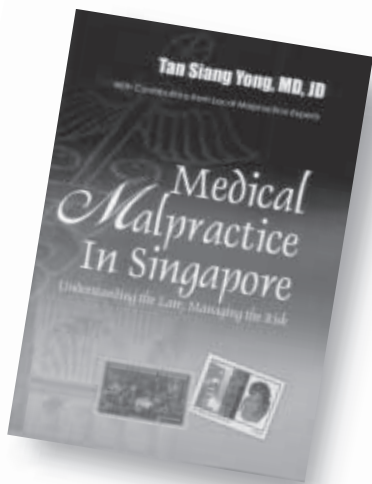


Medical Malpractice in Singapore – Understanding the Law, Managing the Risk

Author: Tan Siang Yong, MD, JD, with contributions from local malpractice experts

Reviewed by Dr T. Thirumoorthy, Director, SMA CMEP



The SMA Centre for Medical Ethics and Professionalism (CMEP) was officially launched, together with its first publication "Medical Malpractice in Singapore", during the MASEAN Dinner, on 9 November 2002, at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel.

This publication is a proceeding of the 2½-day workshop on Medical Negligence, organised by the SMA in November 2000, at which Prof SY Tan was the course director and main lecturer.

Prof Tan is a physician board certified in Internal Medicine and Endocrinology.

He is also a licenced attorney, having graduated from the University of Hawaii. He is closely associated with the SMA, and plays a pivotal role in the development of CMEP programmes.

The main educational aim of this book is to enable practising doctors to understand the law behind medical negligence, so that they are better enabled to manage the medical risk. The expected outcomes would be patient safety and improved clinical outcome. The final effects are preservation and enhancement of trust between patients and healthcare workers.

Topics cover the law of malpractice, informed consent, medical confidentiality, risk management, system reformation, and a section from local malpractice experts. The book ends with an appendix of test questions and answers, and a glossary of legal terms.

"Medical Malpractice in Singapore" is a labour of love from Prof Tan, dedicated to the people (and patients) of Singapore, through the hands of the local medical profession. Prof Tan has also generously donated the publishing rights and all proceeds to the SMA CMEP. As such, **SMA will be presenting a free copy to all SMA members upon their**

renewal of membership in Year 2003.

For non-SMA members, and members who wish to purchase subsequent copies, the book is available at **\$22 and \$45 (excluding handling charges) for softback and hardback respectively.** To place orders, please contact Wee Fong from the SMA Secretariat at Tel: 6223 1264 or Email: weefong@sma.org.sg. All proceeds will go to the development of the SMA CMEP. ■



Prof SY Tan autographing copies of his labour of love.

"This book is clearly written and readily understood. It has practical points and important lessons. The author, an excellent lecturer, brings his understanding of the subject into this publication which should be read by all practising physicians. It should find a place in the medical libraries of all our hospitals."

– Professor Ong Yong Yau, CEO of SGH, and Chairman of NMEC



"The author's use of many relevant local examples of malpractice suits really brings home the message to the Singaporean reader. The summary points and questions at the end of the book are extremely useful aids to learning."

– Professor Lee Eng Hin, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, NUS



"This is a comparative study. It is useful to both medical and legal men not only in Singapore but also to judges, lawyers and medical men in other common law jurisdictions. A very interesting and original approach to the study of Medical Negligence. Congratulations."

– Mr K.S. Rajah, Former Judicial Commissioner, Singapore Judiciary