



The EDITORS' MUSINGS



Tan Yia Swam

Editor

Dr Tan is learning new skills and stretching new boundaries in her private practice. Meanwhile, she still juggles the commitments of being a doctor, a wife, the *SMA News* Editor, the Vice-President of the SMA and a mother of three. She also tries to keep time aside for herself and friends, both old and new.

I want to talk about identity this August. Identity as a Singaporean, as a doctor and as an SMA Member – how do you see yourself? What do you identify with? If you have moved overseas and worked for a few years, do you still feel like a Singaporean? If you have been a doctor for 50 years, what happens after you retire? If you speak up on issues that concern you, is that in your personal capacity or your professional capacity? As a consultant or a specialist? Or as a representative of the hospital? I am all of that, and more.

I welcome Ganesh – a young doctor with the moral courage to speak up for his beliefs – onto the *SMA News* Editorial Board as he joins us to serve the greater community.

I am again privileged with the opportunity to co-edit an issue of *SMA News*. We live in a day and age where connectivity and teamwork is all the rage; our generation of healthcare professionals is constantly peppered by buzzwords such as "holistic care", "teamlets" and "multi-disciplinary meetings". The National Electronic Health Record has enhanced seamless care between Government institutions; but what does this mean for those of us in private practice? Are we doomed to continue practising outdated medicine in our little silo clinics writing quaint referral letters in archaic language? With our occasional "uplifting" only being the continuing medical education events forced upon us by Singapore Medical Council requirements?

Yet recent events have clearly shown that the world has changed. A private practitioner who is meted a disproportionately large fine might have suffered in silence in yesteryears. This time round, social media alerted the community to the event and a huge profession-wide outcry, backed by timely lobbying by our professional bodies, has resulted in justice and exoneration.

We now see how networking in the private practice community is possible in a way that was never so before. Even as I pen this, my handphone trills with

Alex Wong

Guest Editor

Dr Wong is a private practitioner who talks too much. This occasionally leads him to write strange things, eat strange foods, travel to strange places and attend strange weddings/funerals that he doesn't necessarily always want to be at. He thinks this is fun and what life should be about.

messages that race across WhatsApp chat groups comprising several hundred doctors. Some seek legal and professional advice, while others share jokes and wishes for a good morning ahead.

It's clear to me that even without us realising, technology has crept in through the seams of our lives and empowered us physicians more than ever before. But this is only useful if we use this technology to actively reach out to each other and counter the passive – almost cynical – stoicism that has been the millstone on the neck of our profession for years past.

It's up to us to encourage our colleagues to be more active members of professional bodies, so that these bodies can represent and lobby for us effectively.

May we seize this opportunity to bring our profession forward.

Carpe diem. ♦



WELCOME ON BOARD

Dr Ganesh Kudva, Senior Resident, Early Psychosis Intervention Programme, IMH

Hello to the readers of *SMA News* and fellow physicians. It is indeed a privilege and honour to be on the *SMA News* Editorial Board and I sincerely appreciate this opportunity.

For better or for worse, Singapore tends to hurtle through change at a rapid pace. We've seen that in our economy, society and infrastructure, and we're presently seeing that in our healthcare ecosystem. Change can be a rather anxiety-inducing thing, but I look forward to making sense of it all in concert with all of you. What I hope shall always remain constant is our undying passion to serve and to foster the betterment of our patients. ♦

SMA EVENTS SEP–OCT 2019

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	CME POINTS	WHO SHOULD ATTEND?	CONTACT
CME Activities					
3 Sep Tue	Mastering Professional Interactions	Sheraton Towers	2	Family Medicine and All Specialties	Terry/Siti Athirah 6223 1264 mpsworkshops@sma.org.sg
4 Sep Wed	Mastering Difficult Interactions with Patients	Sheraton Towers	2	Family Medicine and All Specialties	Terry/Siti Athirah 6223 1264 mpsworkshops@sma.org.sg
21 Sep Sat	Achieving Safer and Reliable Practice	Novotel Singapore on Stevens	2	Family Medicine and All Specialties	Terry/Siti Athirah 6223 1264 mpsworkshops@sma.org.sg
27 Sep Fri	Medical Succession and Will Planning	Pharmaceutical Society of Singapore Conference Room	1	GPs, Aspiring and Current Practice Owners	Jasmine 6540 9196 jasminesoo@sma.org.sg
3 Oct Thu	Building Resilience and Avoiding Burnout	Sheraton Towers	2	Family Medicine and All Specialties	Terry/Siti Athirah 6223 1264 mpsworkshops@sma.org.sg
5 Oct Sat 6 Oct Sun	The Annual National Medico-Legal Seminar 2019	Furama Riverfront Singapore	6	Allied Health Professionals, Healthcare Professionals (Clinical and Non-Clinical), Hospital Administrators and Legal Professionals	Jasmine 6540 9196 jasminesoo@sma.org.sg
12 Oct Sat	Medico-Legal Seminar on Mental Capacity Assessment – Caring for Persons with Diminished Capacity (Temporary/Fluctuating)	Camden Medical	2	GPs, Paediatricians, Psychiatrists and Neurologists	Jasmine 6540 9196 jasminesoo@sma.org.sg
16 Oct Wed	Mastering Your Risk	Sheraton Towers	2	Family Medicine and All Specialties	Terry/Siti Athirah 6223 1264 mpsworkshops@sma.org.sg
19 Oct Sat	SMA Cancer Education Series for GPs – Breast Cancer	Camden Medical	2	GPs and Healthcare Practitioners	Denise/Jasmine 6223 1264 denisetan@sma.org.sg jasminesoo@sma.org.sg
26 Oct Sat	SMA Cancer Education Series for GPs – Lung Cancer	Camden Medical	2	GPs and Healthcare Practitioners	Denise/Jasmine 6223 1264 denisetan@sma.org.sg jasminesoo@sma.org.sg