

By Adeline Chua



SMA Welcomes Our New House Officers

The 13th SMA House Officer Seminar was held on 21 April 2007 at the National University of Singapore. The main sponsor this year was the Medical Protection Society (MPS).

Lunch was provided before the start of the seminar and at 2 pm sharp, Dr Raymond Chua, Honorary Secretary of SMA, welcomed the new doctors into the medical fraternity and gave his Opening Address.



The talks started with Dr Charles Goh, Chairman of the Organising Committee, addressing the new cohort of medical graduates on conducting proper morning ward rounds. HOs should aim to update consultants/registrar on the patients' status and current issues and make decisions about the management of their patients. Prior to the ward rounds, HOs should prepare casesheets/IMR/temp charts and make investigations, familiarise themselves with new patients and also find out what happened to old patients.

Dr Flora Yuan then shared her tips on doing "changes", which are mostly the duties of a HO, and how to make proper referrals. Following this, Dr Desmond Mao spoke on the seven steps to clerking a new case, including going through computer HIDS for old medical records, obtaining blood tubes, plugs and equipment as well as instituting early management and updating the senior doctors.

Common pitfalls of medical practice were then touched on by Dr Lawrence Ng, MPS Medico-Legal Adviser. Insights such as obtaining

patients' consent, making identifiable clinical notes, undertaking a reasonable standard of skill and care and handling complaints from patients were given. The benefits of Mutual Protection by MPS were also highlighted to the HOs. The speakers and audience then adjourned for a tea break.

The programme resumed with Dr Wu Pang Hung giving useful advice for performing night duty. He also spoke about the top 10 interesting experiences he encountered during night calls. It was felt that tough night calls would make a HO mentally strong and efficient.

Last but not least, Dr Alfred Kow spoke on "What Makes a Good House Officer?". HOs were reminded to clarify their doubts whenever they were unsure, learn as they go along and practise as much as possible. He also emphasised the golden rule of "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you".

The audience was then split up into smaller groups so that they could consult volunteers from the outgoing batch of HOs on their concerns.

At the end of the seminar, all participants received a gift pack containing medical accessories and related publications which a HO would find useful, not only during internship but also in his/her medical career. ■

