



**FOR
DOCTORS,
FOR
PATIENTS**

SINGAPORE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

COUNTRY REPORT

31st CMAAO General Assembly and 52nd Council Meeting
14 – 16 September 2016
Dheva Mantra Resort and Spa,
Kanchanaburi Province, Thailand

Overview

- 57th SMA Council (2016/2017)
- Membership
- Education and Training
- Publications
- SMA Charity Fund
- Key Engagement in 2015

57th SMA Council (2016/2017)

President	Dr Wong Tien Hua	
1st Vice President	Dr Toh Choon Lai	
2nd Vice President	Adj Prof Tan Sze Wee	
Honorary Secretary	Dr Lee Hsien Chieh Daniel	
Assistant Honorary Secretary	Dr Lim Kheng Choon	
Honorary Treasurer	Dr Tammy Chan	
Assistant Honorary Treasurer	Dr Loo Kai Guo Benny	
Members	Dr Anantham Devanand A/Prof Chin Jing Jih Dr Chong Yeh Woei Dr Lee Pheng Soon Dr Lee Yik Voon Dr Ng Chee Kwan Dr Noorul Fatha As'art	A/Prof Tan Choon Kiat, Nigel Dr Tan Tze Kuang, Charles Dr Tan Tze Lee Dr Tan Yia Swam Dr Wong Chiang Yin Dr Woon Yng Yng, Bertha

Membership

- Our members are *the heart of our work*.
- Highlights of 2015
 - ❖ Broadening our representation
 - Complimentary student membership to local medical students and those studying abroad
 - Recruitment drives
 - Increased in 303 members in 2015
 - ❖ Diversifying membership events
 - Included other lifestyle events, e.g. Photography courses
 - ❖ Collaborating with promotional partners
 - Providing tangible and exclusive discounts to enhance members' professional and personal lives
 - ❖ Utilising online platforms
 - Maintaining and expanding online resources

Education and Training

- SMA Centre for Medical Ethics and Professionalism (SMA CMEP)
 - ❖ 2015 marks the 15th Anniversary
 - ❖ Core Concepts in Medical Professionalism
 - Train-the-trainers programme that aimed to allow participants to gain a deeper understanding of the important concepts of professionalism.
 - ❖ Training Module on Mental Capacity Assessment
 - Supported by the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG)
 - Developed online educational module on Mental Capacity Assessment
 - Conducted seminars on Medical Report Writing
 - ❖ Medical Ethics, Professionalism and Health Law Course
 - 2½ day mandatory course for exit certification for advanced specialist trainees, family medicine trainees and residents

Education and Training

○ Other SMA Events (2015)

❖ 46th SMA National Medical Convention

- *Good Urological Health*
- Over 400 members of the public attended, covering topics on urological health and prostate problems
- Close to 100 doctors attended, introduced recent advances in treatment and featured a share-and-learn platform on managing urological conditions

❖ SMA Lecture 2015

- Close to 100 doctors attended
- Prof Tommy Koh (Singapore's Ambassador-at-Large) delivered the lecture on *Medicine and Diplomacy*
- Prof Koh set forth that doctors on humanitarian medical mission are indirectly promoting good relations with other countries

❖ SCS-SMA Cancer Education Seminar Series

- A collaboration with Singapore Cancer Society
- 2015: Cervical, Colorectal, Prostate Cancer

Education and Training

○ Major Events in 2016

❖ The Annual National MedicoLegal Seminar 2016

- A collaboration with Medico-Legal Society of Singapore
- Topics: Medical Dispute Resolution, Human Biomedical Research Act

❖ SMA Lecture 2016

- Date: 5 November
- Lecturer: Prof Sir Sabaratnam Arulkumaran (Professor Emeritus, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, St. George's University of London)
- Theme: Health and Human Rights

❖ SCS-SMA Cancer Education Seminar Series 2016

- A collaboration with Singapore Cancer Society
- Topics: Lung, Gastric and Breast Cancer

Publications

○ Singapore Medical Journal (SMJ)

❖ Highlights of 2015

- More submissions from around the region and beyond
- Increasing reach of the journal
- 429 manuscripts received from 30 countries
- Singapore papers accounted for slightly over 50% of the manuscript submissions
- Manuscript acceptance at around 40%
- 183 articles were published
- 9352 submissions were received for the 24 monthly CME questionnaires

❖ Aim for 2016

- To encourage more of our readers to access the journal electronically (New SMJ website has gone live!)
- To optimise the online user experience
- To improve publication turnaround time

SMA Charity Fund

○ Highlights in 2015

❖ Providing Financial Assistance

- 40 full bursaries awarded
- Fund remains accessible throughout the year to allow students with unforeseen financial difficulties to apply for assistance.
- The Medical Students Living Expenses survey was conducted

❖ Supporting Learning Exposure

- ❖ Supports underprivileged medical students in their research and pursuit of further education

❖ Advocating Volunteerism

- ❖ Beyond supporting medical students financially, SMACF also seeks to benefit the community through healthcare projects
- ❖ SMA News column (From the Heart) – features volunteering opportunities and personal stories of doctors and medical students giving back to the society

SMA Charity Fund

○ Aim for 2016

- ❖ To reach out to a larger segment of needy medical students
- ❖ To support more healthcare-related projects, bringing benefits to not only medical students, but also the community at large
- ❖ To give equal opportunities to medical students from challenging family financial backgrounds to participate in medical conferences and elective postings
- ❖ To promote the flourishing of good mentoring relationships
- ❖ To build up funds held by SMACF
- ❖ To intensify outreach to medical professionals, corporations and foundations to build up the existing funds
- ❖ To identify more collaborative fundraising initiatives/events

SMA's Key Engagement in 2015

○ Representation and Advocacy

❖ Revised Singapore Medical Council (SMC) Ethical Code

- SMA conducted an extensive feedback exercise among members
- SMA reviewed the revision, coupled with inputs from SMA's honorary legal advisors
- SMA highlighted to SMC

❖ Finalised Ministry of Health (MOH) National Telemedicine Guidelines

- SMA commented that future revisions should not result in prohibitive costs, which make telemedicine untenable for smaller healthcare institutions with fewer resources.

❖ Consent forms for aesthetic procedures

- SMA raised concerns over the sample template patient consent form for aesthetic procedures provided by MOH to clinics offering aesthetic procedures

SMA's Key Engagement in 2015

○ Representation and Advocacy

❖ Ministry of Health

- SMA met with MOH officials to highlight various issues such as the future of primary care and the rising costs of medical litigation.

❖ Health Promotion Board

- SMA reiterated support for HPB's tobacco control measures. Distribution of smoking cessation collaterals to GPs to be used for information sharing with patients.

❖ Licensing Terms and Conditions (LTCs) on Electrocardiography Stress Testing (EST)

- ❖ SMA provided feedback to MOH after consultation with several senior cardiologists
- ❖ The LTCs were amended as guidelines and formally issued on 14 December 2015.

SMA's Challenges in 2016

○ Membership Representation

- ❖ How to attract the younger generation? Working through our DIT Committee

○ Engagement with Policy Makers

- ❖ Limited resources and time of SMA Council (volunteers) and the amount of policies that we can go through in detail. We may miss out problematic areas

○ Indemnity Challenges for the doctors-in-training

- ❖ Changes in Medical Indemnity landscape. Doctors-in-training are now under claims-made insurance as opposed to occurrence-based indemnity. Challenge will be to ensure adequate and continuous cover when the DIT changes employer or go into private practice. SMA is going through various platforms to educate and inform the DITs and the administrators

Thank You

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