The Next Lap
A New SMA President Picks Up the Baton
After helming SMA for three years, Dr Chong Yeh Woei stepped down as President of the 52nd SMA Council at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 15 April 2012. Dr Chong has served on the Council since 1998, and continues his term on the 53rd SMA Council as 1st Vice President.

At the AGM, Dr Chong stated, “As outgoing President, I would like to thank my Council for being very helpful and supportive of my last three years. It has been a pleasure serving the organisation and our members. The Secretariat has done a marvellous job in terms of supporting us. And to our members who have seen us through thick and thin – there are many challenges ahead but I am sure the new President will be well equipped to handle them and take them on. I thank you once again for your honesty, helpfulness and sincerity in bringing our organisation forward – it is really a heartfelt word of thanks.”

A/Prof Chin Jing Jih took up office as the incoming President. He was first elected to the Council in 2002 and was 1st Vice President from 2011 to 2012. A/Prof Chin is Divisional Chairman, Integrated & Community Care and senior consultant geriatrician in the Department of Continuing and Community Care at Tan Tock Seng Hospital.

A/Prof Chin said, “It’s an exciting time for the medical profession but also a time of rapid change. What I hope to lead the Council to do is help our members adapt to these changes. These changes are definite – there’s no running away from them. But I think we can be better equipped to meet these changes, either through our professional or technical skills, or through our understanding of the law. I hope that members will continue to support us. We’ll do our best. I don’t promise a perfect job, but all of us will work in the best interests of the profession.

“I think all of us applied to be doctors in medical school years ago to do that ‘special thing’, and what we need is to continue with it. If we stop doing this special thing, the profession will stop being special. So I hope we will do our best to enable everyone to do that special thing for our patients. If we all can do this special thing, the profession will always remain special to society.

“I want to thank Dr Chong Yeh Woei for his leadership for three years, and Dr Wong Chiang Yin before that. I think they’ve started many useful and important initiatives, and we hope to let them gather momentum and continue to take this route. In this way, we will develop a culture of enabling ourselves, with the ultimate aim of benefiting our patients.”

Dr Wong Tien Hua, a GP in private practice, was elected as 2nd Vice President. Dr Tammy Chan and Dr Lee Yik Voon, both GPs in private practice, were elected as Honorary Secretary and Assistant Honorary Secretary respectively. Stepping up to the roles of Honorary Treasurer and Assistant Honorary Treasurer were Dr Tan Sze Wee and Dr Chow U Jin. Dr Tan is Director, Strategic Initiatives at the Agency for Science, Technology and Research, while Dr Chow is Group Medical Affairs Director at Cordlife Services (S) Pte Ltd.

The Council also welcomed two new members, Dr Chia Ghim Song and Dr Lee Hsien Chieh Daniel. Dr Chia is from the Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School Class of 2011, and is currently undergoing the transitional year residency programme with Singapore Health. He was a research scientist at DSO National Laboratories before he commenced his postgraduate studies at Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School in 2007. Dr Lee is Assistant Director, Operations at Changi General Hospital and leads the operations of five frontline service departments, including Accident & Emergency, Specialist Outpatient Clinics, Inpatient Wards, Medical Records Office, and Call Centre. Prior to his current role, Dr Lee was studying for his Master of Public Health at Harvard University under the US government’s Fulbright Scholar Program.

The Installation Ceremony was conducted after the AGM on the same day, in the SMA Conference Room.

SMA Honorary Membership

Members supported the election of Mr Lee Kuan Yew, Member of Parliament for Tanjong Pagar Group Representation Constituency. The Honorary Membership was later conferred on Mr Lee at the SMA Annual Dinner on 12 May 2012 at Marina Bay Sands.

Constitutional amendments

There was a quorum at the AGM, as 50 SMA members had turned up. The proposed constitutional amendments were discussed and passed successfully. These amendments included:

1. Allowing the incorporation of a company limited by guarantee to carry out charitable activities.
2. Entitling Honorary Members who are medical practitioners registered or provisionally registered in the Register of the Medical Council in Singapore to the same benefits and privileges of Ordinary Members, including the right to vote and hold office.
3. Entitling Spouse Members the same benefits and privileges of Ordinary Members, except that they shall not be eligible to hold office or to vote.
4. Entitling Student Members to the same benefits and privileges of Ordinary Members, except that they shall not be eligible to hold office or to vote.
5. The option for the Council to terminate Spouse Membership if the Membership with whom the Spouse Membership is derived from has been terminated.
53rd SMA Council 2012-13

President
1st Vice President
2nd Vice President
Honorary Secretary
Assistant Honorary Secretary
Honorary Treasurer
Assistant Honorary Treasurer
Council Members

A/Prof Chin Jing Jih
Dr Chong Yeh Woei
Dr Wong Tien Hua
Dr Chan Teng Mui Tammy
Dr Lee Yik Voon
Dr Tan Sze Wee
Dr Chow U-Jin
Dr Abdul Razakjr Omar
Dr Chia Ghim Song
Dr Lee Hsien Chieh Daniel
Dr Lee Pheng Soon
Dr Noorul Fatha As'art
Dr Tan Yia Swam
Dr Toh Choon Lai
Dr Toh Han Chong
Dr Wong Chiang Yin
Prof Wong Tien Yin
Dr Woon Yng Yng Bertha

New faces in Council

Dr Chia Ghim Song
Dr Lee Hsien Chieh Daniel