

SMA NEWS



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SMA Annual Dinner 2013

Guest of Honour
Minister for Health
Mr Gan Kim Yong





SMA Annual Dinner 2013

By Mellissa Ang

This year's SMA Annual Dinner was held on 11 May 2013 at Sheraton Towers Singapore. Minister for Health Mr Gan Kim Yong graced the evening as the Guest of Honour, while Dr Lim Wee Kiak, Member of Parliament, Nee Soon Group Representation Constituency and Mr Anthony Tan, Deputy Secretary (Policy), at the Ministry of Health (MOH) were in attendance as well. In all, more than 360 guests turned up for the event.

In his welcome address, SMA President A/Prof Chin Jing Jih thanked Minister Gan and also Mrs Tan Ching Yee, Permanent Secretary (Health), MOH, for leading the healthcare sector to greater heights (see page 7). A/Prof Chin summed up the challenges that the local medical profession is now facing, and how SMA has responded to these concerns via the implementation of various initiatives and programmes. He revealed that he had recently faced some criticism in his role as SMA President, but concluded, "I will let the real impact and positive difference made under my leadership in the lives of our patients, our doctors and in Singapore's healthcare be the true judge of whether these accusations can or cannot stand."

SMA Honorary Membership

The SMA Honorary Membership was first instituted in 1982, and is the highest honour that SMA can bestow on persons who are distinguished in public life or who have rendered meritorious service to SMA or the medical profession.

This year, the SMA Honorary Membership was conferred on two outstanding educators from the medical community, Prof Low Cheng Hock and Emeritus Prof Pho Wan Heng, Robert, who have taught generations of medical students. Prof Low is currently Emeritus Consultant, Department of General Surgery, Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH), while Emeritus Prof Pho is Emeritus Consultant, Department of Hand and Reconstructive Microsurgery, National University Hospital (NUH).

Fittingly, both doctors' citations were given by their former students. Prof Low's citation was delivered by Dr Teoh Tiong Ann, who is currently a general surgeon in private practice (see page 14). Emeritus Prof Pho's citation was delivered by A/Prof Aymeric Lim, who is currently Chairman, Medical Board, NUH and a hand surgeon by training (see page 16).

After both citations were presented, Prof Low and Emeritus Prof Pho gamely took to the stage and made thank you speeches.

Prof Low opened his speech by noting that "whenever you succeed, you never succeed alone". He thanked SMA, his colleagues, and in particular, his patients who motivate him to continue improving. Prof Low emphasised, "We are here for one purpose – our patients. Let's be united and think of our patients as our top priority. Let's create a Singapore where we not only add years to life, but life to years."

Emeritus Prof Pho also thanked SMA in his speech: "This award is probably the highest honour that has been given to me." In light of the silver tsunami that Singapore will be facing in the near future, he shared that life after turning 70 is still very challenging and exciting for him, as he still enjoys the pains and joys of working with younger doctors.

SMA Merit Awards

The SMA Merit Awards were presented to two recipients in recognition of their contributions to SMA and the medical profession, or social service to the community.

A/Prof Cynthia Ruth Goh-Fung was the first SMA Merit Award winner of the evening. An Internal Medicine

Photos: SMA



specialist by training, with a PhD in Molecular Biology, A/Prof Goh-Fung was involved as a volunteer in starting the hospice movement in Singapore in 1986. She helped build several palliative care services in the community and was awarded the Public Service Medal in 1997.

The second SMA Merit Award was presented to Dr Lim Cheok Peng. Dr Lim is currently the Managing Director of IHH Healthcare Berhad and Vice Chairman of Parkway Pantai Limited. A cardiologist by training, Dr Lim has served on various committees like the Singapore Medical Council, Parliamentary Committee for Health, Economic Review Committee and Council for Third Age.

SMJ Best Research Paper Awards 2012

Launched in 2004, the SMJ Best Research Paper Award encourages the publication of high quality local and international research papers with the *Singapore Medical Journal* (SMJ), and to give due recognition to local and regional researchers for their achievements. The winning papers were selected from original research papers published in SMJ from January to December 2012.

The first prize was presented to Asst Prof Ahmad Saedisomeolia, Dr Ali Malekshahi Moghadam, Prof Mahmoud Djalali, Prof Abolghasem Djazayeri, Dr Shabnam Pooya and Ms Fereshteh Sojoudi for their paper, "Efficacy of omega-3 fatty acid supplementation on serum levels of tumour necrosis factor-alpha, C-reactive protein and interleukin-2 in type 2 diabetes mellitus patients". The award included \$5,000 cash sponsored by Pfizer Pte Ltd, a commemorative trophy sponsored by SMA and a certificate, which Ms Sojoudi received on behalf of her team.

The second prize was given to Dr Martin H'ng Weng Chin, Dr Loh Seow Siang, Dr Arul Earnest and Dr Gervais Wansaicheong Khin Lin for their paper, "Effectiveness of an algorithm in reducing the number of unnecessary ultrasound scans for deep vein thrombosis: an evaluation report". Dr H'ng received the award, which included \$3,000 cash sponsored by Novartis (Singapore) Pte Ltd, a commemorative trophy sponsored by SMA and a certificate, on behalf of his team.

The third prize went to Dr Eric Chong, Dr Shen Liang, A/Prof Poh Kian Keong and A/Prof Tan Huay Cheem for their paper, "Risk scoring system for prediction of contrast-induced nephropathy in patients with pre-existing renal impairment undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention". The award included \$2,000 cash sponsored

by GlaxoSmithKline Pte Ltd, a commemorative trophy sponsored by SMA and a certificate, which A/Prof Tan received on behalf of his team.

SMA Long Service Awards

The SMA Long Service Awards were presented to five individuals who are actively involved in SMA's numerous committees.

In appreciation of his steadfast service for 30 years, the first Long Service Award went to A/Prof Goh Lee Gan. A/Prof Goh is currently on the Board of Directors of the SMA Centre for Medical Ethics & Professionalism, which he has been serving on for 11 years now. He is also a senior consultant at the Division of Family Medicine in NUH.

The second Long Service Award, also for 30 years of dedicated service to SMA, was awarded to Dr Low Lip Ping. Dr Low is currently the Treasurer of the SMA Trust Fund, which he has been serving on since 1994. He is also a cardiologist in private practice.

Dr Wong Tien Hua received the third Long Service Award for ten years of service. He is currently SMA's 1st Vice President and has been serving on the SMA Council since 2004. He is also a GP in private practice.

Dr Lee Yik Voon was presented the fourth Long Service Award for ten years of service. Dr Lee is currently the Assistant Honorary Secretary of the SMA Council and Executive Director of the SMA Secretariat. He is also a GP in private practice.

Ms Margaret Chan was the fifth recipient of the SMA Long Service Award, for five years of service at the SMA Secretariat. She is currently in charge of professional indemnity and office administration.

The last awardee, A/Prof Tan Kok Hian, was unable to attend the dinner. A/Prof Tan received the SMA Long Service Award for ten years of service on the SMJ Editorial Board. Currently, he is Chairman, Division of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, KK Women's and Children's Hospital.

SMA Charity Fund

Prof Wong Tien Yin, 2nd Vice President of SMA, introduced SMA's newly-minted charity arm, the SMA Charity Fund (SMACF; see page 19). As the Chairperson of SMACF's 1st Board of Directors, Prof Wong encouraged all the guests to contribute to society through the fund, which will benefit needy students from the local medical schools, and also new areas of need in the community.

Mr Roland Xu, a third year medical student at Yong Loo

Minister Gan (third from right) being welcomed to the SMA Annual Dinner 2013 by members of the SMA Council (from left): Dr Wong Tien Hua, Dr Daniel Lee (partially hidden), A/Prof Chin Jing Jih and Prof Wong Tien Yin



Minister Gan presenting the SMA Honorary Membership to Prof Low



Minister Gan presenting the SMA Honorary Membership to Emeritus Prof Pho

Lin School of Medicine, shared his experience as a recipient of the SMA Medical Students' Assistance Fund (see page 22). He related his disadvantaged family background, and how the financial assistance he received helped in his educational pursuits. Mr Xu also expressed his gratitude towards SMA for awarding him the bursary.

Prof Wong then made a call to all guests present, urging them to pledge their support to SMACF's work, which will help other medical students like Mr Xu, who are already members of the medical profession and the future of local Medicine.

Results of the lucky draw

All the guests held their breaths in anticipation as Dr Lee Yik Voon picked three lucky draw winners, who went home with fabulous prizes. Dr J Nithiananthan won two nights' luxury accommodation in Melbourne, Australia sponsored by Central Equity Ltd; Ms Loh Shu Ching won a Bowers & Wilkins Z2 wireless music system and a pair of P3 headphones sponsored by The Experts Group Pte Ltd; and Dr Glen Liau won three nights of complimentary

stay at any of the properties represented by Small Luxury Hotels of the World worldwide.

An evening to remember

Guests mingled and conversed, catching up with old friends and making new ones, as the sumptuous eight-course dinner was served throughout the evening. As dessert bowls and wine glasses were emptied, many were reluctant to say their goodbyes. It was a lively and memorable night with good company, good conversation and good food, and we hope to see you again next year!

SMA thanks the sponsors of the SMJ Best Research Paper Awards 2012: GlaxoSmithKline Pte Ltd, Novartis (Singapore) Pte Ltd and Pfizer Pte Ltd. SMA would also like to thank Central Equity Ltd, Small Luxury Hotels of the World, and The Experts Group Pte Ltd (marketing agent for Bowers & Wilkins) for their generous contributions to the SMA Annual Dinner 2013. The 54th SMA Council would also like to express their gratitude to all guests who attended the dinner and contributed to its success. **SMA**



Standing, L to R: Dr Tan Yia Swam, Dr Tan Tze Lee, Dr Chong Yeh Woei, Dr Lim Kheng Choon, Dr Bertha Woon, Dr Toh Han Chong, Dr Toh Choon Lai and Dr Chia Ghim Song
 Sitting, L to R: Dr Daniel Lee, Dr Wong Chiang Yin, Dr Tammy Chan, Dr Wong Tien Hua, Minister Gan Kim Yong, A/Prof Chin Jing Jih, Prof Wong Tien Yin, A/Prof Tan Sze Wee and Dr Lee Yik Voon



A/Prof Tan Huay Cheem (left) and Dr Melvin Santas



Dr Martin H'ng (left) and A/Prof Chin Jing Jih



Ms Fereshteh Sojoudi (left) and Dr Chan Min Kyi



A/Prof Cynthia Ruth Goh-Fung



Dr Lim Cheek Peng



A/Prof Goh Lee Gan



Dr Low Lip Ping



Ms Margaret Chan



Dr J Nithiananthan



Dr Glen Liao



Ms Loh Shu Ching



Standing, L to R: Dr Lee Suan Yew, Prof Chee Yam Cheng, Prof Low Cheng Hock, Emeritus Prof Robert Pho and Prof Tan Cheng Lim
 Sitting, L to R: Dr Aline Wong, A/Prof Chin Jing Jih, Minister Gan Kim Yong, Dr Charles Toh and Mrs Robert Pho



Prof Low Cheng Hock



Alumni and students of Duke-NUS
 Graduate Medical School



Students from Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine with
 Prof Hooi Shing Chuan (standing, fifth from left)



Emeritus Prof Robert Pho



SMA Secretariat