

News from SMA Council

By Dr Yue Wai Mun, Honorary Secretary



1. ASIAN TSUNAMI MEDICAL RELIEF

It is heartening to see Members stepping forward overwhelmingly to render their services during the Tsunami disaster. Many have gone out with various groups to render their professional expertise and skills in the affected countries. Many have also responded in other ways even as they continue to practise back home in Singapore.

The SMA Council is glad to support the initiative by SMA Member Dr Eric Chiam, in mobilising doctors to donate medicines and medical supplies for relief work in Sri Lanka, as identified by Sri Lanka High Commission. Appeals were via email and website announcements. SMA also donated 1180 Draeger masks and 1000 disposable surgical gowns. The Council deeply appreciates Dr Eric Chiam and Dr Lisa Chen for their efforts in mobilising fellow practitioners and undertaking logistics. The Council would also like to thank all members/doctors who had responded to the appeal. (See page 6 for detailed report.)

Members were also informed of other avenues of medical relief – they could donate to the Medical Associations of Indonesia and Thailand through SMA, or make direct donations to Singapore Red Cross Society.

2. MEETING OF 3 PROFESSIONAL BODIES

The Presidents of the 3 professional bodies (AM, CFPS and SMA) met on 11 February. It was agreed that they would henceforth meet regularly (thrice a year) to exchange views and promote closer collaboration and cooperation.

3. DEATH CERTIFICATION

Members who require clarification on the certifiable causes of death may refer to the following articles:

- i. "Death certification by clinicians: How to avoid unnecessary trouble when your patient dies"
By Dr Gilbert Lau, **SMA News** October 2002
http://www.sma.org.sg/sma_news/3410/practice.pdf
- ii. "Certificate of Cause of Death" – Responses from MOH and a forensic pathologist. **SMA News** August 2003
http://www.sma.org.sg/sma_news/3508/council.pdf

UPCOMING SMA EVENTS

10 April 2005 (Sun), 2-5pm

Annual General Meeting, Alumni Auditorium

30 April 2005 (Sat), 7pm

Annual Dinner, Raffles Town Club

14 & 15 May 2005 (Sat & Sun)

Annual Medical Convention, Grand Copthorne Waterfront

For more details, look out for the SMA Mailbag.