

By Adeline Chua, Editorial Executive



Preparing GPs for a Flu Pandemic

With the aim of supporting the GPs to continue to manage the sick in the community during a pandemic, a Flu Pandemic Workshop was jointly organised by the Ministry of Health, Singapore Medical Association and College of Family Physicians Singapore.

The workshops were held over three weekend afternoons from July to August this year at Health Promotion Board's Auditorium and were attended by a total of 683 participants. Latest updates on the avian influenza situation and the systems and operational procedures that will come into effect in the event of a pandemic were touched on. Participants were also briefed on practical steps on how to prepare their clinics to handle suspected cases and were familiarised with Personal Protective Equipment and mask fitting. Doctors who attended the full programme and

completed the MCQ test obtained six Core CME points for their speciality.

Those who had yet to sign up for the Primary Healthcare Response Framework, which complements the overall disease outbreak plan response plan, were also encouraged to do so. In the event of an influenza pandemic, GPs will continue to provide clinical assessment and anti-viral treatment when needed or make referral to the hospitals for further treatment. Participating GPs and their clinic staff will also receive the same level of protection as healthcare workers in the public sector and will be provided with anti-viral drugs for treatment purposes.

Many GPs have responded positively to participate in this national effort. Indeed, their support and participation will help keep Singaporeans safe and healthy in the midst of any disease outbreak.



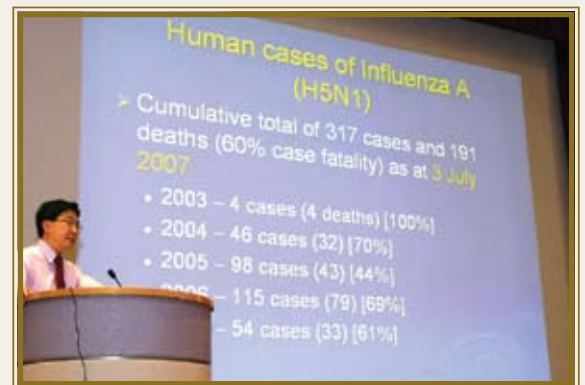
Dr Wong Chiang Yin



A/Prof Goh Lee Gan



Dr Wong Tien Hua



Dr Jeffery Cutter



Mr Lim Kok Peng



The Audience at the Flu Pandemic Workshop

GPs who are interested in the Primary Healthcare Response Framework can look out for more information in upcoming issues of SMA News.