

By Dr Raymond Chua, Honorary Secretary

# News from SMA Council

## I. SMA CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS APPROVED BY ROS

Further to our report (*SMA News* 2005; 37(4):6) on the proposed amendments to the SMA Constitution which were passed at the 45<sup>th</sup> AGM on 10 April 2005, we wish to inform Members that the amendments have been approved by the Registry of Societies.

The following amendments to the SMA Constitution will be adopted for implementation from 1 January 2006:

- **Revised Requirement for Life Membership (Category B)**

*Article III (ii)(b)*

The requirement for 20 years continuous membership (up from 10 years) on payment of a sum equivalent to 10 years' annual subscription at Ordinary rate.

- **Suspension of Membership for Temporary Absence from Singapore**

*Article V (v)*

Ordinary Members and their accompanying Spouse Members who are temporarily absent from Singapore for an extended period of one year or more can request for suspension of membership and waiver of subscription.

- **Termination of Membership**

*Article VII (4)*

Any Member who has passed away will cease to be a Member.

- **EGMs also Permitted to Consider Amendments to Constitution and Rules**

*Article XII (1)*

Amendments to the Constitution and Rules can be made at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) or an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM). The proposed amendments shall be made in writing to the Honorary Secretary at least 30 days before the AGM or EGM, and circulated to all Members not less than 14 days before the AGM or EGM.

*Article XI (2)*

An EGM can be convened by the Council at any time for considering amendment to the Constitution or Rules of the Association and/or any special reason. Upon receipt of a requisition in writing from any 50 Ordinary Members stating the purpose for which they require an EGM to be convened, the Council shall convene it within 30 days. The notice shall be sent to all Members not less than 14 days before the EGM.

- **Quorum**

*Article XI (3)*

The quorum at all General Meetings (AGM or EGM) shall be 50 Members. In the event of a lack of quorum after the stated time of commencement, the President shall postpone the meeting for 30 minutes, after which the Members present (whatever their numbers) shall constitute a quorum for the meeting. Such a postponed AGM or EGM shall not be permitted to amend the Constitution or Rules.

## 2. MEET YOUR COUNCIL

The second Dialogue with SMA Members was held on 15 October 2005 (Saturday) at 2pm at the SMA Conference Room. Three members met with the Council, which was represented by Dr Chong Yeh Woei (Chairman), Dr Soh Wah Ngee, Dr Tham Tat Yean and Dr Wong Tien Hua. In response to the concerns raised about the proposed Family Physician Register, Council representatives reassured that earlier feedback received from the ground had already been forwarded to and taken into consideration by the MOH.

The next Dialogue will be held on **17 January 2006 (Tuesday) at 6pm**. The Council hopes that Members would continue to show their support by attending such meetings and AGMs, so that the association can better represent Members. There is no specific agenda and Members are welcome to raise any concerns they might have about the medical profession.

### 3. BETTER MEDICAL AND DENTAL CARE FOR SCHOOLS

The **Health Promotion Board (HPB)** has set up a **Medical and Dental Advisory Committee** to provide advice on medical and dental professional and service issues in their School Health Service (SHS). The SMA is represented by Council Member **Dr Tham Tat Yean**.

The Committee will

- advise HPB on the current medical and dental services provided by SHS, so as to ensure relevant and appropriate services for school children;
- advise on the appropriate guidelines for a high standard of medical and dental practice in SHS;
- provide advice and recommendations to SHS regarding introduction of new medical and dental services as well as cessation/reduction of less relevant services; and
- propose changes in the delivery of services where appropriate.

### 4. GUIDELINE ON FEES 4<sup>TH</sup> EDITION

The SMA Guideline on Fees Committee and the SMA Council would like to thank Members for taking time to come to the Secretariat to review the draft and to give their feedback during the period 15 October to 15 November 2005. The Committee will review and consider the feedback for the finalisation of the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition.

### 5. CONGRATULATIONS

The SMA Council congratulates **Dr Tan Poh Kiang** and **Dr Tan Lai Yong**, who were both recipients of The MILK (Mainly I Love Kids) Awards this year. MILK reaches out to disadvantaged children and youth by focusing on advocacy and fund-raising whilst working through its partners to implement preventative and rehabilitative programmes.

**Dr Tan Poh Kiang** received the **Humanitarian Volunteer of the Year Award**. A family physician, Dr Tan offers subsidised medical care for the needy, and leads teams of volunteer healthcare trainers to educate low-income parents in healthcare, nutrition and home safety for children. He also leads medical missions to Cambodia every year, and mentors and inspires young people to volunteer.

The **Outstanding Child and Youth Worker Award** went to **Dr Tan Lai Yong**, a clinical lecturer at the Kunming Medical Centre, for improving the healthcare of children in the villages of Yunnan, China. Dr Tan's efforts include training over 500 village doctors and mobilising surgeons from Kunming and Singapore on a regular basis to

provide subsidised/free surgery (cleft palate, burns and bone deformities) for over 100 children.

### 6. WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

The SMA would like to inform Members that its application for membership with the World Medical Association was accepted at the recent WMA General Assembly on 15 October 2005 in Chile. ■



### PREVENTION OF BREAK-INS AT CLINICS

The police had recently sought the SMA's assistance to alert Members to several cases of break-ins at clinics where the culprits had targeted cough syrup found in the premises. The modus operandi of the culprit(s) was to tamper with the doors or windows to gain entry. To prevent such break-ins, the police would like to recommend the following anti-housebreaking measures to protect the premises and deter potential housebreakers:

- anti-burglar alarm system
- strong locks and grilles
- safe-keeping of cough syrup (ensure that cabinets/storerooms are well-secured during and after operating hours to prevent theft)

For clarifications or assistance with regard to crime prevention matters, Members may contact the Crime Prevention Officer (CPO) of the nearest police division:

☎ Central Police Division	6557 3317
Snr Staff Sergeant Junaidah Hayoon	
☎ Clementi Police Division	6872 7835
Snr Station Inspector Leow Ay Hong	
☎ Tanglin Police Division	6391 4889
Snr Staff Sergeant Adeline Goh	
☎ Ang Mo Kio Police Division	6218 1305
Station Inspector Tan Kok Meng	
☎ Bedok Police Division	6244 7027
Staff Sergeant Edwin Yee	
☎ Jurong Police Division	6896 6873
Staff Sergeant Lok Hai San	