

Doctors: The “Fearless Factor”?

I was really cheesed off and irritated by someone who commented that “business” for me must be booming because of SARS. For the record, it is not true. In my case at least, the opposite has happened. The simple reason is that patients are in fact avoiding the “dangerous” places, among which are the GP clinics. In his opinion, SARS is a business opportunity for me. It shows that many have now regarded doctors as businessmen.

In this society, it is true that doctors need to be savvy in finance to survive but the medical profession is somewhat different.

Like the rest of the population, GPs are also affected by the fear factor, some are more affected, others less so, and we all try to take precautions. The point I wish to emphasise is that the vast majority of us are staying at our posts and most of us are at the frontline, albeit

the intensity of the battle varies from place to place. In comparison, Mr Bush and Mr Rumsfeld direct the war thousands of kilometres away from Iraq and Mr S Hussein is nowhere to be seen.

I would like the media and others who have engaged in cynical and bad portrayal of the medical professionals to take note of this and ask themselves who will look after them if they fall sick? ■