00 pm – 5.00 pm**

Venue : **Alumni Auditorium, Level 2, Alumni Medical Centre**

For the notice of AGM, please refer to the mailbag inserts which were sent in late January.