

SINGAPORE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



CHONG Yeh Woei*¹

Overview

- SMA membership; 52nd Council
- SMA activities
 - Conventions & seminars
 - Publications & new media
 - Feedback—recognition of MCs by doctors
- International relations

Membership

- Total membership of the Singapore Medical Association represents 53.5% of all 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

Activities

Conventions & seminars

Talk by Medical Protection Society

- 26 June 2011: “Informed Consent—Where Are We Heading?”

SMA Annual Dinner 2011

- 14 May 2011

42nd SMA Medical Convention

- 20 August 2011: “Come Grow Old with Me: Successful and Active Ageing in the Community”

Medicine Debates 2011

- 13 August 2011: Motion—“Women are better off making lives than saving lives”
- Organised by SMA and the two local medical

schools

SMA Lecture 2011

- 5 November 2011: “Medical Practice and the next ICE Age”

MPS Essential Risk Management Workshop Series

- Held throughout the year
- “Managing Adverse Outcomes”
- “Managing Difficult Interactions with Patients”
- “Mastering Professional Interactions”
- “Mastering Your Risk”

AST Course on Medical Ethics, Professionalism & Health Law

- Held throughout the year
- Compulsory requirement for exit certification from specialist training

Publications & new media

Monthly publications

- Singapore Medical Journal
- SMA News

New media

- SMA on Facebook

Feedback—recognition of MCs by doctors

- 29 June 2011: Dr. Yik Keng Yeong wrote to the Straits Times, suggesting ways to reduce queues at polyclinics
- 9 July 2011: SMA suggested that Employment Act should be reviewed and amended to recognise MCs issued by registered medical practitioners

International relations

- Member of MASEAN, CMAAO and WMA

*¹ President, Singapore Medical Association, Singapore (sma@sma.org.sg).

This article is based on a presentation made as a Report of Activities of each NMA at the 27th CMAAO General Assembly, Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C., on November 11, 2011.

COUNTRY REPORT

CMAAO
10-12 November 2011, Taipei,
Taiwan



Service Before Self

President
Dr Chong Yeh Woei
Singapore Medical Association

+ OVERVIEW

- SMA membership; 52nd Council
- SMA activities
 - Conventions & seminars
 - Publications & new media
 - Feedback – recognition of MCs by doctors
- International relations

+ MEMBERSHIP

- Total membership of the Singapore Medical Association (SMA) represents 53.5% of all 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

+ 52nd SMA COUNCIL (2011-12)



52 nd COUNCIL (2011-12)	
President	Dr Chong Yeh Woei
1 st Vice President	A/Prof CHIN Jing Jih
2 nd Vice President	Dr TOH Choon Lai
Honorary Secretary	Dr WONG Tien Hua
Honorary Treasurer	Dr LEE Yik Voon
Honorary Asst Secretary	Dr Tammy CHAN
Honorary Asst Treasurer	Dr TAN Yia Swam
Members	
Dr CHOW U-Jin	Dr TOH Han Chong
Dr Noorul FATHA As'ast	Dr Bertha WOON
Dr LEE Pheng Soon	Dr WONG Chiang Yin
Dr Abdul RAZAKJR Omar	Prof WONG Tien Yin
Dr TAN Sze Wee	

+ CONVENTIONS & SEMINARS



+ CONVENTIONS & SEMINARS

Talk by Medical Protection Society

- 26 June 2011: "Informed Consent – Where Are We Heading?"
- Seminar arising from increasingly litigious environment and physician uncertainty
- Talk covering doctor's perspectives, the view of the MPS, and the experience of the Singapore Medical Council

+ CONVENTIONS & SEMINARS

SMA Annual Dinner 2011

- 14 May 2011
- Guest of Honour was Dr Tan Cheng Bock. During the dinner, SMA also conferred the SMA Honorary Membership on Dr Charles Toh and Dr Tan Kok Soo



+ CONVENTIONS & SEMINARS

SMA Annual Dinner 2011



+ CONVENTIONS & SEMINARS

42nd SMA Medical Convention

- 20 August 2011: "Come Grow Old with Me: Successful and Active Ageing in the Community"
- Public symposium focused on managing medications, aches and pains, and staying mentally and physically active
- Medical symposium discussed management of common issues in geriatric patients, treating high blood pressure, as well as safe and effective prescribing for elderly patients with multiple comorbidities

+ CONVENTIONS & SEMINARS

42nd SMA Medical Convention



+ CONVENTIONS & SEMINARS

Medicine Debates 2011

- 13 August 2011: Motion – "Women are better off making lives than saving lives"
- Addressed a sensitive and important issue: the challenges faced by the modern woman in juggling work and family, particularly with a demanding career in the medical profession
- Organised by SMA, National University of Singapore Medical Society and Duke-NUS Student Council
- Meant as an opportunity to allow students from the two local medical schools, NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine and Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School, to develop friendships

+ CONVENTIONS & SEMINARS
Medicine Debates 2011



+ CONVENTIONS & SEMINARS

SMA Lecture 2011

- 5 November 2011: "Medical Practice and the next ICE Age"
- Delivered by Dr Tan Lai Yong, who left Singapore in 1996 to run a village doctors training programme in Yunnan, China. He returned to Singapore in 2010
- Drawing from his experiences learnt from working amongst poverty affected communities, Dr Tan shares on practicing Medicine both as an art and a science in today's society of varied expectations and resources

+ CONVENTIONS & SEMINARS

MPS Essential Risk Management Workshop Series

- Organised throughout the year
- "Managing Adverse Outcomes", "Managing Difficult Interactions with Patients", "Mastering Professional Interactions" and "Mastering Your Risk"
- Presented by doctors, free for MPS members
- Practical communication techniques and skills to assist doctor-patient interactions:
 - Understand why patients complain and sue;
 - Link between communication skills and patient dissatisfaction
 - Examine doctor-doctor communication in view of issues such as patient referrals and clinical handover

+ CONVENTIONS & SEMINARS

AST Course on Medical Ethics, Professionalism & Health Law

- Organised throughout the year
- Compulsory requirement for exit certification from specialist training
- Equip trainees with necessary communication skills and working knowledge of clinical ethics and local health statutes
- Help trainees develop more systematic and professional approach to common ethical and medico-legal issues in Singapore

+ PUBLICATIONS & NEW MEDIA

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Monthly publications

- Singapore Medical Journal (SMJ)
- SMA News



+ PUBLICATIONS & NEW MEDIA

New media

Facebook



■ <http://www.facebook.com/singaporemedicalassociation>

+ FEEDBACK

+ FEEDBACK

Recognition of MCs by doctors

- 29 June 2011: Dr Yik Keng Yeong wrote to the Straits Times, suggesting ways to reduce queues at polyclinics
- He stated that many workers are "forced to visit government clinics as some employers refuse to recognise medical certificates (MCs) issued by GPs"
- The Ministry of Health, SMA and the Ministry of Manpower responded to this issue
- 9 July 2011: SMA suggested that Employment Act should be reviewed and amended to recognise MCs issued by registered medical practitioners

+ INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



+ INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Membership

- Medical Association of South-East Asian Nations (MASEAN)
- CMAAO
- World Medical Association (WMA)

+ Thank You