

## SINGAPORE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



CHONG Yeh Woei\*<sup>1</sup>

### SMA Developments

#### Membership

As at August 2010, the total membership of the Singapore Medical Association stood at 5,277. This represented 57% of all 9,335 registered practitioners in Singapore.

#### 51st SMA Council

The following are the office bearers for the 51st SMA Council for the year 2010/2011.

President	Dr. Chong Yeh Woei
1st Vice President	Dr. Toh Choon Lai
2nd Vice President	A/Prof. Chin Jing Jih
Honorary Secretary	Dr. Abdul Razak Omar
Honorary Treasurer	Dr. Tammy Chan
Honorary Asst. Secretary	Dr. Wong Tien Hua
Honorary Asst. Treasurer	Dr. Lee Yik Voon
Members	Dr. Noorul Fatha As'art Dr. Chow U-Jin Dr. Lee Pheng Soon Dr. Tan Sze Wee Dr. Tan Yia Swam Dr. Toh Han Chong Dr. Wong Chiang Yin Prof. Wong Tien Yin Dr. Bertha Woon

#### Conferences & seminars

##### SMA Lecture, 30 January 2010

Instituted in 1963, themes are centred on medical ethics and related topics. The lecture, "Entrepreneurship in Medicine—Resolving Conflicts of Interest in For-Profit Medical Enterprise" was held at the Health Promotion Board Auditorium, and presented by Dr. T. Thirumoorthy.

##### SMA House Officers Seminar

168 newly minted house officers attended the House Officers Seminar on 24 April 2010 at the National University of Singapore. Talks during

the seminar included topics such as "Being a Doctor: What it means to be professional," "Morning Ward Round" and "Night Duty."

##### SMA Annual Dinner 2010

Held on 8 May 2010, the SMA Annual Dinner was organised at the Shangri-La Hotel. The Guest-of-Honour was Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Balaji Sadasivan. SMA also conferred the SMA Honorary Membership on SMS Balaji Sadasivan, Prof. Tan Cheng Lim, and Prof. Woo Keng Thye. This is the highest honour that SMA can bestow on persons who are distinguished in public life or who have rendered meritorious service to the medical profession or to the association.

##### SMA 41st Annual Medical Convention, 10 July 2010

The theme of this year's Convention was "20/10 Trends In Eye Care," and it was attended by more than 600 participants. The talk focused on the latest updates on early prevention or treatment of common eye problems, including glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, cataract, myopia, age-related macular degeneration, as well as LASIK. Free eye screening was also presented to the public, an effort on the part of the SMA and the Singapore National Eye Centre (SNEC) to provide the benefits of early detection, as well as to facilitate timely treatment. The eye screening was an inter-institution collaboration, and doctors conducting the screening came from SNEC as well as three other hospitals.

##### Other seminars & workshops

Throughout the year 2010, the SMA Centre for Medical Ethics & Professionalism (CMEP) organised an Advanced Specialist Training Course on Medical Ethics, Professionalism and Health Law. The course equips trainees with necessary communication skills and working knowledge of clinical ethics and local health

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This article is based on a presentation made as the annual activity report during the Country Report session at the 46th CMAAO Mid-term Council Meeting, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on September 17, 2010.

statutes. In addition, trainees develop more systematic and professional approaches to common ethical and medico-legal issues in Singapore.

SMA also helps to co-organise the Medical Protection Society (MPS) “Mastering Your Risk” and “Managing Adverse Outcomes” workshops, an interactive 3-hour workshop presented by doctors on practical communication techniques and skills to assist doctor-patient interactions.

The SMA Guideline on Fees was withdrawn on 1 April 2007 after SMA received indications that GOF might contravene the Competition Act. Arising from recent exchange of correspondence with the Competition Commission of Singapore (CCS), SMA submitted an application for a decision on whether GOF could be excluded from the Competition Act. The application fee of S\$5,000 was paid by Council Members and a well-wisher. The CCS has come to the decision that the GOF cannot be excluded, and will infringe the Competition Act if re-instated.

## Country Developments

### Division of Singapore’s health facilities into 5 clusters

The public healthcare facilities now fall under 5 broad clusters: Alexandra Health Pte Ltd, Jurong Health Services, the National Healthcare Group, National University Health System, and Singapore Health Services. These integrated net-

works enable comprehensive, and yet affordable quality healthcare services through co-operation and collaboration between public healthcare establishments.

### Amendments to the Human Organ Transplant Act (HOTA)

The HOTA allows for the kidney, liver, heart and cornea to be recovered in the event of death from any cause for the purpose of transplantation.

From 1 November 2009, HOTA will cover all Singaporean citizens and Permanent Residents of 21 years and above, who are of sound mind, unless they have opted out. The upper age limit of 60 years has been removed.

Besides deceased organ donation, HOTA also provides for the regulation of living donor organ transplantation (i.e. the removal of organs from a living donor for transplantation into a patient).

### Medisave for approved overseas hospitalisation

From 1 March 2010, Singapore residents will be able to use their Medisave to help pay for their hospitalisation overseas under certain conditions, so as to give patients wider choice, and to allow them to take advantage of the lower cost of hospitalisation overseas.

The scheme will start off with two providers: Health Management International and Parkway Holdings Pte Ltd.



## SINGAPORE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION COUNTRY REPORT

*Presented at the 46th CMAAO MID TERM COUNCIL MEETING*

**DR CHONG YEH WOEI**  
President, 51<sup>st</sup> Council  
Singapore Medical Association

## Membership

❖ As at August 2010, total membership of the Singapore Medical Association stood at **5,277**.

❖ This represents **57%** of all 9,335 registered medical practitioners in Singapore.

❖ Percentage of doctors who are SMA members has dropped to 60% and below in recent years, mainly due to the influx of foreign-trained doctors which has increased the overall number of doctors in Singapore. SMA is currently working with the public hospitals to reach out to this group.






**51<sup>st</sup> Council 2010-11**

<b>President</b>	Dr CHONG Yeh Woei
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b>	Dr TOH Choon Lai
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b>	A/Prof CHIN Jing Jih
<b>Honorary Secretary</b>	Dr Abdul Razakjr OMAR
<b>Honorary Treasurer</b>	Dr Tammy CHAN Teng Mui
<b>Honorary Asst Secretary</b>	Dr WONG Tien Hua
<b>Honorary Asst Treasurer</b>	Dr LEE Yik Voon

**Members**


Dr CHOW U-Jin	Dr TAN Yia Swam
Dr TOH Han Chong	Dr WONG Chiang Yin
Dr LEE Pheng Soon	Prof WONG Tien Yin
Dr TAN Sze Wee	Dr Bertha WOON Yng Yng
Dr Noorul Fatha AS'ART	



**Conventions & Seminars**

**SMA Lecture**

- ❖ Held on 30 January 2010.
- ❖ Instituted in 1963, themes are centred on medical ethics and related topics. The lecture, "**Entrepreneurship in Medicine – Resolving Conflicts of Interest in For-Profit Medical Enterprise**" was held at the Health Promotion Board Auditorium, and presented by Dr T Thirumoorthy.



**Conventions & Seminars**

**SMA House Officers Seminar**

- ❖ 24 Apr 2010.
- ❖ Attended by 168 house officers.
- ❖ Talks included "What makes a good house officer?", "Being a doctor: What it means to be professional", "Medical indemnity", "Changes", "Night duty", etc.



**Conventions & Seminars**

**SMA Annual Dinner 2010**

- ❖ 8 May 2010
- ❖ Guest-of-Honour was Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr Balaji Sadasivan. During the dinner, SMA also conferred the SMA Honorary Membership on SMS Balaji Sadasivan, Prof Tan Cheng Lim, and Prof Woo Keng Thy.



## Conventions & Seminars

### 41<sup>st</sup> SMA Medical Convention

❖ 10 July 2010: "20/10 Trends In Eye Care". Talks focused on latest updates on early prevention or treatment of common eye problems, with free eye screening.

❖ Over 600 participants, including healthcare professionals and members of the public.



## Conventions & Seminars

### AST Course on Medical Ethics, Professionalism & Health Law



❖ Organised throughout the year.

❖ Equip trainees with necessary communication skills & working knowledge of clinical ethics & local health statutes.

❖ Help trainees develop more systematic & professional approach to common ethical & medico-legal issues in Singapore.



## Conventions & Seminars

### MPS "Mastering Your Risk" and "Managing Adverse Outcomes" Workshops

❖ Interactive 3-hour workshop presented by doctors.

❖ Practical communication techniques & skills to assist doctor-patient interactions:

- Understand why patients complain & sue;
- Why certain 'bedside' manners expose some doctors to increased risk;
- Link between communication skills and patient dissatisfaction.



## Publications & Surveys



## Publications & Surveys

### SMA Guideline on Fees (GOF)

❖ Withdrawn on 1 April 2007 after SMA received indications that GOF might contravene Competition Act.

❖ Arising from recent exchange of correspondence with the Competition Commission of Singapore (CCS), SMA submitted an application for a decision on whether GOF could be excluded from the Competition Act. The application fee of S\$5,000 was paid by Council Members and a well-wisher.

❖ CCS decision that the GOF could not be excluded, and will infringe the Competition Act if re-instated



## Country Developments



## Division of Health Facilities

### **Division of Singapore's Health Facilities into 5 Clusters**

❖ The public healthcare facilities now fall under 5 broad clusters: Alexandra Health Pte Ltd, Jurong Health Services, the National Healthcare Group, National University Health System, and Singapore Health Services. These integrated networks enable comprehensive, and yet affordable quality healthcare services through co-operation and collaboration between public healthcare establishments.

SMA 1953  
2009  
Years

## Human Organ Transplant Act



### **Proposed Amendments to Human Organ Transplant Act (HOTA)**

❖ Proposed changes include lifting of upper age limit of 60 years for deceased donors, paired matching, compensation of living donors, and increasing penalties for organ trading.

❖ From 1 November 2009, HOTA will cover all Singaporean citizens and Permanent Residents of 21 years and above, who are of sound mind, unless they have opted out. The upper age limit of 60 years has been removed.

SMA 1953  
2009  
Years

## Medisave

### **Medisave for Approved Overseas Hospitalisation**

❖ From 1 March 2010, Singapore residents will be able to use their Medisave to help pay for their hospitalisation overseas under certain conditions, so as to give patients wider choice, and to allow them to take advantage of the lower cost of hospitalisation overseas.

❖ The scheme will start off with two providers: Health Management International and Parkway Holdings Pte Ltd.

*Thank You*