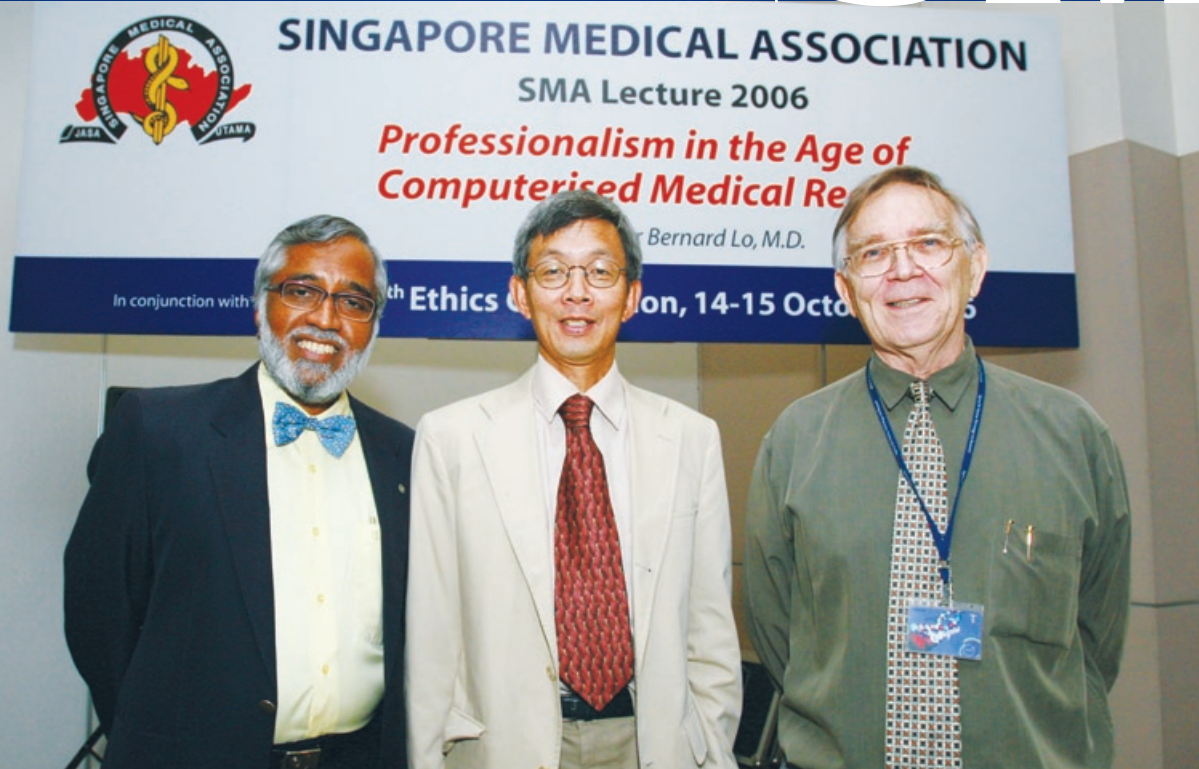


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SMA NEWS



Left-Right: Dr T Thirumoorthy, Professor Bernard Lo and Associate Professor John Elliott.



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SMA Lecture 2006 “Professionalism in the Age of Computerised Medical Records”

Delivered by SMA Lecturer Prof Bernard Lo, MD, on 14 October 2006 at Safra Mount Faber, in conjunction with the SMA Annual Ethics Convention.

Electronic medical research has the potential to strengthen clinical care, quality improvement programmes, and outcomes research. Research using existing medical records has provided important knowledge about the effectiveness and risks of widely used medications. However, electronic medical records also raise ethical dilemmas regarding informed consent and confidentiality. Breaches of confidentiality with electronic records can be more severe than breaches with paper records. Furthermore, computerised health information raises new ethical dilemmas regarding direct advertisements of new drugs to patients, the impact of email on the doctor-patient relationship, the quality of outsourced radiology readings, and the use of electronic health databases for research. Resolving these dilemmas may require new regulations and laws. In the interim, society will need to rely on physicians' professionalism to minimise the risks of electronic medical records and to ensure that the benefits outweigh the risks.

The full text of the SMA Lecture is published in the December 2006 issue of the *Singapore Medical Journal*. For the citation for SMA Lecturer 2006, Professor Bernard Lo, MD, please see page 3.

The views and opinions expressed in all the articles are those of the authors. These are not the views of the Editorial Board nor the SMA Council unless specifically stated so in writing. The contents of the Newsletter are not to be printed in whole or in part without prior written approval of the Editor.

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