

May It Be

By Dr Tan Yia Swam, Editor

FIRST, an announcement: Dr Martin Chio has stepped down from the Editorial Board, due to increased work commitments at National Skin Centre. We thank him for his seven years of service, and hope that he will continue to contribute his lovely travel articles and photos to the Indulge column. I also welcome Dr Tan Tze Lee aboard as a Deputy Editor, increasing our representation of primary care physicians.

This month, we are honoured to have a feature article by A/Prof Low Cheng Ooi and Dr Daniel Li, which gives us a historical overview of IT development in public healthcare. The National Electronic Health Record is a complex and powerful programme that allows different hospitals and polyclinics rapid access to most of the vital patient medical records, minimising a lack of information. I am confident that as usage increases and continuous improvements are made, it will contribute to seamless care for all our patients.

We thank Dr Chew Shing Chai for his open letter, on his comments about the challenges and joys of obstetric practice, and its inherent risks to the practitioner.

Continuing our workplace safety and health series, Dr Tan Keng Leong gives us a succinct, yet thorough review of occupational asthma. We are also privileged to have an interview with Prof Douglas A McKim, the Ministry of Health's 2014/2015 HMDP Visiting Expert in Home Ventilation, conducted by Dr Chan Yeow.

Dr Desmond Wai provides personal insights on staff management and manpower issues, based on his experience in private practice. He also has some ideas on how SMA can help – do let us know whether you agree these will be of use in your practice.

Our medical students continue to inspire us. Alfred Wong reflects on the lessons he has learnt from his attachment to the community care teams at Tan Tock Seng Hospital. Muhammad Nur Dinie was invited by myself to write on the Muslim Medicine Outreach Program, held in January – an initiative that I was very impressed by, as medical students were actively giving back to their community. The report took a while to be published as he needed approval from the National University Health System corp comms prior to submission to SMA News. Hargaven Singh Gill reports on Project Khoj Ma, an overseas community involvement project to Kathmandu, Nepal, in December 2014. In the wake of the recent earthquake, our thoughts are with the victims and their families, and we are grateful to all rescue personnel and volunteers for assisting in this crisis.

Launching a new column, GP Matters, Dr Leong Choon Kit muses on some lessons from the late Mr Lee Kuan Yew, and how they may be applied to healthcare. Dr Juliana Poh shares about the Indonesian city of Makassar – now one of the places on my list of must-visits after her great introduction!

As SMA News continues to evolve, I look forward to your feedback on how to make it more relevant, useful and interesting for you (email news@sma.org.sg) – thank you! ■



Dr Tan Yia Swam is an associate consultant at the Breast Unit of KK Women's and Children's Hospital. She continues to juggle the commitments of being a doctor, a mother, a wife, and the increased duties of SMA News Editor. She also tries to keep time aside for herself and friends, both old and new.



Dr Tan Tze Lee

The invitation to join the SMA News Editorial Board a few weeks ago was one I couldn't refuse, and I look forward to contributing to it!

I graduated from Edinburgh University Medical School in 1987, and after a stint in National University Hospital, have been working as a GP in a small practice with my wife in Choa Chu Kang since 1992. In recent years, I have become increasingly involved in SMA and the College of Family Physicians, working to further the cause of GPs like myself and the cause of primary care as a whole.

A Tolkien fan (some would say fanatic!), I have read the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy from cover to cover a total of 11 times in my undergraduate days, and still have the same three volumes on my bookshelf. I still pick up a book or two, and for me nothing beats sitting in a quiet corner with a volume in hand to while away the wee hours. In my spare time, I love nothing better than to go for long walks, and snap some photos along the way with my trusty 35mm film camera. ■