News from SMA Council

By Dr Tham Tat Yean, Honorary Secretary

1. CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES TO DOCTORS
The SMA Council would like to advise members that congratulatory messages to doctors, e.g. National Service Awards, are acceptable.

However, congratulatory messages in the public media, which are sponsored by pharmaceutical firms, might be construed by the public as an unduly close association between the doctor's medical practice and the pharmaceutical firm(s) involved. In order to avoid any such potential conflict of interest, the SMA and Singapore Association of Pharmaceutical Industry are of the opinion that such congratulatory messages are not to be encouraged.

2. SMA SECRETARIAT
We wish to inform members that the following new staff have joined the SMA Secretariat:
i. Mr Reuel Ng – Editorial Executive, SMJ
ii. Ms Angeline Ong – Accounts Officer
iii. Ms Nirmal Kaur – Administrative Assistant

CONGRATULATIONS
Congratulations are due to Prof Wilfred Peh, his SMJ editorial team and the SMA Secretariat staff for bringing the SMJ closer to international researchers and readers through the PubMed Medline LinkOut.

References

About the author
A/Prof Goh Lee Gan is an Associate Professor of Family Medicine, in the Department of Community, Occupational and Family Medicine in the National University of Singapore. He teaches public health and family medicine.

Editor’s note: We reproduce below a letter dated 17 March 2004 from the outgoing Director of Medical Services, Prof Tan Chorh Chuan, who will return to the National University of Singapore from 1 April 2004. The SMA Council extends its best wishes to Prof Tan.

17 March 2004
Dr Lee Pheng Soon
President
Singapore Medical Association

Dear Pheng Soon

As you know, I will be stepping down as Director of Medical Services on 31 March 04. I would like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude for the strong support, wise counsel and assistance which you and the Singapore Medical Association (SMA) have given me throughout my tenure. This has been a great help for me personally, particularly during the SARS crisis last year. More importantly, I believe it has helped to enhance the level of care which we provide to our patients and the public.

I am confident that through the SMA’s many initiatives and support for our national efforts, our healthcare services will continue to grow and excel, for the benefit of Singapore. Thank you once again.

With warm regards.

Yours sincerely

Tan Chorh Chuan