

SINGAPORE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



Lee Yik VOON*¹

Membership

The Singapore Medical Association (SMA) is currently 6,200 members and growing. There are approximately 10,500 registered medical professionals and about 1,300 to 1,500 medical students in Singapore, and SMA membership represents approximately 50% of all registered medical practitioners in Singapore. SMA represents 60% of locally trained doctors, and about 30% of foreign trained ones. One of SMA's challenges is making it meaningful for foreign trained foreign doctors to become members in their limited time here. A recent student membership drive has been extremely successful, with over 1,000 medical students signing up. This represents approximately 75% of total medical student population in Singapore.

Events

Through organising events, SMA aims to build relevance and tangible benefits for members. This is done via increasing frequency of courses throughout the year to impact more members, increasing type of events throughout the year to reach a wider group of members, and creating price differentials between members and non-members. Events held in 2012 include Special Interest Talks (which focus on humanitarian

aspects of medical care), SMA Annual Dinner, 43rd SMA National Medical Convention: HealThy Mind, HealThy Life, Death Certification Course, Medical Expert Witness Course, Private Practice Symposium, and so on.

Publications and New Media

SMA has two monthly publications, *Singapore Medical Journal* and *SMA News*, which both underwent a revamp in content and layout in 2012. SMA also has a presence on Facebook, at: <http://www.facebook.com/singaporemedicalassociation>.

Feedback

In September 2012, Singapore's Lemon Law came into force. It aimed to provide more options in terms of recourse for both consumers and retailers through additional remedies. SMA wrote to Consumers Association of Singapore (CASE) to clarify queries about the law, with regard to medical services, medicines and medical devices. CASE replied that medical services, like all other kinds of services, are not subjected to the Lemon Law, while the other two are covered under the law. This information was disseminated to membership via the October 2012 issue of *SMA News*.

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This article is based on a presentation made as the Report of Activities by each NMA at the 48th CMAAO Mid-term Council, Macau, China, on November 9, 2012.

Dr Lee Yik Voon
Singapore Medical Association

+ OVERVIEW

- SMA Membership
- 53rd SMA Council
- SMA Events
- SMA Publications & New Media
- SMA Feedback

+ MEMBERSHIP

- 6,200 members and growing. There are approximately 10,500 registered medical professionals in Singapore and about 1,300-1,500 medical students
- Total membership of the Singapore Medical Association (SMA) represents approximately 50% of all registered medical practitioners in Singapore
- Breaking it down, it represents more than 60% of locally trained doctors, and about 30% of foreign trained ones
- **Challenge:** Making it meaningful for foreign trained foreign doctors to be members of the SMA in their limited time here

+ MEMBERSHIP

- **Student Membership:** Recent student membership drive has been extremely successful, with over 1,000 medical students signing up
 - This represents approximately 75% of total medical student population in Singapore
 - Collaborative approach with medical student leadership of both YLLSoM and Duke-NUS GMS Student Council
 - **Aim:** to build a natural transition from Students > Doctors in Training > Doctors where SMA has a committee/workgroup focused on understanding and advocating on their behalf to help build a better healthcare system

+ 53rd SMA COUNCIL (2012-13)

53 rd SMA COUNCIL (2012-13) 2012: Elected new and younger members	
President	A/Prof CHIN Jing Jih
1 st Vice President	Dr CHONG Yeh Woei
2 nd Vice President	Dr WONG Tien Hua
Honorary Secretary	Dr Tammy CHAN
Honorary Asst Secretary	Dr LEE Yik Voon
Honorary Treasurer	A/Prof TAN Sze Wee
Honorary Asst Treasurer	Dr CHOW U-Jin
Members	
Dr Abdul RAZAKJR Omar	Dr TOH Choon Lai
Dr CHIA Ghim Song	Dr TOH Han Chong
Dr Daniel LEE	Dr WONG Chiang Yin
Dr LEE Pheng Soon	Prof WONG Tien Yin
Dr Noorul FATHA As'art	Dr Bertha WOON
Dr TAN Yia Swam	



EVENTS

+ EVENTS

- **Aim: Building relevance and tangible benefit for membership**
- Increasing frequency of courses throughout the year to impact more members
- Increasing type of events throughout the year to reach a wider group of members
- Creating price differentials between members and non-members

+ EVENTS

Special Interest Talks

- Focuses on humanitarian aspects of medical care
- February: Dr Ang Swee Chai (targeting older Singaporean doctors who know her)
- October: Dr Nicholas Coatsworth from MSF Australia (targeting medical students and younger doctors who wants to explore and venture)

+ EVENTS

SMA Annual Dinner 2012

- 12 May 2012
- Guest of Honour was former Prime Minister Mr Lee Kuan Yew
- During the dinner, SMA also conferred the SMA Honorary Membership on Mr Lee

+ EVENTS

43rd SMA Medical Convention

- In collaboration with the Office of the Public Guardian
- 8 September 2012: "HealThy Mind, HealThy Life", featuring topics on Mental Health
- Medical symposium covered topics like psychosis, insomnia and doctors' mental health
- Public symposium focused on the mental health issues that commonly afflict those in different age groups and also different topics related to the Mental Capacity Act

+ EVENTS

Upcoming SMA Conference

- 23-24 November 2012
- Conference + training workshop
- Aims to bring together local healthcare professionals and international colleagues
- Participants will learn more about the concepts, issues and challenges of professional accountability and professional misconduct

+ SOME OTHER EVENTS

- SMA-SMU Healthcare Advanced Management Programme
- Understanding Tax and Budget 2012
- Death Certification Course
- Medical Expert Witness Course
- Private Practice Symposium
- Medicine Debate 2012 (for medical students)
- BCLS/CPR + AED Courses

+ PUBLICATIONS & NEW MEDIA

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Monthly publications

- Singapore Medical Journal (SMJ)
- SMA News
- Both underwent a revamp in content and layout in 2012



+ PUBLICATIONS & NEW MEDIA

New media

Facebook



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

+ FEEDBACK

+ FEEDBACK

Lemon Law

- 1 September 2012: Singapore's Lemon Law came into force, to provide more options in terms of recourse for both consumers and retailers through additional remedies
- 21 September 2012: SMA wrote to Consumers Association of Singapore (CASE) to clarify queries about the law, with regard to medical services, medicines and medical services
- 2 October 2012: CASE replied that medical services, like all other kinds of services, are not subjected to the Lemon Law, while the other two are covered under the law
- Information disseminated to membership in SMA News October 2012