



# SMA

## Annual Dinner 2015

By Denise Yuen, Editorial Executive

**THE HIGHLIGHT** of this year's SMA Annual Dinner, held at Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel on 16 May, was undoubtedly the unveiling of the Association's new slogan, "For Doctors, For Patients", by the Guest of Honour, Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, President of the Republic of Singapore.

In the welcome address (page 12), SMA President Dr Wong Tien Hua noted that the Association needs to fulfill its role to its members, represent the medical profession as a whole and meet the expectations of the public simultaneously. "I believe that the solution lies in identifying what it is in the medical profession that intrinsically binds the physician and the patient together," he stated. Therefore, SMA should align its basic priorities towards the goal of protecting the doctor-patient relationship. To this end, the new slogan will guide the Association's future direction and subsequent work.

### Conferment of SMA Honorary Membership

During the dinner, Dr Wong conferred SMA Honorary Membership on President Tony Tan, who joined the esteemed ranks of revered clinicians and influential persons who had distinguished themselves in public life or rendered meritorious service to SMA or the medical profession. Dr Wong also presented President Tan with a Chinese calligraphy piece by local calligrapher Mr Kee Meng Cheng (page 15). The four characters on the scroll, "勋寿双高" (*xun shou shuang gao*), form a congratulatory note often used to commend highly respected and admired persons for their seniority in age, and for their distinguished and meritorious achievements and contributions to society.

In his citation (page 14), Dr Wong lauded President Tan for being "an extraordinary leader with great foresight, who played a major role in the development of Singapore as a biomedical hub and a centre of excellence in medical education and research".



In his acceptance speech (page 5), President Tan encouraged SMA to engage members and create opportunities for mentoring at all levels of professional development. He also urged the doctors present “to lead by example and be the change you want to see”.

**Tokens of appreciation**

Tokens of appreciation were presented to six individuals for their contributions to the SMA Council, SMA Trust Fund and SMA Pte Ltd.

A/Prof Chin Jing Jih, a geriatrician at Tan Tock Seng Hospital, was the immediate past president of SMA for the last three years. He is currently 1st Vice President of the 56th SMA Council.

Dr Khoo Chong Yew and Dr Low Lip Ping, respectively an ophthalmologist and a cardiologist in private practice, have contributed to the SMA Trust Fund for more than two decades each, since the early 1990s.

Dr Yong Nen Khiong, a retired heart surgeon, has been a trustee on the SMA Pte Ltd’s Board of Trustees since 2003.

Dr Abdul Razakjr Bin Omar and Prof Wong Tien Yin, who were previously members of the SMA Council, were also recognised for their contributions to the Council. Dr Razakjr is a cardiologist in private practice. Prof Wong, medical director of the Singapore National Eye Centre, is currently serving as chairperson of the SMA Charity Fund Board of Directors.

**SMA Merit Awards**

Four doctors received this award in recognition of their contributions to SMA and medical profession, or social service to the community.

Prof Ho Nai Kiong has served in various capacities for



**Clockwise from top left**  
 SMA Merit Award recipients: Prof Ho Nai Kiong, Adj Prof Koh Tian Hai, Adj A/Prof Loong Si Chin and Prof Walter Tan Tiang Lee.

the *Singapore Medical Journal* (SMJ). He was a member of the SMJ Editorial Board between 1997 and 2002, associate editor between 2002 and 2010, and specialty editor between 2010 to 2014, despite his retirement in 2001. Prof Ho has been involved in reviewing and writing leading articles for SMJ since 1989.

Prof Koh Tian Hai, senior consultant at the Department of Cardiology and senior advisor at National Heart Centre Singapore, is a faculty member of major Asia-Pacific interventional meetings, where he regularly delivers lectures. Prof Koh has been organising an annual international live demonstration course in interventional cardiology since 1989. He also regularly teaches angioplasty techniques in various countries.

Adj A/Prof Loong Si Chin, who has been in private practice since 1978, is also visiting consultant at National Neuroscience Institute and Singapore National Eye Centre, as well as adjunct associate professor at the National University of Singapore (NUS). He became Singapore's first full-time neurologist in 1973 and formed the Republic's first Department of Neurology at Tan Tock Seng Hospital in 1977.

Prof Walter Tan has mentored many generations of medical students and surgical trainees during his 25-year tenure at NUS. During this time, he also served in numerous capacities at NUS and National University Hospital (NUH). Although Prof Tan left NUS to become medical director of Raffles Hospital in 2001, he still continues to teach and examine surgical undergraduates as well as plastic surgical trainees.

### SMA Long Service Awards

These awards were presented to individuals who have been actively involved in SMA's numerous committees.

#### 20 years of service

- Dr Lim Teck Beng: member of the Complaints Committee, and has also served on the SMA Council in various capacities from 1993 to 2003.
- Dr T Thirumorthy: executive director of the SMA Centre for Medical Ethics & Professionalism, and has also served on the SMA Council, Complaints Committee and Ethics Committee.
- Dr Wong Chiang Yin: has been serving on the SMA Council in various capacities since 1995, including as President from 2006 to 2009.

#### 10 years of service

- Dr Jeremy Lim: SMA News Editorial Board from 2004 to 2014.
- A/Prof Tan Puay Hoon: SMJ Editorial Board since 2005.
- Dr Diana Tan: member of the Complaints Committee since 2005.
- Dr Thng Choon Hua: SMJ Editorial Board since 2005.
- Dr Wong Moh Sim: SMJ Editorial Board since 2005.
- Dr Fabian Yap: member of the Complaints Committee since 2004.
- Dr Brian Yeo: SMA's representative to Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association since 2002.



**From top**  
SMA President Dr Wong Tien Hua presenting the 20 years Long Service Awards to Dr Lim Teck Beng, Dr T Thirumorthy and Dr Wong Chiang Yin

### SMJ Best Research Paper Awards 2014

This year's top three research papers were selected from 74 original papers published in SMJ from January to December 2014. Each winning research team received a cash award, a commemorative trophy sponsored by SMA, and a certificate.



**From top**  
A/Prof Poh Kian Keong presenting the SMJ Best Research Paper Awards to Mr Gary Lee Jek Chong (first prize) and Dr Ching Siok Siong (second prize). Mr How Hee Long from Abbvie Singapore presenting the award to Dr Lim Geok-Hoon (third prize).

Mr Gary Lee Jek Chong accepted the first prize on behalf of his team for the paper “The music listening preferences and habits of youths in Singapore and its relation to leisure noise-induced hearing loss”. The prize included \$5,000 in cash sponsored by Pfizer Pte Ltd.

The second prize went to the paper “The use of a second

biopsy from the gastric body for the detection of *Helicobacter pylori* using rapid urease test”. Dr Ching Siok Siong received the award, which included \$3,000 sponsored by Mead Johnson Nutrition (S) Pte Ltd, on behalf of his team.

The paper “Syndecan-1 is a potential biomarker for triple-positive breast carcinomas in Asian women with correlation to survival” took the third prize. Dr Lim Geok-Hoon received the award on behalf of her team. Their cash prize of \$2,000 was sponsored by AbbVie Singapore.

### **An evening of collegiality**

Dr J Nithiananthan provided a welcome musical interlude in the proceedings by performing a total of six pieces on the Yamaha C2X grand piano, on loan for the evening by Yamaha Music Asia Pte Ltd.

Lively conversations and laughter resounded through the ballroom as more than 400 attendees mingled with old friends and made new ones. Distinguished guests present at the dinner included Dr Lam Pin Min, Minister of State for Health; Mrs Tan Ching Yee, Permanent Secretary for Health; Major-General Ng Chee Khern, Second Permanent Secretary for Health; and Dr Lim Wee Kiak, Member of Parliament for Nee Soon Group Representation Constituency. Overseas guests in attendance were Prof Rai Mra, President, Myanmar Medical Association; and Dr Yothin Benjawung, Chair of Medical Education, Medical Association of Thailand.

It was an amazing night with excellent company, lively conversations and delectable food. We hope to see you again next year!

SMA thanks the sponsors of the SMJ Best Research Paper Awards 2014: Pfizer Pte Ltd, Mead Johnson Nutrition (S) Pte Ltd and AbbVie Singapore. SMA also thanks The Art Fellas Pte Ltd, BALL Watch Company, Central Equity Ltd, United Overseas Bank Ltd Business Banking and Yamaha Music Asia Pte Ltd for their generous contributions to the SMA Annual Dinner. The 56th SMA Council would also like to express their gratitude to all guests who attended the dinner and played a part in its success. ■

### **Lucky draw winners**

1. Dr Jonathan Tan: canvas painting *Garden in Bloom* by Yeo Siak Goon (sponsored by The Art Fellas Pte Ltd)
2. Dr Wong Nan-Yaw: Engineer Hydrocarbon Magnate GMT mechanical watch (sponsored by BALL Watch Company)
3. Ms Huang Zang Cai: two nights' luxury accommodation in Melbourne, Australia, and \$500 in CapitaVouchers (sponsored by Central Equity Ltd)
4. Dr Tiong Ho Yee: \$1,000 travel voucher (sponsored by United Overseas Bank Ltd Business Banking)
5. Dr Ewe See Hooi: Restio integrated audio system (sponsored by Yamaha Music Asia Pte Ltd)