

THE EDITOR'S MUSINGS

FOR PATIENTS...

In this February feature, I am honoured to have Ms Eirliani Abdul Rahman, a child rights campaigner and co-founder of Youths, Adult survivors & Kin in Need (YAKIN), write for us. Her piece on how to recognise the signs of sexual abuse in a child and what we can do is relevant even if we don't see paediatric patients. Survivors of such abuse may become our patients for any condition. Sexual abuse may be an area that we don't feel comfortable discussing, which makes it all the more important for us to learn how to identify such patients and refer them to get the help they need.

Our other contributors have also made a difference for patients. Dr Chua Wei Chong, one of my esteemed seniors and former colleague at Tan Tock Seng Hospital's Department of General Surgery, writes on his passion for trauma care and his involvement in locoregional collaborations. "GP Matters" columnist, Dr Leong Choon Kit, shares his views on how hospitals and GPs can better coordinate the post-discharge care of patients. Dr Desmond Mao, an emergency physician, introduces the app by Singapore Civil Defence Force, myResponder, which serves to inform users of nearby cardiac arrest cases that might benefit from cardiopulmonary resuscitation. I have downloaded the app and I find it very user-friendly.

FOR DOCTORS...

Ms Mak Wei Munn and Jasmine Tham are lawyers from Allen & Gledhill LLP who share pointers on how to take informed consent and discuss recent developments in shared decision-making.

Another important medico-legal issue that should concern our readers, especially the "junior" ones, is that of medical indemnity. During the course of your training, you should be covered under a group insurance by your respective hospital. Do you know exactly what you are covered for? Will you be covered if you changed cluster? How about an incident that took place three years ago, when you were a house officer, before you paid off your bond and started working as a locum? Dr Lee Pheng Soon and Dr Bertha Woon wrote a piece on the basics of medical indemnity in November 2014 (<https://goo.gl/gRFyK>) and in the coming issues, we will be bringing you more insight pieces on this topic.

This month's "Indulge" article combines music and travel. Dr Chang Tou Liang (who should be a very familiar name for all musicians!) recounts his musical pilgrimage to Husum, where he attended a piano festival featuring rarely played pieces. Music lovers among us will be inspired to catch the next such event!

ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS...

Our medical students continue to be very active in humanitarian work. Congratulations to Project Sa'Bai for accomplishing ten years of medical volunteerism! Tricia Chew and Cassandra Ang, the heads of Project Sa'Bai 2015, report on last year's outreach. We hope that succeeding batches of students will continue this fine work.

Jeremy Teoh reports on the WHB-SMACF Outstanding Mentor Awards 2015, where students pay tribute to doctors who have



Dr Tan Yia Swam is an associate consultant at the Breast Department 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.

Yia Swam
Editor

coached them on clinical research. I am glad that the teachers among us are given more recognition, as clinical medicine is a mentorship and we can never just learn from textbooks alone.

As a youngish doctor myself, I admit to some ignorance of our own local medical history. Dr Cuthbert Teo's ongoing series provide a reference into the beginnings of medicine in Singapore. I am also thankful that Dr Jerry Lim (co-founder of Dover Park Hospice) has kindly given my team so much of his time to speak with us about his batch of pioneer doctors. Sadly, one of our pioneers, Dr Moses Yu, passed away on 30 December 2015. He was the first locally trained clinical microbiologist and was Head of Pathology from 1972 to 1985. Dr Jipson Quah and Dr Jerry Lim pen a eulogy in memory of him.

Let us never forget those who came before us and who laid down a strong foundation upon which we build, and let us in turn build a strong structure to support our future doctors. ◆