

# News from SMA Council

By Dr Yue Wai Mun, Honorary Secretary

1. **MEDICAL ETHICS CAN BE ACCREDITED AS CORE CME**  
The SMA Council firmly believes that for high standards of professionalism in medical practice to prevail, a reasonable working knowledge and sound understanding of medical ethics and health law should be core competencies of all practising doctors. Letters had been written to Singapore Medical Council (SMC) to appeal for topics related to medical ethics and professionalism to be accredited as core CME.

The SMC Council has finally granted approval in February 2005 that CME talks on "Medical Ethics" and "Professionalism" can be accredited for core points to encourage more doctors to attend these courses/lectures. This is in line with the Ministry's requirement that henceforth, ethics and professionalism should be an integral part of a trainee's training. Health law would, however, remain as non-core CME activity.

2. **LETTER TO THE PRESS**

The SMA President has written to *The Straits Times* Forum Page on 13 January 2005, inviting response from Ms Salma Khalik with regards to her articles on 1 January 2005 ("MOH to stop docs from selling drugs") and 9 January 2005 ("Doctors not swallowing the bitter pill").

As no response was received, the SMA Council has sent another letter directly to Ms Khalik, and attached the article "Ten questions Hobbit would like to ask Ms Salma Khalik" (*SMA News* January 2005 issue), inviting her to answer the questions therein, which the *SMA News* would gladly publish.

To-date, no response has been received on either letter.

3. **NTUC INCOME OCCURRENCE-BASED INSURANCE**

NTUC Income has introduced incidence occurrence cover from 1 March 2005. (See mailbag for rates and proposal form.) Existing members can continue with their claims-made cover or opt to convert to incidence occurrence cover. SMA continues to assist members to forward applications/renewals to NTUC Income for processing.

4. **SMA EMBLEM TO STAY**

Current SMA Emblem – 300 votes



Proposed SMA Emblem (1) – 30 votes



Proposed SMA Emblem (2) – 13 votes



At the last Annual General Meeting, two proposed designs for a new SMA Emblem (by Mr Larry Kwa, a final year student from the Raffles La Salle School of Design) were presented for comments. As requested, these were then circulated to the general membership in the July 2004 issue of the *SMA News*. Members were invited to send in their votes on voting

slips or via email. A total of 345 votes were received. 300 voted to retain the current SMA emblem, 30 voted for design (1), 13 voted for design (2), and 2 members did not indicate preference for any of the designs.

In view of the overwhelming majority vote of 300, the current SMA Emblem will remain.

5. **UPCOMING SMA EVENTS**

- a. **SMA Annual General Meeting**  
10 April 2005 (Sunday), 2-5pm, Alumni Auditorium

Nine nominations were received for the 8 vacancies in the 46<sup>th</sup> SMA Council for the year 2005 / 2006. In accordance with Article VIII Section 3(b), voting will be carried out by secret ballot at the AGM on 10 April 2005. Please come and vote for the 8 Council Members who you wish to see in the new Council.

- i. Dr John Chiam Yih Hsing  
ii. Dr Raymond Chua Swee Boon  
iii. Dr Ivor Thevathasan  
iv. Dr Lee Pheng Soon  
v. Dr Oh Jen Jen  
vi. Dr Soh Wah Ngee  
vii. Dr Tan See Leng  
viii. Dr Toh Choon Lai  
ix. Dr Wong Chiang Yin

- b. **SMA House Officers Seminar**  
23 April 2005 (Saturday), 2-5pm, NUS LT 28

- c. **SMA Annual Dinner**  
30 April 2005 (Saturday), 7pm, Raffles Town Club  
Guest-of-Honour: Mr Khaw Boon Wan, Minister for Health

- d. **SMA Annual Medical Convention**  
14 & 15 May 2005, Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel  
(See *centrefold* for more details.) ■

<http://www.sma.org.sg>

SMA Discussion Forum

- Log on to the Members' Corner and join your fellow colleagues in discussions on healthcare in Singapore. Active threads include "Private GPs" and "Ethics & Professionalism".

CME Activities

- From time to time, we receive information on accredited CME activities (e.g. seminars/training by Visiting HMDP Experts, etc) from various bodies (MOH, clusters, hospitals or other professional bodies, etc) for dissemination to doctors. These CME activities are relevant to local health professionals in various disciplines, and we wish to disseminate them in a timely, efficient and organised manner. With immediate effect, SMA will post details of such accredited activities on the SMA website under "Accredited CME Events". Members will receive brief emails/fax notifications to access the relevant information on the website.

**If you have problems logging in to the Members' Corner, please contact us at Email: [webmaster@sma.org.sg](mailto:webmaster@sma.org.sg)**