

ENRICHING OUR PROFESSION

SMA 65th Annual Report
2024/2025



Singapore
Medical
Association

For Doctors. For Patients

ABOUT SMA

The Singapore Medical Association (SMA) was formed in 1959 and is the national medical organisation representing the majority of medical practitioners in both the public and private sectors. SMA's slogan, "For Doctors, For Patients", reflects our recognition that the doctor-patient relationship lies at the heart of any scientific revelation, technological innovation, policy decision and business practice that affects healthcare, as well as our commitment to protect this relationship.

OUR MOTTO

Jasa Utama, "Service before Self"

OUR OBJECTIVES

- To promote the medical and allied sciences in Singapore;
- To maintain the honour and interests of the medical profession;
- To foster and preserve the unity and aim of purpose of the medical profession as a whole;
- To voice its opinion, and to acquaint the Government and other relevant bodies with the policies and attitudes of the profession;
- To support a higher standard of medical ethics and conduct;
- To enlighten and direct public opinion on the problems of health in Singapore; and
- To publish papers, journals and other materials in furtherance of these objectives.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



L to R: **Dr Ng Chee Kwan**, President; **Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh**, 1st Vice President; **Clin Asst Prof Lim Kheng Choon**, 2nd Vice President

Advocating for the medical profession remained at the forefront of the Singapore Medical Association's (SMA) work in the past year. We continued to engage the Ministry of Health (MOH) and key stakeholders on shaping healthcare policies and in ensuring that our members have access to the resources and support they need.

We wrote to the *Straits Times* Forum to highlight the issue of power imbalance between Integrated Shield Plan (IP) insurers and policyholders, suggesting that stakeholders and regulators consider changes in private health insurance design, such as the portability of IPs, to benefit policyholders. As a member of the Multilateral Health Insurance Committee, we advocated for fair dealing for panel insurance doctors and for publication of insurer's panel statistics.

I am glad to see that our new mandatory medical ethics (MME) continuing medical education programmes were well received by members. In 2024, more than 16,000 MME points were claimed through our

programmes. Much thanks and appreciation go to the SMA Centre for Medical Ethics and Professionalism, its faculty, the SMA Secretariat and the support of our members. We saw a steady stream of members joining the SMA, many of whom were returning members. Several members had also taken up Spouse Membership, which is one of the complimentary benefits of SMA membership. I sincerely hope that our members will recognise the value of SMA membership and stay with us for many more years to come.

With the impending introduction of the Health Information Bill (HIB), which will mandate the contribution of selected key health information to the National Electronic Health Record, SMA engaged MOH regarding the medical profession's concerns on patient autonomy and privacy. We also partnered MOH and various stakeholders including cybersecurity experts in a webinar titled "Cybersecurity in Healthcare: Protecting What Matters Most",

held on 8 March 2025. Several participants expressed deep concerns about complying with the new cybersecurity requirements, and how compliance would lead to increased operating costs. We look forward to having further dialogue with MOH, as well as engaging cybersecurity providers, so that we can better support our members in ensuring compliance with the new HIB, while managing the resultant cost impact.

SMA represents junior doctors through the SMA Doctors-in-Training (DIT) Committee, which advocates actively to the authorities and stakeholders in areas such as career development, working conditions and well-being. The DIT Committee also organises workshops and engagement events and has made available educational resources useful to junior doctors. More recently, we wrote to the Singapore Medical Council (SMC), providing feedback on the process for conditional to full registration. Both our letter and SMC's response were published in the November 2024 issue of *SMA News*.

SMA frequently organises social and networking events for members, and 2024 was no exception. The SMA Annual Dinner seeks to recognise the contributions of the medical profession and volunteers who have contributed to SMA's work. In 2024, the SMA Honorary Membership was conferred upon Emeritus Prof Kua Ee Heok and Prof Rajmohan Nambiar, both of whom are highly distinguished members of the medical profession. Our SMA Annual Golf Tournament saw an excellent turnout, with 88 golfers gathered at Orchid Country Club for a day of sporting fun, followed by a prize presentation as part of the dinner programme. And as a token of appreciation to our volunteers and members, we held the SMA Members' Appreciation Night on 12 December 2024. The cinema hall was almost fully filled for the screening of *The Lord of the Rings: The War of the Rohirrim*.

The SMA Secretariat has settled into its new premises at Bukit Merah Central since July 2024. We had to move out in 2024 as the lease at the SMF Building could not be extended. Our main line remains unchanged, and members visiting the new office are encouraged to call ahead and make an appointment.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and deepest gratitude to SMA members and colleagues who have supported SMA in many ways. I also hope you will encourage your colleagues and friends to sign up for membership, participate in our social or professional events, or join us in advocating for the profession by volunteering on our various committees. If you have any feedback or wish to join any of our committees, do write to us at [**sma@sma.org.sg**](mailto:sma@sma.org.sg).



Dr Ng Chee Kwan
President

HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT



L to R: **Clin Asst Prof Benny Loo Kai Guo**, Honorary Secretary; **Dr Chie Zhi Ying**, Honorary Assistant Secretary

In 2024, the SMA actively represented the interests of doctors and patients through various channels. As a member of the Multilateral Health Insurance Committee, we engaged with representatives from the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the Life Insurance Association of Singapore to advocate for greater transparency and improvements in private healthcare insurance. SMA and the Academy of Medicine, Singapore also submitted a joint letter to the Financial Industry Disputes Resolution Centre (FIDReC) to provide feedback on proposed amendments to their Terms of Reference, and proposed changes to empower FIDReC to directly handle health insurance disputes. Additionally, SMA wrote to the *Straits Times* Forum to highlight the issue of power imbalance between Integrated Shield Plan (IP) providers and policyholders, and we suggested that stakeholders and regulators consider

changes in insurance design, such as the portability of IPs, to benefit policyholders.

The SMA Centre for Medical Ethics and Professionalism (CMEP) successfully launched a series of bimonthly webinars and online distance-learning programmes and articles to help doctors fulfil the Singapore Medical Council's (SMC) new mandatory medical ethics (MME) continuing medical education (CME) point requirements, which took effect from 1 January 2024. SMA members were able to choose from 18 MME programmes at no charge, as part of our membership privileges. SMA CMEP continues to offer a variety of MME programmes in 2025. Members who have just renewed their practising licence on 1 January 2025 and wish to start accumulating MME CME points this year can view the MME programme line-up at <https://www.sma.org.sg/page/smammecmeprogrammes>.

The SMA Doctors-in-Training (DIT) Committee partners SMC, MOH, and MOH Holdings on matters pertaining to junior doctors' practice and well-being. Last year, we looked into the process for full registration and wrote to SMC with our queries, feedback and recommendations, with the aim of reducing information asymmetry regarding the process for conditionally registered junior doctors. The DIT Committee also provides direct support to junior doctors in the form of workshops, educational resources, public awareness campaigns, "Ask Me Anything" Telegram channels and engagement events. In 2024, we also helped to establish the Junior Doctors Network under the Medical Association of South East Asian Nations. The regional network aims to connect junior doctors across Southeast Asia, facilitating knowledge sharing, collaboration and mutual support.

A Special Interest Group for healthcare administrators was formed under the SMA Membership Committee to provide a platform for members in administrator roles to connect, collaborate and develop professional skills. Its inaugural event was held on 21 June 2024, with invited speaker Dr Wong Chiang Yin sharing valuable insights gained from his personal career. Upcoming activities in 2025 will include a masterclass series, workshops, networking events and mentorship opportunities.

The SMA Annual Dinner was held on 19 May 2024, and graced by our Guest of Honour Prof Kenneth Mak, Director-General of Health. We presented the SMA Honorary Membership to two distinguished members of the profession: Emeritus Prof Kua Ee Heok and Prof Rajmohan Nambiar.

For more information on membership activities organised in the past year, please refer to the Membership Committee's report on page 18. The SMA Charity Fund continued to

support needy medical students from the three local medical schools. 51 bursaries were awarded in 2024, amounting to a total of \$306,000. A bursary engagement event was organised for board members, beneficiaries and donors, providing them with the opportunity to connect.

Finally, the SMA office relocated to new premises in July 2024 as we were unable to extend our lease at the SMF Building. Our new address is 166 Bukit Merah Central, #04-3531 Eagles Center, Singapore 150166. Our main telephone line (65) 6223 1264 remains unchanged.

In closing, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to all our volunteer doctors and SMA members, as well as the Secretariat staff for the wonderful work and strong support over another productive year.

We encourage members to keep your contact details updated so you may receive timely updates and news from SMA. Those requiring assistance can email to membership@sma.org.sg.



Clin Asst Prof
Benny Loo Kai Guo
Honorary Secretary

HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

The SMA Group closed the financial year ending 31 December 2024 with a surplus of \$744,871 before tax, slightly higher than the surplus of \$653,029 before tax in 2023. We continued to grow our reserves by investing them in fixed deposits and purchasing treasury bills, earning an interest of \$287,119 in 2024. SMA's accumulated funds stand at \$10,353,327. Our investment committee is currently looking into the purchase of a commercial property as an alternative to grow our reserves. Having our own property would also provide a backup for the SMA office which is currently leased and hence vulnerable to rental hikes, non-renewal of leases and the costs of relocations.

We saw a healthy income growth in 2024, mainly due to an influx of doctors joining SMA including many who were returning members, and collections from the professional development programmes organised by the SMA Centre for Medical Ethics and Professionalism. Our other revenue streams from services rendered to third parties and advertising remained stable.

While income grew, expenses in 2024 were higher as well. This was driven by the launch of continuing medical education programmes to help our members meet the Singapore Medical Council's new mandatory medical ethics requirements, relocation of the SMA office in July 2024 and general increase in operating costs. We will continue to scrutinise the management of our costs, with an emphasis on being more cost effective.

We wish to thank all members for continuing to support SMA. We are especially heartened to welcome our returning members, whom we sincerely hope will continue to stay with us. Membership subscriptions are a key revenue stream which ensures that SMA's operations run smoothly and that SMA members can continue to enjoy complimentary or discounted rates for courses, activities and



L to R: **Adj Assoc Prof Ng Chew Lip**, Honorary Treasurer;
Adj Asst Prof Raj Kumar Menon, Honorary Assistant Treasurer

services. Spouse membership, which is a free membership for spouses who are also medical doctors, is one such complimentary benefit of SMA membership. Please encourage your peers to join SMA. A well-supported professional body will provide stronger representation and be able to advocate more effectively for the medical profession and Singapore's healthcare landscape.

Finally, I would like to thank my Honorary Assistant Treasurer, Adj Asst Prof Raj Kumar Menon, for his valuable support. I would also like to commend our Finance staff Ms Angeline Teoh and Ms Priscilla Leong, who have worked very hard throughout the year to manage SMA's finances, and the SMA Secretariat for their invaluable contributions and diligence throughout the year.

Adj Assoc Prof Ng Chew Lip
Honorary Treasurer

KEY FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

GROUP STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	2024	2023
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR AFTER TAX		
Total Income	\$3,644,773	\$3,381,030
Total Expenditure	\$2,961,969	\$2,737,474
Total Surplus	\$682,804	\$643,556
INCOME		
Subscriptions	\$975,289	\$704,224
Contributions	\$893,785	\$877,677
Rebates	\$64,630	\$67,759
Courses and Events	\$690,281	\$567,521
Investments	\$287,119	\$433,345
Publications	\$603,695	\$632,176
Others	\$129,974	\$98,328
Total Income	\$3,644,773	\$3,381,030
EXPENDITURE		
Administrative and Operating Expenses	\$468,413	\$367,841
Courses and Events	\$376,681	\$412,377
Publications	\$216,935	\$198,973
Staff and Related Expenses	\$1,899,940	\$1,758,283
Total Expenditure	\$2,961,969	\$2,737,474

GROUP STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2024	2023
ASSETS		
Non-current Assets	\$297,710	\$6,284
Current Assets	\$11,162,420	\$10,409,791
Total Assets	\$11,460,130	\$10,416,075
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Equity Attributable to SMA Members	\$10,353,327	\$9,670,523
Current Liabilities	\$1,106,803	\$745,552
Total Equity and Liabilities	\$11,460,130	\$10,416,075

65th SMA Council 2024/2025

Executive Committee



President Dr Ng Chee Kwan

Urologist in private practice
Council member since 2014; SMA spokesperson
Committee: Administration; SMA Pte Ltd



1st Vice President Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh

Public health physician in private practice
Council member since 2012;
SMA spokesperson
Committee: Administration;
Advertising Review; Financial Viability;
Professional Indemnity



2nd Vice President Clin Asst Prof Lim Kheng Choon

Diagnostic radiologist in public practice
Council member since 2013
Committee: Administration;
IT/Telemedicine; Membership;
Professional Indemnity; SMA
Charity Fund



Honorary Secretary Clin Asst Prof Benny Loo Kai Guo

Paediatrician in public practice
Council member since 2014;
SMA spokesperson
Committee: Administration; Financial
Viability; Membership; SMA Pte Ltd



Honorary Treasurer Adj A/Prof Ng Chew Lip

Otolaryngologist in public practice
Council member since 2018
Committee: Administration;
Financial Viability; SMA Charity Fund;
SMA Pte Ltd; SMJ Editorial Board



Honorary Assistant Secretary Dr Chie Zhi Ying

Family physician in public practice
Council member since 2020
Committee: Administration; CME
Review; Fitness to Drive; SMA Charity
Fund; SMA News Editorial Board



Honorary Assistant Treasurer Adj Asst Prof Raj Kumar Menon

General surgeon in public practice
Council member since 2021
Committee: Administration; Dinner
Organising; Medik Awaz; Membership;

Council Members



A/Prof Anantham Devanand

Respiratory & critical care physician in public practice
Council member since 2014
Committee: SMA CMEP



Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui

Family physician in private practice
Council member since 2007
Committee: Fitness to Drive; Membership; Private Practice



Dr Lee Pheng Soon

Family physician in private practice
Council member since 1992; past SMA President (2003–2006)
Committee: Professional Indemnity; SMA CMEP; SMA Trust Fund



Dr Lee Yee Mun

Urologist in private practice
Council member since 2021
Committee: Advertising Review; Complaints; Doctor Support Service; Insurance Complaints; Professional Indemnity; SMA Pte Ltd



Dr Lim Khong Jin Michael

Family physician in public practice
Council member since 2023
Committee: Doctors-in-Training; SMA Charity Fund



Dr Ivan Low Jinrong

Singapore Armed Forces doctor
Council member since 2020
Committee: Doctors-in-Training; Membership



Adj Asst Prof Low Tchern Kuang Lambert

Psychiatrist in public practice
Council member since 2020
Committee: Complaints



Dr Tan Yia Swam

General surgeon in private practice
Council member since 2007; past SMA President (2020–2023)
Committee: Membership



Adj Prof Tan Sze Wee

Advisor at investment company
Council member since 1996
Committee: Financial Viability; IT/Telemedicine; SMA Pte Ltd



Dr Tina Tan Zhenwen

Psychiatrist in private practice
Council member since 2020
Committee: SMA News Editorial Board; Private Practice



Dr Toh Choon Lai

Orthopaedic surgeon in private practice
Council member since 2001
Committee: Complaints; Financial Viability; SMA Pte Ltd



Dr Wong Chiang Yin

Public health physician in private sector
Council member since 1995; past SMA President (2006–2009)
Committee: Financial Viability; Insurance Complaints

STANDING COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES 2024/2025

STANDING COMMITTEES

The President and Honorary Secretary are ex-officios of all committees

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Dr Ng Chee Kwan, Chairperson
Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh, Vice Chairperson
Clin Asst Prof Lim Kheng Choon, Vice Chairperson
Clin Asst Prof Benny Loo Kai Guo
Adj A/Prof Ng Chew Lip
Dr Chie Zhi Ying
Adj Asst Prof Raj Kumar Menon

FINANCIAL VIABILITY COMMITTEE

Dr Wong Chiang Yin, Chairperson
Adj Prof Tan Sze Wee, Vice Chairperson
Dr Toh Choon Lai
Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh
Adj A/Prof Ng Chew Lip
Clin Asst Prof Benny Loo Kai Guo

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Prof Teo Eng Kiong, Advisor

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Dr Jamie Ho
Dr Varen Tan
Dr Ashiley Thenpandiyar
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Dr Tan Tze Lee
Dr Jimmy Teo
Dr Yap Qi Ruo

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Ms Wong Shi Hui

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Dr Toh Choon Lai, Vice Chairperson
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Dr Lee Yee Mun (till Dec 2024)
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Dr Diana Tan
Dr Allen Wang
Dr Wee Siew Bock
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Dr Lee Pheng Soon, Chairperson
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Clin Asst Prof Lim Kheng Choon

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FITNESS TO DRIVE COMMITTEE

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Dr Chie Zhi Ying

IT/TELEMEDICINE COMMITTEE

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Clin Asst Prof Lim Kheng Choon

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Dr Calvin Tjio Kai En (MO/HO), Vice Chairperson & Outreach Lead
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Dr Lim Ther (Lawson)(NUHS), Vice Chairperson (from Feb 2025)
Dr Azriel Koh Hong Kiat (NHG), Vice Chairperson (till Jul 2024)
Dr Tay Woo Chiao (NHG), Vice Chairperson (from Aug 2024)
Dr Wong Jie Jun (SingHealth), Vice Chairperson (till Sep 2024)
Dr Magne Ang Ke Xin (SingHealth), Vice Chairperson (from Nov 2024)
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Dr Chia Lingyi (till Feb 2025)
Dr Aaron Goh Qi Yang
Dr Goh Ying Xian
Dr Maxz Ho Jian Chen
Dr Hoe Pei Shan (from Jun 2024)
Dr Daniel Lim Jia Hui
Dr Lim Ther (Lawson)(till Feb 2025)
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Dr Freda Mah Cheng Yee
Dr Muhammad Taufeeq Wahab
Dr Jared Ng Chuan Kai
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Dr Nur Haidah Binte Ahmad Kamal
Dr Caitlin Alsandria O'Hara
Dr Shen Jiayi
Dr Rajit Soni
Dr Shamima Banu D/O Mohamed Ansari
Dr Sheikh Izzat Bin Zainal-Abidin Bahajjah
Dr Tay Zhi Yu Ernest (from Jun 2024)
Dr Tey Min Li
Dr Kalista Wan Yearn Yee
Dr Wong Jie Jun (from Sep 2024)
Dr Yan Linxuan (from Sep 2024)

Workgroup to Support the Registration and Practice for Doctors with Psychiatric Conditions

Dr Nur Haidah Binte Ahmad Kamal, Organising Secretary
Prof Tambyah Paul Anantharajah
Dr Ivan Low Jinrong
Dr Calvin Tjio Kai En
Dr Muhammad Taufeeq Wahab
Dr Ngiam Xin Ling Lisa
Dr Caitlin Alsandria O'Hara
Dr Jared Ng Chuan Kai

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Dr Cheong May Anne
Dr Chie Zhi Ying
Adj A/Prof Raymond Chua Swee Boon
Dr Hap Xing Fu, Daniel

Dr Davies Lucy Jennifer
Dr K Sri Karpageshwary
Clin Asst Prof Lim Kheng Choon
Dr Lim Ee Jean
Dr Lim Khong Jin Michael
Clin Asst Prof Benny Loo Kai Guo
Adj Asst Prof Raj Kumar Menon
Adj A/Prof Ng Chew Lip
Dr Tan Ming Yuan
Dr Tan Yu Bin
A/Prof Tay Sook Muay
Dr Yong Jin

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Chairperson
Adj Asst Prof Raj Kumar Menon, Vice
Chairperson
Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui
Dr Aaron Goh Qi Yang
Dr Maksim Lai Wern Sheng
Dr Lee Cheok Hon
Clin Asst Prof Lim Kheng Choon
Dr Lim Ming Jian
Dr Ivan Low Jinrong
Adj A/Prof Ng Chew Lip
A/Prof Sng Chelvin Cheryl Agnes
Dr Tan Ming Yuan
Dr Tan Yia Swam

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A/Prof Andrew Chin Yuan Hui, Vice
Chairperson
Dr Chong Yeh Woei, Vice Chairperson
Dr Wong Chiang Yin, Vice Chairperson

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Dr Felix Li Jingxiang, Vice Chairperson

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Golf: Dr Tan Yong Kuan Adrian
Soccer (Men):
Dr William Kristanto
Dr Chng Nai Wee
Soccer (Women):
Dr Priyanka Rajendram
Dr Hwang Kai Yin

Convenors/Captains (IPG)

Badminton: Dr Lock Seen Hang Smily
Basketball: Dr Colin Teo Kok Ann
Bowling: Dr Valerie Teo Hui Ying
Chess: Dr Jeevarajah Nithiananthan
Floorball: Dr Chan Teck Tsin Kevin
Golf: Dr Tay Jam Chin
Pool: Dr Pua Uei
Soccer (Men): Dr William Kristanto
Soccer (Women):
Dr Priyanka Rajendram
Dr Hwang Kai Yin, Co-Captain
Squash: Dr Damian Ong Wen Kai
Table Tennis: Dr Leow Khang Leng
Tennis:
Dr Yeo Eng Meng Nicholas
Dr Derek Yong Wee Boon, Co-Captain
Dr Julian Theng Thiam Siew, Co-Captain
Volleyball: Dr Tan Pinhong

MEDIK AWAS COMMITTEE

Adj Asst Prof Raj Kumar Menon, Chairperson

DINNER ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Adj Asst Prof Raj Kumar Menon, Chairperson

CME (ONLINE LEARNING) REVIEW COMMITTEE

Dr Chie Zhi Ying

ADVERTISING REVIEW COMMITTEE

Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh
Dr Lee Yee Mun

DOCTOR SUPPORT SERVICE COMMITTEE

Dr Lee Yee Mun
Dr Roy Joseph
Dr Fones Calvin Soon Leng

ORGANISATIONS UNDER SMA'S GOVERNANCE

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Dr Chie Zhi Ying
Ms Goh Eng Cher
Dr June Goh
Mr Alex Koh Wei Peng
Ms Koh Lin-Net
Clin Asst Prof Lim Kheng Choon
Dr Lim Khong Jin Michael
Adj A/Prof Ng Chew Lip
Dr Roland Xu Weixiang

Members of the company limited by guarantee

Adj Prof Chin Jing Jih
Dr Chong Yeh Woei
Dr Wong Chiang Yin

SINGAPORE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION PRIVATE LIMITED

Board of Directors

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Dr Lee Yee Mun
Adj Asst Prof Raj Kumar Menon
Dr Toh Choon Lai

Non-Executive Directors

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Dr Ng Chee Kwan
Adj A/Prof Ng Chew Lip

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A/Prof Chew Suok Kai
A/Prof Cheong Pak Yean (till 28 Mar 2025)

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Director

Dr Lee Pheng Soon, Immediate Past
Executive Director

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Dr Peter Chow, Deputy Academic Director
Dr Giles Tan, Associate Director

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A/Prof Cheong Pak Yean, Secretary (till 28
Mar 2025)
Dr Tan Kok Soo, Treasurer
Prof Low Cheng Hock

REPRESENTATIVES OF SMA

SMA REPRESENTATIVE TO SMC

Dr Tan Yia Swam

HEALTHIER SG IMPLEMENTATION WORKGROUP

Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui

MOH MULTILATERAL HEALTHCARE INSURANCE COMMITTEE

Dr Ng Chee Kwan
Dr Tan Yia Swam
Dr Toh Choon Lai (Alternate)

MOH FEE BENCHMARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dr Lee Yee Mun

MOM WORKPLACE SAFETY & HEALTH (HEALTHCARE) COMMITTEE

Dr Jean Sim Xiang Ying

SMC CME COORDINATING COMMITTEE

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Dr Toh Choon Lai (Alternate)

ADVERTISING STANDARDS AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE (ASAS) COUNCIL

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Dr Lee Yee Mun

IRAS TAXPAYER FEEDBACK PANEL

Dr Ng Chee Kwan

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Dr Tammy Chan Teng Mui, Chairperson,
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Prof Mahesh Choolani, Chairperson

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Dr Daniel Lim Jia Hui

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Dr Chong Yeh Woei, Chairperson of Council
Clin Asst Prof Benny Loo Kai Guo, SMA
Councillor to CMAAO

SMA SPOKESPERSONS

Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh
Clin Asst Prof Benny Loo Kai Guo
Dr Ng Chee Kwan

SMA HONORARY LEGAL ADVISORS

Ms Kuah Boon Theng, Legal Clinic LLC
Mr Lek Siang Pheng, Dentons Rodyk &
Davidson LLP
Ms Mak Wei Munn, Allen & Gledhill LLP
Mr Matthew Saw Seang Kuan, Lee & Lee

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

Ms Nalini Naidu, IMSG Pte Ltd

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024

SMA Office Relocation



Annual General Meeting



National Medical Students' Convention



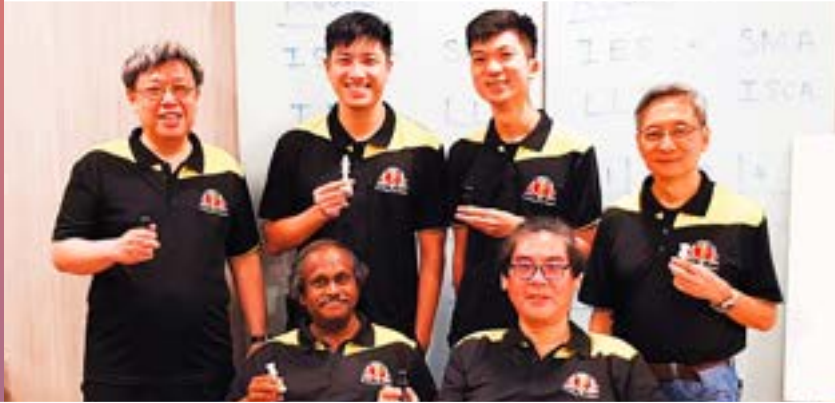
SMA Annual Dinner



SMA Annual Golf Tournament



Inter-Professional Games



Annual National Medico-Legal Seminar

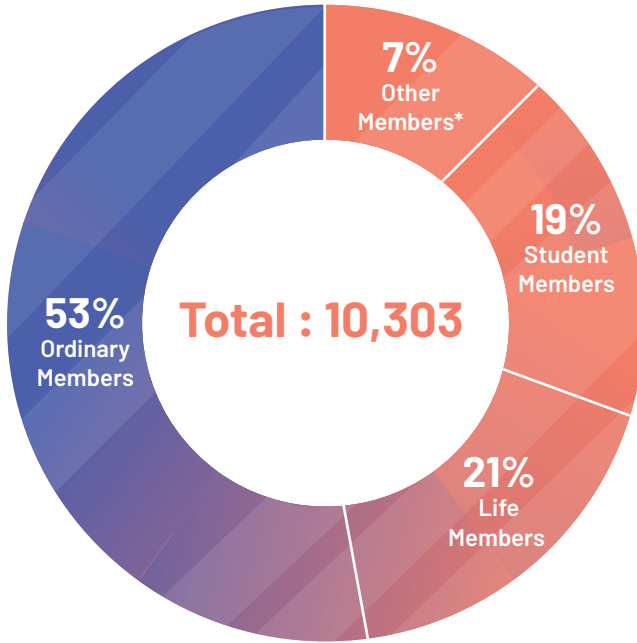


SMA Member's Appreciation Night



KEY STATISTICS IN 2024

SMA Membership



*Other Members include Spouse, Honorary and Overseas Members

Membership & Engagement

- 4 Student engagement activities
- >19 Membership privileges
- 9 New lifestyle partners
- 14 Membership events
- 73 SMJ submission fee waivers
- >2,000 Participants

Advocacy & Representation

- 2 Policy submissions
- 1 Advisory issued
- 2 Media statements
- 5 Key government meetings
- 1 Survey
- 4 Media citations

Professional Development



20
Webinars
and courses



62
CME
Activities



Up to 73
CME Points



17,809
Participants

SMA Charity Fund



51
Bursaries



\$306,000
Disbursed



\$385,510
Raised

ADVOCATING FOR PATIENTS AND THE PROFESSION

Over the past year, SMA pressed on with our efforts to advocate for positive changes in the healthcare system. This was accomplished through the hard work and dedication of the tireless volunteers on SMA's various committees, which include engaging relevant stakeholders, providing media statements and letters to the press, conducting online surveys and organising professional development activities.

Mandatory Medical Ethics (MME)

SMA's new series of medical ethics programmes was well received by our members, who were able to readily obtain the five MME continuing medical education (CME) points required by the Singapore Medical Council (SMC) with effect from 1 January 2024. The MME topics were focused on the following core areas, to help doctors acquire a good starting foundation on medical ethics:

1. Professionalism/Medical professionalism
2. Ethics (eg, four-box approach, ethical analysis in medicine, public health ethics, research ethics)
3. Informed consent and medical decision-making
4. Medical records, privacy and confidentiality

For more information, see the detailed report of the SMA Centre for Medical Ethics and Professionalism on page 21, which organises the MME programmes as well as other CME activities.

Dialogues with MOH and SMC

SMA met with officials from the Ministry of Health (MOH) in January and October 2024. Topics discussed included the Health Information Bill (HIB), National Electronic Health Record (NEHR), Healthcare Services

Act, telemedicine and third-party administrators. SMA is glad for the opportunities to voice our concerns and recommendations, which include extra protection for sensitive health information, and for patient autonomy, privacy and confidentiality to not be compromised. We will also be working closely with MOH to organise a webinar on the NEHR and the new HIB in 2025, so that healthcare providers will be prepared to meet the bill's new requirements.

Over the years, we have received feedback from conditionally registered junior doctors who were unclear about the process for full registration. In September 2024, SMA wrote to SMC to enquire about the process, as well as make some recommendations to reduce the information asymmetry regarding full registration. A copy of SMA's letter and SMC's comprehensive reply was published in the November 2024 issue of *SMA News*: <https://bit.ly/5611-CN>.

In response to a media query regarding MOH's presentation on healthcare during the Committee of Supply debate in Parliament on 6 March 2024, SMA also provided comments on the rising cost of providing healthcare. A summary of the comments was published in the May 2024 issue of *SMA News*: <https://bit.ly/5605-CN>.

Healthcare Insurance

SMA continued to champion the interests of patients and doctors as a member of the Multilateral Healthcare Insurance Committee. The focus remains on advocating for greater transparency and improvements in private healthcare insurance.

In February 2024, SMA and the Academy of Medicine, Singapore wrote a joint letter to the Financial Industry Disputes Resolution Centre (FIDReC), proposing that FIDReC should also handle health insurance disputes related to clinical issues. The correspondence was reproduced in the March 2024 issue of *SMA News*: <https://bit.ly/5603-CN>.

SMA also submitted a letter to the *Straits Times* Forum which was published on 27 April 2024, in response to several forum letters and commentary articles relating to healthcare insurance, specifically regarding Integrated Shield Plans.

SMA will continue to push for health equity and fairer treatment of patients and doctors.

Healthcare Administrators Interest Group (HAIG)

SMA established a new Special Interest Group to provide a platform for healthcare administrators to connect, collaborate and develop professional skills. HAIG is a ground-up initiative dedicated to enhancing the delivery of quality healthcare through the betterment of healthcare administration in Singapore. HAIG's mission is rooted in the belief that exceptional patient care is achieved through a collaborative approach between healthcare administrators and clinicians. SMA members who are interested to find out more about HAIG can email membership@sma.org.sg.



BUILDING CONNECTIONS, FOSTERING COMMUNITY

SMA is built on the foundation of strong relationships with our members. As the cornerstone of the Association, our members deserve recognition and appreciation for their tireless dedication to the medical profession. In 2024, we organised a range of events to express our thanks to members and hosted opportunities to foster a sense of community.

SMA Annual Dinner

On 19 May 2024, we hosted the SMA Annual Dinner at the Grand Ballroom of Sheraton Towers, which was graced by our Guest of Honour Prof Kenneth Mak, Director-General of Health, along with other distinguished guests. The Annual Dinner provides a platform to recognise fellow doctors and volunteers who have made significant contributions to SMA or the medical profession. In addition, it also provides a welcome opportunity for members to connect with colleagues and friends in a relaxed setting.

Members' Appreciation Night

SMA organised a movie screening of *The Lord of the Rings: The War of the Rohirrim* at Golden Village, VivoCity on 12 December 2024 as a token of gratitude and appreciation for our members' and volunteers' unwavering support.

SMA-NK Yong Wine Appreciation Chapter

For members who appreciate fine wine and good company, the Wine Appreciation Chapter organised a fully subscribed dinner with curated wine selections in September 2024.

Inter-Professional Games

SMA participated in the Inter-Professional Games 2024, which was hosted by the Institution of Engineers, Singapore. It brought together 85 participants from the six professional bodies – the Institution of Engineers, Singapore, Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants, Law Society of Singapore, Singapore Institute of Architects, Singapore Institute of Surveyors and Valuers, and SMA. Through the months between September and November, our members competed in eight thrilling sports: badminton, basketball, bowling, chess, golf, squash, table tennis and volleyball, vying for the grand prize. SMA proudly reclaimed the chess championship title, and the event culminated in a warm closing dinner at Singapore Polytechnic Graduates' Guild Clubhouse on 8 November 2024.

SMA Annual Golf Tournament 2024

On 9 October 2024, the SMA Annual Golf Tournament was held at the Orchid Country Club, drawing 88 golfers from various medical specialties. Despite initial weather concerns, the tournament proceeded smoothly, with participants enjoying a pleasant afternoon of golf and camaraderie. The post-game dinner was a lively reunion, with golfers catching up with friends and colleagues. We extend our gratitude to sponsors who made the event possible.

Membership Privileges

We are also pleased to offer our members a wide array of exclusive discounts and privileges by working with various lifestyle partners. Some highlights include discounts on groceries, dining and lifestyle services such as alterations, floral arrangements and wellness packages.

These discounts and many other benefits are our way of expressing gratitude to our members for their continued support. We look forward to continuing this effort in the years to come, fostering a sense of community and camaraderie among our members.

SMA News

SMA News continued to publish monthly issues carrying valuable articles for our members in 2024, with several focusing on the art and heart of medicine, beyond the scientific and practical matters. Aside from these humanities focuses, we also carried updates from the O&G spectrum with their guidelines for young children and on the development of tobacco and vape use in Singapore, as well as how medical practices can better protect themselves against cyberattacks.

These issues and articles were made possible thanks to our Editorial Board members who dedicate time for our regular planning meetings, where they discuss and share the latest news and insights to put together each issue's focus and theme. In February, we welcomed onboard Dr Yap Qirou, who has since helmed the July's Doctors in Training issue together with Editor Dr Tina Tan. With the incorporation of student correspondents to the Editorial Board, we also ensured opportunities for these students to join in for the planning meetings so as to familiarise them with the workings of our newsletter. In 2024, we were glad to formally welcome former student correspondent, Dr Joycelyn Soo Mun Peng, onto the Editorial Board upon her graduation from medical school.

SMA News looks forward to having more student correspondents and board members join us as the newsletter strives to bring our members relevant, reliable and interesting contents in the year ahead.

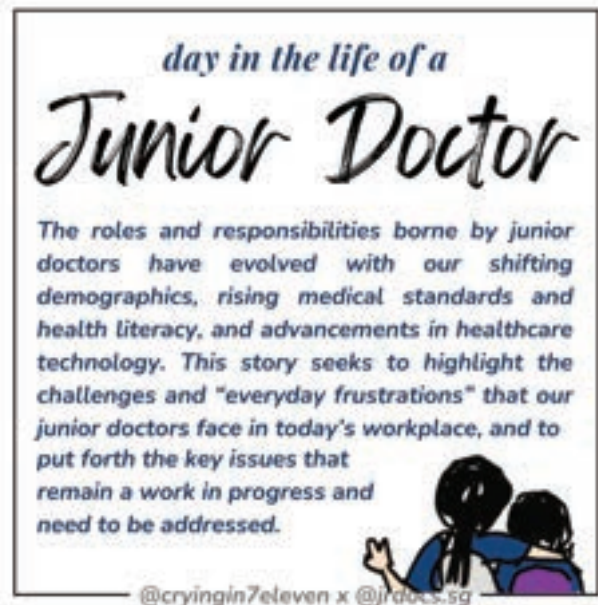


Junior Doctor Initiatives

The SMA Doctors-in-Training (DIT) Committee actively engages with junior doctors and partners with the Singapore Medical Council (SMC), Ministry of Health (MOH), and MOH Holdings on matters pertaining to junior doctors' well-being and practice. In one such instance, the DIT Committee aimed to reduce information asymmetry regarding the full registration process. We compiled feedback on the process and provided our recommendations to SMC in a letter dated 23 September 2024.

The DIT Committee also provides direct support to junior doctors through various initiatives, including workshops, educational resources, public awareness campaigns, "Ask Me Anything" channels and engagement events. Our efforts aim to foster a supportive community that empowers junior doctors to thrive in their careers.

SMA also played a key role in establishing the Junior Doctors Network of the Medical Association of South East Asian Nations in 2024. The regional network aims to connect junior doctors across Southeast Asia, facilitating knowledge sharing, collaboration and mutual support.



"The SMA DIT Committee has started our social media channel on Instagram (@jrdocs.sg), and we aim to engage fellow junior doctors through sharing relevant information and important updates. In 2024, we collaborated with @cryingin7eleven on a post to illustrate our stance on key issues faced by our junior doctors. Through such efforts, we hope to reduce information asymmetry and empower junior doctors to thrive in their careers."

- Dr Calvin Tjio Kai En, Vice Chairperson (MO/HO), SMA DIT Committee

SUPPORTING THE PROFESSION THROUGH EDUCATION

SMA works closely with stakeholders to organise relevant continuing medical education (CME) and professional development opportunities for our members. With the commencement of the Singapore Medical Council's (SMC) mandatory medical ethics (MME) CME requirements in 2024, SMA Centre for Medical Ethics and Professionalism (CMEP) promptly launched a series of MME programmes such that SMA members may readily fulfil the requirements.

SMA Centre for Medical Ethics and Professionalism

SMA CMEP has been providing doctors with a platform for lifelong learning in the areas of medical ethics, health law and medical practice since June 2020. SMA CMEP provides leadership in the areas of academic training, discussion, resource development and research, to support a high standard of medical professionalism. These good works are achieved with the support of its teaching faculty which comprises not only doctors, but also lawyers experienced in Singapore's health law.

SMA CMEP Teaching Faculty

Dr Aaron Ang	A/Prof Lai Siang Hui	Dr Giles Tan
A/Prof Anantham Devanand	Dr Lee Pheng Soon	Dr Malcolm Tan
Dr Aung Myint Oo	Mr Lek Siang Pheng	A/Prof Cuthbert Teo
Ms Rebecca Chew	Ms Vanessa Lim	Dr Timothy Teoh
Mr Christopher Chong	Dr Peter Loke	Mr Tham Hsu Hsien
Dr Jonathan Choo	Ms Mak Wei Munn	Dr T Thirumoorthy
Dr Peter Chow	Dr Colin Ong	Dr Luke Toh
Dr Sean David	Adj A/Prof Habeebul Rahman	Adj A/Prof Vishalkumar G Shelat
Dr Charmain Heah	Dr Hairil Rizal Abdullah	A/Prof Jason Yap
Mr Edmund Kronenburg	Dr Jason See	Dr Colin Yeo
Ms Kuah Boon Theng	A/Prof Seow Wan Tew	Dr Jamie Zhou
Adj Asst Prof Daniel Kwek	Dr Bhavani Sriram	

Mandatory Medical Ethics CME

The implementation of MME CME for all doctors, as per the recommendations in the Ministry of Health Workgroup report from November 2019, marks a significant step in enhancing medical professionalism and ethics in practice. The accumulation of these MME points ensures that doctors stay updated on important aspects of medical ethics, informed consent and professional responsibility. In 2024, SMA organised 18 MME programmes, awarding a total of 15,616 MME points to participants. These MME programmes have been well received and play a vital role in supporting doctors in their continuous learning and adherence to the evolving ethical guidelines and practices.

MME Programmes Held in 2024

Name of Event	SMA Members	Non-Members	Total No. of Participants	Total No. of MME Points
MME Webinar 1: Professionalism	746	121	867	867
MME Webinar 2: Informed Consent	1,099	78	1,177	1,177
MME Webinar 3: Ethics Analysis	1,046	164	1,210	1,210
MME Webinar 4: Medical Records	1,283	143	1,426	1,426
MME Webinar 5: Privacy and Confidentiality	1,041	156	1,197	1,197
Informed Consent in the Care of the Adolescent Patient – How Not to Mount the Kerb	974	167	1,141	2,282
Ethical Analysis of Decision-Making in Patients with Diminished Capacity	635	23	658	1,316
Using the Four-Box Method for Ethical Case Analysis	398	21	419	419
Medical Professionalism – How the Law and Ethics Regulate Our Practice	115	21	136	136
Understanding Consent – The Key Elements Which Protect Patients and Doctors	66	18	84	84
Medical Decision-Making: Assessment of Mental Capacity under the Mental Capacity Act	139	24	163	163
Approach to Ethical Analysis in Clinical Medicine	511	-	511	511
The Philosophy of Professionalism and Professional Ethics	538	-	538	538
Principle of Primacy of Patient Welfare	655	-	655	655
Understanding Privacy and Confidentiality	733	-	733	733
Core Concepts of Consent in Medical Practice	837	-	837	837
Annual National Medico-Legal Seminar	180	112	292	1,620
Medical Decision-Making LPA Certificate Issuer Online Training Module	252	193	445	445
Total no. of MME points submitted for 2024 (excluding the Medical Ethics, Professionalism and Healthcare Course)				15,616

[MME Webinar Series](#)

This five-webinar series, each an hour long, covers a range of topics fulfilling the SMC's MME requirements: (1) Professionalism; (2) Informed Consent; (3) Ethics Analysis; (4) Medical Records; and (5) Privacy and Confidentiality. Each session includes a short didactic lecture covering the salient content knowledge on the topic, followed by case examples to provide guidance on practical application of the ethical principles. Each session concludes with a question and answer segment for participants to clarify their doubts.

[Annual National Medico-Legal Seminar \(ANMLS\)](#)

Co-organised by SMA CMEP and the Medico-Legal Society of Singapore from 19 to 20 October 2024, ANMLS brought together nearly 400 professionals from the medical, legal and allied health sectors. Held at One Farrer Hotel, the two-day seminar served as a platform for stimulating discussions,

Other CME programmes

Name of Event	SMA Members	Non-Members	Total No. of Participants
Medicine, Doctor and the Law 1	11	21	32
Medicine, Doctor and the Law 2	10	36	46
Medicine, Doctor and the Law 3	9	34	43
Medicine, Doctor and the Law 4	8	35	43
Medicine, Doctor and the Law 5	6	27	33
Medical Professionalism: Professional Standards in the Care of the Vulnerable Adult	211	45	256
Prescribing Professional Conduct: Observations from the Court of Three Judges	854	120	974
Hepatocellular Carcinoma: Multidisciplinary Collaboration	132	-	132
[CME] Mental Capacity Assessment for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (PWIDs) Module	274	115	389
Online CME: SMJ CME Quiz	2,665	19	2,684

debates and knowledge-sharing among participants. Titled “Confidence in Consent: Equipping Doctors to Navigate the Changing Terrain of the Duty to Advise”, the seminar delved into the evolving dynamics surrounding informed consent, the duty of care and medical risk perception, highlighting crucial areas such as Section 37 of the Civil Law Act and the nuances of medical risk communication.

[Informed Consent in the Care of the Adolescent Patient – How Not to Mount the Kerb](#)

This hybrid symposium attracted more than 100 in-person and over 1,000 online attendees. The symposium explored the legal and ethical complexities surrounding adolescent consent, with a focus on equipping medical professionals who care for adolescent patients with the knowledge and tools needed to manage informed consent processes effectively, addressing the unique challenges posed by this age group. The discussions centred around the ability of adolescents to consent to different types of healthcare matters depending on the clinical situation (eg, contraception, diagnostic testing, procedural treatment and confidentiality). With both on-site and online participants joining the discussions, the hybrid format allowed for broader accessibility and participation, extending the reach of the event across various locations.

Medical Ethics, Professionalism and Healthcare Course

This two-and-a-half-day mandatory course provides exit certification for advanced specialist trainees, family medicine trainees and residents. The course includes important modules covering key aspects of medical professionalism, ethics, law and communication, equipping medical professionals to be well versed in both the technical and ethical dimensions of their work, which is crucial for providing high quality care.

The addition of MME points to Day 1's programme is also a notable update, making the course even more beneficial for participants seeking to meet professional development requirements.

As of December 2024, SMA CMEP has run 81 courses and trained 5,661 doctors. The 1,396 MME points awarded to the 349 participants in this year's programme highlight the ongoing value of the courses for developing skilled, ethical and accountable medical professionals.

Singapore Medical Journal

The Next Lap

The year 2025 marks the 65th anniversary of the founding of *Singapore Medical Journal* (*SMJ*). Since its inception in 1960 as the official journal of SMA, *SMJ* has strived to meet the academic and educational needs of the medical community in Singapore, for both primary care doctors and specialists. Over the course of time, *SMJ* has been fortunate to be led by numerous illustrious Editors-in-Chief, the most recent of whom is Adj Prof Poh Kian Keong, a distinguished and well-published cardiologist from National University Hospital. Prof Poh dedicated 11 years of service as Editor-in-Chief to *SMJ*. Under his leadership, we have seen a steady improvement in the quality of accepted articles, scope of coverage and journal metrics. In recognition of his immense contributions to *SMJ*, Prof Poh was awarded the SMA Merit Award at the 2024 SMA Annual Dinner.

Leading *SMJ* into its next phase of growth is Prof Ang Tiing Leong, who assumed the role of Editor-in-Chief in 2025. Prof Ang joined the *SMJ* Editorial Board in 2008 and went on to serve as Deputy Editor from 2014 to 2024. He is a senior consultant at the Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Changi General Hospital and Adjunct Professor at Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore.

Nurturing the Next Generation

In January 2025, we launched the *SMJ* Editorial Fellowship, a one-year programme that aims to

expose early career clinician researchers to the editorial processes of an academic journal and to enhance the quality of their peer review outputs. For this inaugural fellowship, six fellows have been selected to be mentored by members of the Editorial Board. They will be guided through peer reviews, participate in Editorial Board meetings, and work on editorials and commentaries with their mentors. Through this initiative, *SMJ* hopes to do its part in nurturing talent and building a pipeline to further enhance editorial standards in our academic community.

A Supportive Medical Community

SMJ would not be where it is today without the support of our medical community. We wish to extend our deepest appreciation to the *SMJ* Editorial Board members, reviewers and editorial staff for their tireless effort and unflagging support in the past year, and to authors who have entrusted their research to be published with us. We especially wish to express our heartfelt thanks to Board members who stepped down in 2024 after years of dedicated service – Dr Chan Yiong Huak, Prof Quak Seng Hock and Prof Roger Foo.

A thriving local medical journal is important for our medical community. As we enter 2025 with a renewed sense of optimism and purpose, we are committed to build on the foundations of what we have achieved, to nurture the next generation of clinician researchers and to remain relevant to our medical community. We seek your support to help us navigate the next lap successfully.

Key Statistics 2024



To view the full annual report,
financial statements and other
supplementary materials,
please visit

www.sma.org.sg/AnnualReport

or scan the following QR Code.



SINGAPORE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

166 Bukit Merah Central
#04-3531 Eagles Center
Singapore 150166

Tel: (65) 6223 1264

Email: sma@sma.org.sg

Website: www.sma.org.sg

UEN: S61SS0158E

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