

# SMA National Medical Convention 2002

The theme for this year's SMA National Medical Convention is "Effective Health Screening – What You Must Know". Health screening is an evergreen topic but not everybody is very clear about the subject. What diseases are useful and not useful to screen? And why not? Also, what do you do after the results are given to you? What does it mean to say that the results are normal? Does it mean that one can continue with an unhealthy lifestyle because the blood cholesterol and blood sugar levels are normal?

There is much to be discussed and much to be updated on the subject. The Convention, to be held from 27 – 28 April 2002 will no doubt answer some of the questions posed. The Public Forum on Saturday, 27 April will be for the public. Of course, doctors and other healthcare providers are welcome too. The Medical Symposium on 28 April 2002 will be for the medical profession. And hopefully, the sessions may stimulate other questions to be asked and discussed.

I am glad to hear that the Ministry of Health has formed a workgroup to

examine the subject of health screening and will be issuing a clinical practice guideline in due course. Such a guideline will result in a more cost-effective and uniform approach to the subject of health screening.

Hopefully, this guideline will spell out the duties and ethical responsibilities of doctors, laboratories and increasingly, the commercial organisations who are also involved in the provision of health screening services.

I hope you will find time to attend the SMA National Medical Convention. ■