



**Country Report**

**TOGETHER,  
WE CAN**



Singapore  
Medical  
Association

For Doctors, For Patients

# OVERVIEW

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- 62<sup>nd</sup> SMA Council (2021/2022)
- Advocating for the Profession
- Membership & Engagement
- Supporting Lifelong Learning

# KEY STATISTICS IN 2020

**44%**  
Ordinary  
members

**0.3%**  
Honorary  
members

**19%**  
Life  
members

**5%**  
Spouse  
members


**0.2%**  
Overseas  
members

**32%**  
Student  
members



**Total SMA Members: 8,868**

## Advocacy & Representation

-  **9** Policy submissions
-  **9** Media Statements
-  **2** Surveys
-  **4** Advisories
-  **4** Key government meetings
-  **11** Media citations

## Membership & Engagement

**10**  
COVID-19  
support  
initiatives

**4**  
Student  
engagement  
activities

over  
**30**  
Membership  
privileges

## Professional Development

**35**  
Webinars and courses

**65**  
CME activities



**10,816**  
Participants

**SMA Charity Fund**



**55** Bursaries

\$275,000 **Disbursed**

**Raised** \$234,683

# 62<sup>nd</sup> SMA COUNCIL (2021/2022)

President	Dr Tan Yia Swam	
1st Vice-President	Dr Ng Chee Kwan	
2nd Vice-President	Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui	
Honorary Secretary	Dr Ng Chew Lip	
Assistant Honorary Secretary	Dr Benny Loo Kai Guo	
Honorary Treasurer	Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh	
Assistant Honorary Treasurer	Dr Chie Zhi Ying	
Members	Dr Anantham Devanand	Adj Prof Tan Sze Wee
	Dr Lee Pheng Soon	Adj Asst Prof Tan Tze Lee
	Dr Lee Yee Mun	Dr Tan Zhenwen Tina
	Dr Lim Kheng Choon	Dr Toh Choon Lai
	Dr Ivan Low Jinrong	Dr Wong Chiang Yin
	Dr Low Tchern Kuang Lambert	Dr Wong Tien Hua
	Dr Raj Kumar Menon	

# Advocating for the Profession

- **Health Insurance**

SMA, together with the Gastroenterological Society of Singapore and Society of Colorectal Surgeons (Singapore), sent a joint letter to The Straits Times Forum which was published on 28 August 2020, to highlight concerns relating to the exclusion of coverage for diagnostic endoscopies under Integrated Shield Plans (IPs) offered by some insurance companies. We were concerned that denial of coverage for diagnostic endoscopies may lead to diagnostic delays and poorer outcomes.

- **Disciplinary Process and Informed Consent**

SMA has been actively involved in providing feedback on issues related to the disciplinary process and informed consent.

- **Disassociation with Doctor Directory Website**

SMA received complaints from members that their practice particulars were included, without their permission, on the DoctorxDentist (DxD) website. The website publishes doctor directories and purports to offer cost estimates for consultation and/or facilitate booking of appointments to see doctors on behalf of patients.

# Membership & Engagement

- **Supporting Members during COVID-19**

COVID-19 came like a fast and furious tidal wave, hitting everyone when we least expected it. With cases rising, protecting our members who were front-line healthcare workers (HCWs) became our priority.

SMA managed to secure supplies of N95 and surgical masks, which were expected to run low due to overwhelming demand, for distribution to members of SMA and College of Family Physicians Singapore (CFPS).

With the generous donation of hand sanitisers by Temasek Foundation and venue support by Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF), SMA conducted “Bring Your Own Bottle” (BYOB) Hand Sanitiser Distribution Exercise for registered medical and dental clinics.

- **Engagement with Student Leaders**

SMA had the privilege of working alongside young student members from the three local universities, as well as student members from the Singapore Medical Society of Australia and New Zealand (SMSANZ), the Singapore Medical Society of the United Kingdom (SMSUK), and the Singapore Medical Society of Ireland. Conducted virtually via Zoom, these meetings gave students a safe space to share their challenges and how they coped with changes to their study schedule and practical learning during the pandemic.

# Membership & Engagement

- **Staying Positive for Our Front-liners**

2020 was a challenging year for everyone, but it was even more so for HCWs. Not only did they face very real dangers at their workplaces, but they also sacrificed family time with their loved ones and faced discrimination from the public due to fears of cross-contamination. Nevertheless, SMA remained positive and did our best to encourage our members who were in the front-line to keep up their spirit and continue the good fight.

#SGArtforHCW, a social media campaign, was initiated by SMA in February 2020 to galvanise public support for our front-liners through artworks.

On a tangible level, the DIT Committee was able to secure numerous food and beverage (F&B) promotions for HCWs as a way of appreciating them for their sacrifices and hard work.

- **Members' Appreciation Gift**

The SMA annual Members' Appreciation Nite was put on hold in 2020 due to COVID-19 safe-distancing measures. We have specially prepared an SMA mask (or "SMAsk" for short) for our members and volunteers, as a token of our appreciation for their continued support for SMA.

# Supporting Lifelong Learning

- **Medicine, Doctors and the Law Series**

This is a newly minted educational series comprising six seminars for professional development of medical doctors. Specially designed for doctors above the Associate Consultant level in leadership of teams and departments, this series serves as a useful fundamental course to prepare consultants who may be called upon to sit in judgement of colleagues at inquiries or deal with complaints.

Seminar	Title
1	Introduction to Health Law and Systems Governing Medicine and Doctors
2	Professional Accountability and Singapore Medical Council
3	Medical Negligence – Understanding the Concepts, Processes and Defence
4	Risk Management for Doctors – The Basics
5	Core Concept in Consent
6	Important Legal Statutes in Medical Practice



# Supporting Lifelong Learning

- **Telemedicine: Continued Care in a COVID-19 World**

Remote medical consultation during a pandemic was addressed in this telemedicine (TM) webinar held on Saturday, 13 June 2020. We saw close to 1,800 attendees, one of the highest attendances for an SMA event, which attests to the growing interest in and demand for TM among doctors and patients.

- **Sharing Session on COVID-19 Vaccination Strategy**

MOH and SMA co-organised this webinar on Saturday, 9 Dec 2020 to update doctors on the plans for COVID-19 vaccination. About 1,000 attendees participated in the event, which was moderated by SMA Council Member, Adj Prof Tan Sze Wee.

# Supporting Lifelong Learning

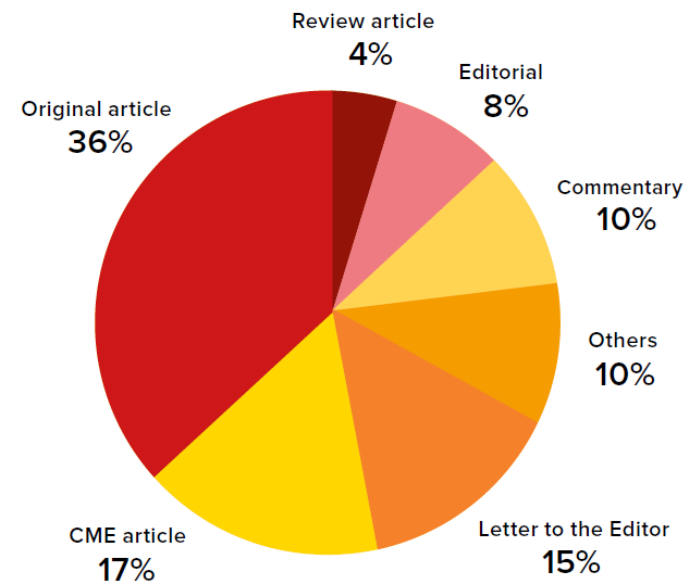
- Singapore Medical Journal

COVID-19 has had a tremendous impact on all aspects of our lives. During this challenging period, the important work at the editorial office of the *Singapore Medical Journal (SMJ)* continued unabated.

Last year, the *SMJ* called for academic papers related to COVID-19. Submitted articles underwent rapid peer review and early online publication upon acceptance. This was in response to a dynamic situation, with rapid emergence of new scientific data.

As the pandemic continues, the *SMJ* has launched COVID-19 Case Files, a new time-limited category for article submissions. We are calling for papers that discuss up to a maximum of three COVID-19 cases that are novel or complex and present diagnostic, therapeutic or management challenges. Contributions will enrich scholarship on this ongoing topic and serve as a reference for local and global researchers.

## SMJ Articles Published in 2020



# Supporting Lifelong Learning

## *Singapore Medical Journal's* Journal Impact Factor (JIF)



**5-YEAR JIF: 2.053**

**2020 JIF: 1.858**

JIF without self cites: 1.778

*Thanks to all our contributors and supporters.  
We couldn't have done it without you!*

**Thank you!**