

By Dr Raymond Chua, Honorary Secretary

# News from SMA Council

## 1. OUTREACH TO COMMUNITY GROUPS

The Outreach to Community Groups (OCG) was formed by the Government with the key objectives to better understand the various community groups' perspectives, needs and concerns, and also to obtain feedback and suggestions, which would be conveyed to the appropriate ministries/government agencies for attention or follow-up.

A Minister of State was appointed to lead each OCG; Mr S Iswaran, Minister of State for Trade and Industry was assigned to the professional groups.

On 27 October 2006, SMA hosted a dialogue session with Mr Iswaran and his team of Grassroots Advisors, from 5.30pm to 7.30pm in the Alumni Auditorium. Participants included members of the SMA Council, doctors in institution and private practice as well as representatives from the specialty bodies. Topics raised included affordable healthcare, plight of general practitioners and health issues like hearing loss.

The SMA Council would like to thank all who attended the dialogue session.

## 2. DIALOGUE WITH SMA MEMBERS

The Dialogue scheduled on 28 October 2006 was cancelled as less than five SMA Members had signed up.

The next Dialogue is scheduled on **16 January 2007 (Tuesday), 6 pm at the SMA Conference Room**. The registration form will be sent out closer to the date.

In addition to these planned sessions, the SMA Council also welcomes feedback and queries by the usual channels – mail, fax 6224 7827 or email sma@sma.org.sg.

## 3. LIFE MEMBERSHIP

We would like to draw Members' attention to Article III, Section (i) of the SMA Constitution, and in particular, the amendment (see underlined) which has been adopted with effect from 1 January 2006:

“Life membership may be granted to:

Ordinary Members who have been in continuous membership for at least five years, who have reached the age of 55 years and who have retired from active professional practice in Singapore; & Ordinary Members who have been in continuous membership for at least 20 years, on payment of a sum equivalent to 10 years' annual subscription at Ordinary rate.”

Ordinary Members who wish to apply for Life Membership can write in to the SMA Secretariat.

## 4. 47<sup>TH</sup> SMA COUNCIL – RESIGNATION & CO-OPTION

In view of Dr Tan See Leng's recent resignation from Council as a result of increased work commitments, it was

decided to co-opt **Dr Abdul Razakjr Bin Omar** for the remaining term of 2006-2007. This is in accordance with Article X, Section 4 of the SMA Constitution. Dr Razakjr has since accepted Council's co-option.

Dr Razakjr, MBBS (S), MMed (Internal Medicine) (S), MRCP (UK), FAMS (Cardiology) is a Consultant Cardiologist in National University Hospital. He is also Clinical Director, Cardiac Electrophysiology and Pacing, NUH, Clinical Director, Cardiac Rehabilitation Programme, NUH, and Clinical Director, Cardiac Electrophysiology and Pacing, Heart Institute.



## 5. SMA MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION: AUTO-DEDUCTION THROUGH UOB-SMA VISA PLATINUM CARD

The UOB-SMA Visa Platinum Card has been very well-received by SMA Members. In response to many members' requests and as a step forward, we wish to implement auto-deduction of SMA annual membership subscription fees through your UOB-SMA Visa Platinum Card, starting with January 2007. Members who stay opted-in for this scheme can also look forward to winning a pair of air-tickets to Tokyo.

For more details, please look out for our letter to members in this month's mailbag. ■