



*Prof Chia Boon Lock and Ms Yong Ying-I*

## Citation of SMA Honorary Member Professor Chia Boon Lock

**Delivered by Associate Professor Tan Huay Cheem, Chief,  
Cardiac Department, National University Hospital**

**T**he name Prof Chia Boon Lock, immediately conjures up an image of a superb clinical cardiologist who can interpret any cardiac murmur accurately, a dedicated educator who enjoys imparting his knowledge to the medical students and the younger doctors, a clinical researcher devoted to the pursuit of the intricacies of the electrocardiogram and above all, a fatherly figure who is always willing to lend a hearing ear and who is also always unstinting with his advice. This in essence is our Honorary Member of the Singapore Medical Association for the year 2008.

Prof Chia Boon Lock graduated in Medicine from the then University of Singapore in 1963. After serving for eight years at the Ministry of Health, he joined the University of Singapore (now the National University of Singapore (NUS)) as a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Medicine in 1972. He was rapidly promoted to Associate Professor in 1975 and full Professor in 1981, a position he held for 18 years until his retirement in 1999. He is currently an Emeritus Professor at the NUS, a Professorial Fellow at the

Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, NUS and an Emeritus Consultant at the Cardiac Department, National University Hospital.

Prof Chia had his initial training in Cardiology in Sydney, Australia under a Colombo Plan scholarship in 1968. Subsequently, he spent a sabbatical year at the Stanford University Medical Centre in America. He is a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh and the American College of Cardiology.

One of the early pioneers of cardiology in Singapore, Prof Chia was in charge of cardiology in Medical Unit II (later known as the University Department of Medicine II) at Singapore General Hospital from 1975 to 1985 and was also Head of this Department from 1981 to 1983. After moving over to NUH, he became Head of the hospital's Division of Cardiology, Department of Medicine, from 1986 to 1989 and Chief of the Cardiac Department from 1996 to 1999. Amongst his many achievements, he was one of the first two cardiologists to introduce echocardiography and the first to introduce

◀ Page 13 – Citation of SMA Honorary Member Professor Chia Boon Lock  
ambulatory blood pressure monitoring in Singapore.

Those of us who have the privilege of being mentored by Prof Chia find that he is outstanding in many areas of cardiovascular medicine. However, it is in the area of electrocardiography or ECG that he is internationally renowned. He has published novel ECG findings in the diagnosis of acute inferior myocardial infarction, acute pulmonary embolism and heart failure. In addition, he has published 158 scientific papers in both local as well as international medical journals and has written two books – the popular *Clinical Electrocardiography* and the *Atlas of Two-dimensional and Doppler Echocardiography*.

Prof Chia is the current President of the Singapore Hypertension Society and Chairman of the Ministry of Health Workgroup for the Clinical Practice Guidelines on Lipids and a Member of the Workgroup on Hypertension. He was formerly President of the Singapore Cardiac Society, Chairman of the Chapter of Physicians, Academy of Medicine (now the College of Physicians, Singapore) and a Member of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>

Council of the Singapore Medical Association.

An outstanding and inspiring teacher, who is a favourite of the NUS medical students and also registrars training in Cardiology, Prof Chia has contributed significantly to the training of generations of doctors and cardiologists in Singapore. For this and other contributions, the NUS conferred him the title of Emeritus Professor in 2006. Other awards which he has received include the Lee Foundation-National Healthcare Group Lifetime Achievement Award and the Dato Paduka Mahkota Brunei.

Lastly, this citation of Prof Chia would not be complete without mentioning that most of these achievements have been attained despite a long battle with advanced nasopharyngeal carcinoma – initially with the treatment 24 years ago and subsequently with the late side-effects arising from the radiotherapy which he had received. This is truly a testimony of his great courage and his indomitable spirit.

Mr President, it is with great pleasure that I present to you Professor Chia Boon Lock for the conferment of the honorary membership of the Singapore Medical Association. ■