

Singapore
Medical
Association

Country Report

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59th SMA Council (2018/2019)



59th SMA Council (2018/2019)

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



OUR MEMBERS, OUR STRENGTH

Leadership and Advocacy

Advocacy snapshot

- ▶ Complaints and disciplinary process: we conveyed members' concerns to the Ministry of Health (MOH) and Singapore Medical Council (SMC) regarding High Court and SMC disciplinary tribunal cases.
- ▶ Drug shortage: on behalf of members who were unable to acquire tetanus toxoid vaccine, SMA sought clarifications from MOH. Subsequently, MOH confirmed the presence of a global shortage and provided alternative solutions to the problem.
- ▶ Medical indemnity: we successfully negotiated with the Medical Protection Society for concessions to reduce the impact of classification changes, which resulted in fewer doctors having to pay a higher subscription rate.

Leadership and Advocacy

Submissions and engagement

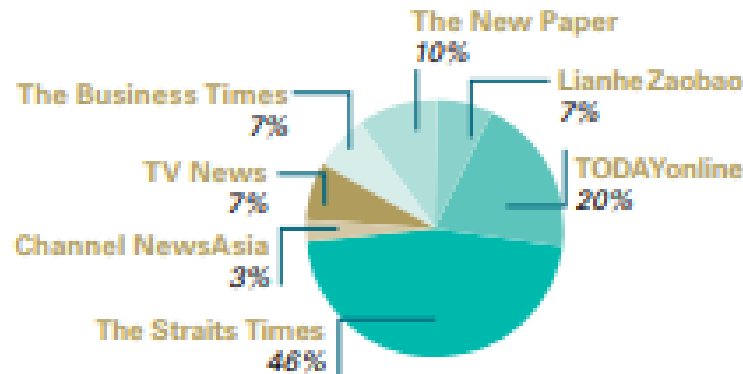
- ▶ We actively engage with policymakers, government bodies, other professional bodies and the media to help ensure that the views of our profession are well represented.
- ▶ In 2017, we made 8 submissions to government bodies across a range of healthcare-related topics, participated in 20 key government meetings, issued 3 advisories and responded to 8 media enquiries.



Leadership and Advocacy

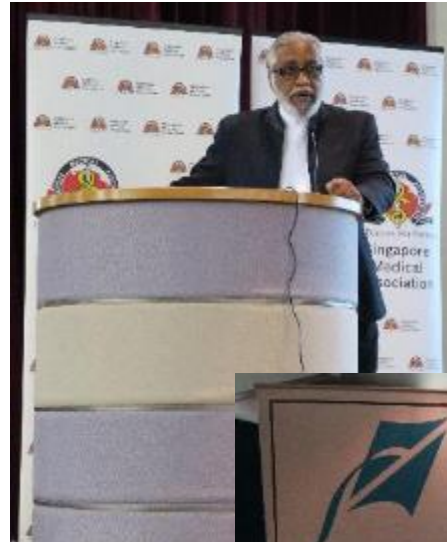
Media citations

- ▶ In 2017, the local media highlighted a number of our official positions and recommendations on important matters, such as ethical issues related to profit guarantees, patient's privacy and confidentiality, and guidelines on doctor's fee, sparking active discourse and heightening awareness of these issues.



Professional Development and Education SMA Centre for Medical Ethics and Professionalism (CMEP)

- ▶ **Mental Capacity Assessments for PWIDs**
 - ▶ A learning module and assessment tool to aid doctors in assessing the mental capacity of persons with intellectual disabilities (PWIDs).
 - ▶ Due to the lack of knowledge of PWIDs among doctors and proper tools for assessing the mental capacity of PWIDs, SMA CMEP has stepped in to fill a much-needed gap.



Professional Development and Education

SMA Centre for Medical Ethics and Professionalism (CMEP)

- ▶ **Medical Expert Witness Training**
 - ▶ In 2017, we held the third run of the course.
 - ▶ Objective: to equip medical practitioners with the legal knowledge and skills required to prepare medical expert reports and gain confidence in giving oral expert evidence in court proceedings.

Professional Development and Education

Continuing Medical Education (CME)

- ▶ In 2017, we organised 39 CME activities that provided up to 98 CME points for our members.
- ▶ CME activities comprised on-site courses with multiple runs annually and online distance-learning programmes.



Professional Development and Education

Continuing Medical Education (CME)

- ▶ Singapore Medical Week 2017
(24–26 August 2017, Sands Expo and Convention Centre)
 - ▶ SMA's first ever all-in-one event comprising:
 1. FutureMed 2017, an international medical and technology conference and expo;
 2. the 47th SMA National Medical Convention; and
 3. the 1st SMA National Medical Students' Convention.
 - ▶ Aimed to be the focal point for stakeholders in Singapore's healthcare industry, to facilitate critical discussions on vital topics of current importance and to forecast future health trends, unique ideas and new innovations.

Singapore Medical Week 2017



Professional Development and Education

Continuing Medical Education (CME)

▶ SMA Lecture

- ▶ In 2017, Dr Loo Choon Yong, Executive Chairman and Co-founder of Raffles Medical Group, delivered the SMA Lecture titled 'Internationalising Singapore Healthcare'.



Professional Development and Education

Continuing Medical Education (CME)

▶ Private Practice Seminars

- ▶ Over the years, we have responded swiftly to changes in current events and industry requirements by updating our course materials to increase their relevance to members.
- ▶ In 2017, we included a CorpPass segment in our Tax Seminar and a media management segment in our Risk Management Seminar, in response to changes in government regulations and increasing media exposure among the profession.

SMA Publications

SMA News

- ▶ An important platform for SMA to provide thought leadership and speak up on key issues that affect both doctors and patients.
- ▶ In 2017, we published numerous pieces that addressed current and pertinent issues affecting Singapore healthcare, including:
 - ▶ discussions on electronic medical records and its impact on patient privacy and confidentiality;
 - ▶ the legal and ethical implications of treating and issuing medical certificates to migrant workers; and
 - ▶ the new modified Montgomery test for medical advice.



SMA Publications

Singapore Medical Journal

- ▶ In 2017, we saw an increase in our journal impact factor.
- ▶ Introduced new initiatives, such as:
 - ▶ allowing authors to submit their ORCID, a unique identifier that helps to distinguish an author from other researchers.
- ▶ Future plans: to implement Crossref Cited-by, a function that informs authors when their work is being cited in other content.



Member Care and Engagement

Nurturing the next generation

- ▶ 1st SMA National Medical Students' Convention
 - ▶ Brought together more than 170 medical students from all three of Singapore's medical schools.
 - ▶ Young doctors had an opportunity to connect with one another and senior doctors in the profession.



Member Care and Engagement

Uniting the profession

- ▶ In 2017, we held the SMA Annual Dinner, Members' Appreciation Nite, Inter-Hospital Soccer Tournament and Tag Heuer Watch Appreciation Networking Event, bringing together DITs, senior doctors and SMA's partners to promote collegiality and camaraderie.



Member Care and Engagement

Supporting doctors

- ▶ SMA Clinic Assistant Train and Place Programme
 - ▶ After its launch in November 2016, we continued our efforts to provide good, efficient support staff for clinics through employability camps, work trials and an introductory skills course.
 - ▶ We have trained 103 clinic assistants over a one-year period and successfully placed more than 50% of them in clinics.
- ▶ SMA eMarket
 - ▶ > 60% of our members expressed interest in a central e-procurement platform for medical supplies.
 - ▶ Accessible via members' online membership portal.
 - ▶ Allows members and their clinic staff to place and track orders with various suppliers more efficiently, in real time.
 - ▶ Nearly 1,000 members have explored the SMA eMarket and many have made successful transactions since its launch in October 2017.



OUR PATIENTS, OUR PRIORITY

Patient Education and Advocacy

- ▶ Advocating for patient privacy rights
 - ▶ The National Electronic Health Record (NEHR) system has been an issue closely followed by SMA since its inception.
 - ▶ SMA highlighted to MOH our concerns about patient privacy:
 1. the right of patients to be left alone and to make decision about how personal information is shared;
 2. the need for doctors to respect patients' right to privacy; and
 3. the right of patients to be given the option to forbid their information from being uploaded to the NEHR.
 - ▶ MOH has since amended its stance, acknowledging that some patients prefer not to have their information uploaded to the NEHR.
 - ▶ MOH is considering an additional option, where patient records will not be stored in the NEHR.

Patient Education and Advocacy

- ▶ Proof of patient consent
 - ▶ In a letter to the General Insurance Association of Singapore and Life Insurance Association Singapore, we reminded insurers that proof of patient consent was needed before patients' medical reports can be released to third parties (e.g. insurance companies).
- ▶ Patient education and empowerment
 - ▶ 2017: SMA National Medical Convention's Public Symposium focused on advancements in medical technology in colorectal health, cancer treatments, cardiology and eye care – to help patients make informed decisions concerning their health and treatment options.
 - ▶ In March 2017, we had a meeting with Health Promotion Board to discuss possible collaborations in the areas of public and doctor education.

SMA

CHARITY FUND

Our Vision

*A compassionate
profession that impacts
healthcare*

Our Mission

*Strengthen medical
professionalism to
benefit the community*




SMA Charity Fund (SMACF)

- ▶ Four-pronged strategic approach, SMACF endeavours to develop a compassionate medical profession that contributes towards better healthcare in Singapore.
 1. Providing financial assistance.
 2. Advocating volunteerism.
 3. A column in SMA News, “From the Heart”, regularly features volunteering opportunities and personal stories of the medical profession giving back to society.
 4. Recognising mentorship.
- ▶ Wong Hock Boon – SMACF Outstanding Mentor Awards.
 - ▶ 10 award winners in 2017.

SMACF

2017 key highlights

▶ Since SMACF's inception in 2013,

**> \$1.2 MILLION
RAISED** 

from new initiatives (i.e. joint-named bursary, memorial donations) and direct mailers for charitable activities under SMACF

**> \$1 MILLION
DISBURSED**

for financial assistance (including funds held by the NUS Development Office)

**> 40,000 FREE
PUBLIC HEALTH SCREENINGS
CONDUCTED** in local communities to raise health awareness and to help connect people to the local healthcare system

> \$200,000 INVESTED  to promote volunteerism through print and electronic media

**> 30,000 HOURS
VOLUNTEERED** by healthcare students and medical professionals from supported community projects

**7 RESEARCH
PROJECTS
SUPPORTED** 
(including 1 overseas elective) with findings presented at medical conferences

**39 WHB-SMACF OUTSTANDING
MENTOR AWARDS** to recognise exemplary mentors who made a significant difference to the development of their students

Thank you!