

News from SMA Council

I. SEMI-RETIRED DOCTORS

We have received feedback from semi-retired doctors who have closed down their clinics but continue to do a few locum sessions and attend CME activities because they wish to keep up with their practice. As some of these doctors do not earn that much from the occasional locum, they had hoped that the Singapore Medical Council (SMC) would consider allowing semi-retired doctors to renew their practising certificates for a lower fee.

We have written to SMC about this category of doctors and upon review, the SMC Credentials Committee noted that it would be difficult to define and monitor a semi-retired doctor's working hours to truly determine semi-retirement. It was felt, for example, that SMC would have difficulty disciplining those who pay the reduced rate but are actually working beyond "semi-retired" hours of work.

The SMC Credentials Committee was hence of the opinion that pragmatically, the request was not feasible to implement. It added that whatever SMC implemented must be clearly unambiguous and practical to implement.

2. ADVERTISING MEDICAL SERVICES OUTSIDE SINGAPORE

The SMA Council would like to remind members who advertise their healthcare services outside Singapore that, as required by the PHMC (Publicity) Regulations, they must abide by that country's advertising guidelines.

To foster greater cooperation between Singaporean and overseas doctors, members who wish to hold talks or workshops outside Singapore should

also try their best to jointly organise these with the local parties in that country, such as the hospitals, medical bodies or universities.

3. IN MEMORY OF GARFIELD

The late Dr Chan Kah Poon (29 October 1943 – 21 February 2005), who went by the pen name of *Garfield*, was one of our most prolific writers as well as an Editorial Board Member. He wrote a total of 88 articles from 1986 to 2004 in *SMA News*.

We hope to put together a commemorative book containing some of these writings, as well as commentaries by friends and colleagues, to record the evolving historical tapestry of healthcare in Singapore as seen through the eyes of *Garfield*.

We are currently looking for sponsorship to publish this book. Members who are interested can contact the SMA Secretariat for more information. ■

MARK THESE DATES

SMA Annual Dinner

Date : 13 May 2007 (Sunday)

Venue : Raffles Town Club

SMA 38th National Medical Convention

Theme: "Breaking New Barriers in Pain Management"

Date : 19 & 20 May 2007 (Saturday & Sunday)

Venue : Suntec International Exhibition and Convention Centre

Dear SMA Members,



Thank you for your overwhelming support (over 60% of entire SMA membership) of the SMA auto-deduction exercise via the UOB-SMA Platinum Card on the SMA Membership Subscription Fees 2007.

We are pleased to announce that **Dr Ng Sim Yang (NRIC: S----383C)** has won a pair of **Economy air tickets to Tokyo** in the auto-deduction lucky draw. Congratulations, Dr Ng!

The UOB-SMA Platinum Card is a prestigious Platinum Card that allows you instant identification as a doctor and as an SMA Member. It offers various SMA perks and activities as well. We encourage all SMA Members to sign up for this card. Please download the application form from www.sma.org.sg/sensory. Thank you.

