
Continuing the Good Work

By Dr Wong Tien Hua

IT IS a great honour for me to take over from A/Prof Chin Jing Jih, who had led SMA for the past three years. On behalf of the Council, the Secretariat and the general membership of SMA, I would like to thank A/Prof Chin for his term as President. We hope to continue the good work that he has done especially in the area of ethics and professionalism. A/Prof Chin's monthly President's Forum in SMA

News written over the past three years provides ample material for a textbook on the subject. I certainly have big shoes to fill and much to learn.

I have been a member of the SMA Council since 2004. Since then I have witnessed how SMA has transformed itself through active engagement with our members, from medical students to GPs, specialists and special interest groups; offering

more educational programmes for both our profession and the public; and increasing our exposure in the public domain as well as on social media platforms.

We look forward to a year already packed with events. The secretariat staff is planning a wide variety of activities for almost every weekend throughout the year.

Some major highlights in the coming months include:

1. SMA Annual Dinner

At our Annual General Meeting held on 12 April 2015, we nominated the President of the Republic of Singapore Dr Tony Tan as the SMA Honorary Member for 2015. Dr Tan will be receiving SMA's highest award at this year's Annual Dinner to be held at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel on 16 May. I hope that you will be able to attend and look forward to seeing you at the event.

2. SMA Council retreat

As we have a few new council members with us this year, the SMA Council will hold a planning retreat from 30 to 31 May, to come together for team building and to review our work plan for the year ahead. We will be looking at our core mission and objectives as an organisation, to rebrand SMA in line with our purpose, and to better streamline our activities.

3. SMA National Medical Convention

The 46th SMA National Medical Convention, focusing on the topic of urology, will be held on 25 July at Sheraton Towers Singapore.

4. International relations

The SMA is the secretariat for the Medical Association of South East Asian Nations (MASEAN). This year, the midterm MASEAN meeting, with the theme of "Challenges in training our future healthcare workforce", will be hosted by the Brunei Medical Association, in Bandar Seri Begawan from 1 to 3 May.

I look forward to serving SMA, to represent our membership of doctors in the medical community, and to reach out to the public to promote trust in the profession. ■



Dr Wong Tien Hua is President of the 56th SMA Council. He is a family medicine physician practising in Sengkang. Dr Wong has an interest in primary care, patient communication, and medical ethics.