

SMA NEWS

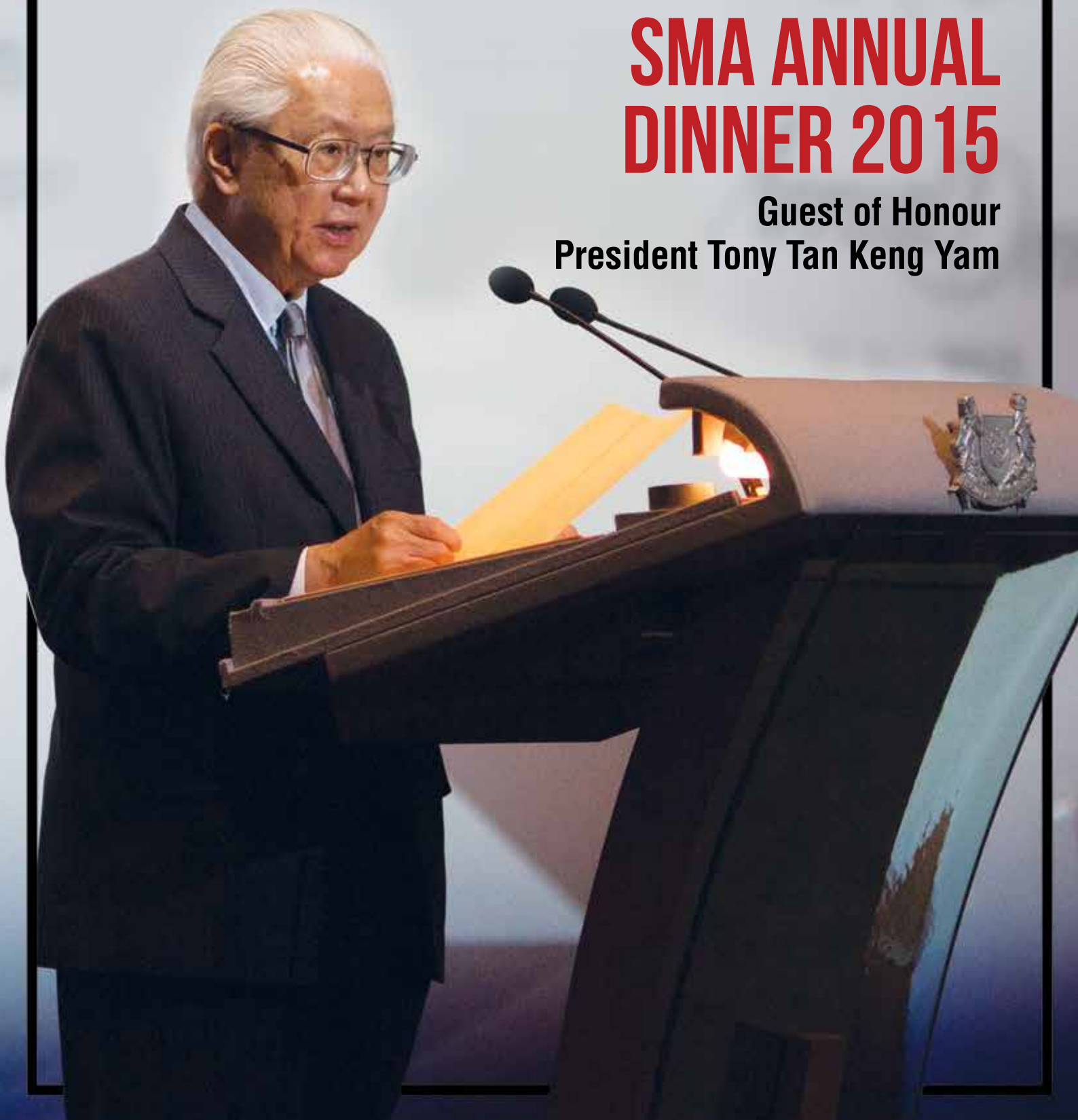


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SMA ANNUAL DINNER 2015

Guest of Honour
President Tony Tan Keng Yam



By Dr Tan Yia Swam, Editor

IN THIS issue, we bring you the highlights of the recent SMA Annual Dinner. Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, President of the Republic of Singapore, who graced the occasion, was conferred the SMA Honorary Membership. Herein, we reproduce the citation for President Tony Tan, delivered by Dr Wong Tien Hua, President of the 56th SMA Council, and report the highlights of that evening of collegiality.

From the dinner, the key message for this year was the rebranding of SMA – our traditional motto of “Service before Self” has been reinterpreted as “For Doctors, For Patients”. There was also an emphasis on the ageing population with multiple medical problems, requiring central coordination, thus highlighting the important role of the family physician.

This June, we also commemorate the 15th anniversary of the SMA Centre for Medical Ethics & Professionalism (CMEP) with a series of articles devoted to the centre and updates on professionalism in medicine. In this month’s President’s Forum, Dr Wong Tien Hua describes a simple working model for the intricate interactions of professionalism, ethics, knowledge and trust. Accompanying his article is a humorous cartoon by Dr Kevin Loy, a GP in private practice with a keen interest in art. Read about the founding and development of SMA CMEP over the years, as well as glean insights into ethics and professionalism from experts such as A/Prof Cheong Pak Yean, A/Prof Goh Lee Gan, Prof Alastair Campbell, A/Prof

Anita Ho, Prof Tan Siang Yong and A/Prof Nicholas Chew.

Under the workplace safety and health (WSH) series, Dr Anthony Goon shares an approach to the management of occupational skin diseases. Some recipients of the SMA Medical Students’ Assistance Fund pen their appreciation to the donors. Let’s continue to pay it forward!

Dr Leong Choon Kit continues the family physician column, GP Matters, recalling a funny anecdote on how isolated doctors have become and the common tendency to focus on different systems rather than the patient as a whole. Dr Chan Yeow reminds us that patients are first and foremost humans with cares and concerns – when most of our training and work are so fixated on facts and numbers, sometimes we overlook that patients need compassion and empathy too.

Combining work with pleasure, Dr Jonathan Tan relates his experience in Lyon, France, where he attended a conference. From his article I learnt something new – that conference food can be delicious! ■



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.