

SMA

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ACTIVE WITH

Allergies

THE 45TH SMA NATIONAL MEDICAL CONVENTION

The Highs and Lows of *September*

By Dr Tan Yia Swam, Editor

SMA NEWS mourns the recent passing of Prof Arthur Lim, who contributed extensively to the field of Ophthalmology, the Alumni Association and SMA. In this month's publication, we remember this great teacher, mentor and leader with a fitting tribute from Prof Wong Tien Yin.

The highlight of the September issue is our Feature report on the 45th SMA National Medical Convention: Active with Allergies, which was organised by Dr Tan Tze Lee and his committee. We also carry a range of articles exploring different aspects of allergies. Dr Ang Seng Bin and Dr Samuel Yeak offer tips from their extensive experience on managing allergy patients. Young doctors Dr Tan Sze-Chin (an associate consultant) and Dr Mohana Rajakulendran (a senior resident) tell us about their training as allergists, and how they find meaning and passion in their work. Four of our colleagues write about their own allergies, and how they cope with them in their personal and working lives. Latex and chemical contact dermatitis is so common in the field of healthcare, and may have very late onset, as I personally found out! Dr Jimmy Teo pens a humorous piece on his own "allergy" to hospitals, which is probably more prevalent than we realise.

The Guideline on Fees (GOF) has become a hot topic once again. There has been a lot of attention, including a few letters that were printed in the press, on both the previous GOF and the Singapore Medical Council Review Committee's recommendations to institute fee guidelines. For the younger doctors who may not be aware of GOF and for those who have forgotten the events leading up to SMA's painful decision to let it go, let's recap the facts that led to the withdrawal of GOF with an edited and updated article written by then SMA President Dr Wong Chiang Yin. His piece documents the issues and perspectives that led to the reluctant retraction of GOF in 2007.

Dr Bertha Woon is undoubtedly doubly qualified in teaching us how to write expert reports. A/Prof Cuthbert Teo continues his series on the history of Medicine in Singapore – I thank him for kindly allowing *SMA News* to publish his hard work and document it for posterity. Students from the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine reflect on their Rag Day experience – I am happy to see the proud tradition of Rag and Flag continuing, and that my juniors put up such a spectacular and beautiful show! Dr Tan Su-Ming teaches us about work-life balance as she goes on a cycling trip in Myanmar, where she witnesses firsthand the beauty of the country and warmth of the people.

Last but not least, we interview Prof Tan Chorh Chuan who shares insights into major issues in healthcare, as a teaser for his SMA Lecture on 1 November, titled "Innovating for Future Health". To register for the lecture, please turn to page 16 or visit <http://www.sma.org.sg>.

I hope you enjoy this edition of *SMA News*. Feedback and comments are welcome at news@sma.org.sg. ■



Dr Tan Yia Swam is currently still a registrar at Tan Tock Seng Hospital, busy juggling work, family and friends.