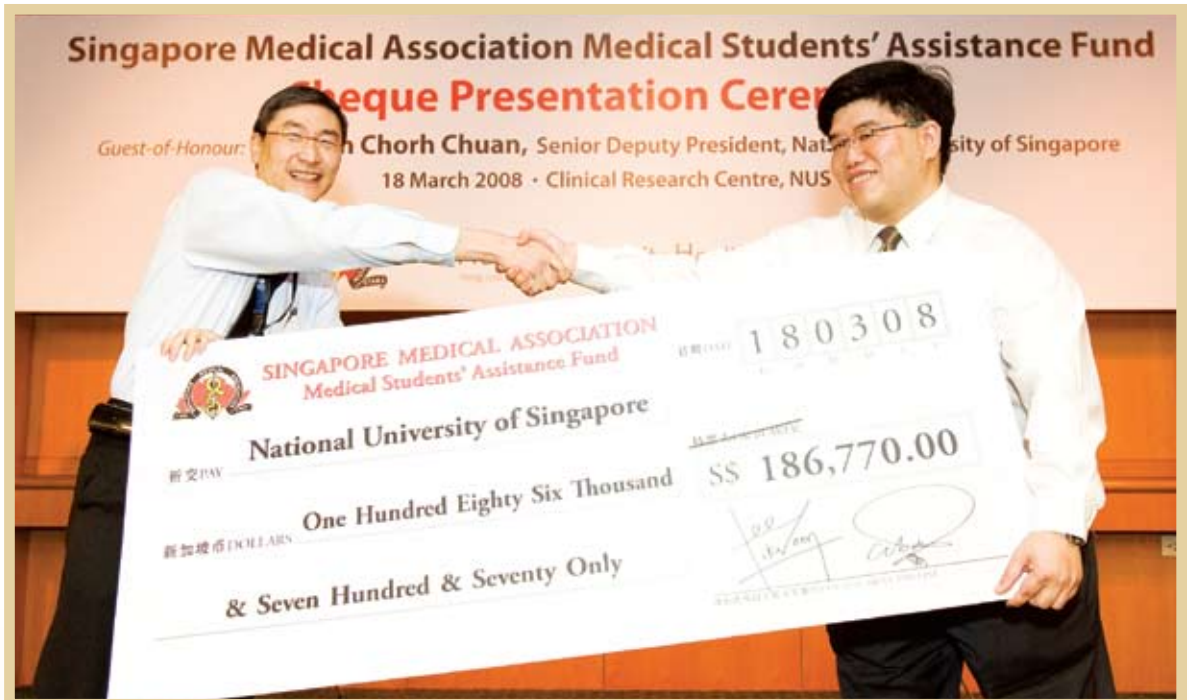


By Ms Adeline Chua, Editorial Executive



Dr Wong Chiang Yin, President, SMA, presenting the cheque of total donations received for the year 2007 to Prof John Wong, Dean, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, NUS.

## \$186,770 raised for SMA Medical Students' Assistance Fund

"THERE IS REALLY NO MORE RELEVANT CAUSE TO THE MEDICAL PROFESSION THAN HELPING OUR POOR YOUTHS WHO DESIRE AND DESERVE A MERITOCRATIC MEDICAL EDUCATION."

— DR WONG CHIANG YIN, SMA PRESIDENT

A highly subsidised five-year medical undergraduate course such as that offered by the National University of Singapore (NUS) can cost over S\$100,000. A recent survey by the NUS Medical Society found that about 21%, or 250 medical students in the NUS undergraduate course, have a monthly household income of less than \$3,000. Another 26% come from households that earn between S\$3,000 to S\$5,000 a month.

The same survey found that a NUS medical student needs at least \$4,410 a year to survive day-to-day (transport, food, books and miscellaneous), or \$367.50 a month.

In collaboration with the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine and with support from the NUS Development Office, the **SMA Medical Students' Assistance Fund** was thus established to help needy Singaporean medical students with their basic living expenses.

The charitable cause saw members actively making one-time or recurrent donations to the Fund. The donations made will not become part of an endowment fund and were matched dollar-to-dollar by SMA, up to a maximum of \$20,000.

Total donations received for the year 2007 amounted to a heartening **\$186,770**. The sum will go towards supporting 10 students every year. \$300 will be disbursed to the recipient per month, that is, \$3,600 for a year. Recipients will receive funding for up to the entire five years of their student life, depending on their remaining years in the medical school.

We also received a generous donation of \$20,000 from the Tan Chin Tuan Foundation. This donation, however, will only count towards year 2008.

The cheque presentation ceremony was held on 18 March 2008 at the Clinical Research Centre Auditorium, National University of Singapore. The Guest-of-Honour for the ceremony was Prof Tan Chorh Chuan, Senior Deputy President, National University of Singapore.

Said Prof Tan: "One of the most notable traditions of the medical profession is its very strong commitment to educate future generations of doctors. In this regard, this very generous pledge by the Singapore Medical Association will not only go a long way to help needy medical students pursue their studies, but is an admirable re-affirmation

◀ Page 8 – \$186,770 Raised for SMA Medical Students' Assistance Fund

of this high ideal. On behalf of NUS, I would like to express our deep appreciation to the Singapore Medical Association for this magnificent gesture.”

Prof John Wong, Dean, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, NUS also said: “We are grateful to the Singapore Medical Association for their generous pledge to match the donations to the SMA Medical Students' Assistance Fund dollar-for-dollar, up to a maximum of \$20,000 a year. They saw the need and stepped up to contribute in this important way, which will surely inspire others to give. We all want our medical students to be free of financial worry and able to devote their precious time and energy to their studies. The long-term commitment from the SMA is truly an investment in our future generation of doctors.”

On behalf of the medical students of NUS, Mr Ng Chew Lip, President, NUS Medical Society, expressed his gratitude: “We are truly grateful to the SMA. Through this generous pledge, the SMA has not only helped alleviate the financial burden on medical students and our families, but has also made a momentous contribution to the future of the medical profession. Having benefited from those before us, this generation of medical students will be inspired to lend a hand to those after us in a virtuous cycle that the SMA has helped put in motion.”

As part of the initiative, SMA Christmas cards were also sold at various hospitals by medical students. The cards were sold in a box of 20, with four assorted designs. All proceeds from the card sales went towards the Fund.

In addition, we will be working hand-in-hand with the SMA Membership Committee, which will contribute \$5 to the Fund for every SMA T-shirt sold.

“We are truly grateful to the SMA. Through this generous pledge, the SMA has not only helped alleviate the financial burden on medical students and our families, but has also made a momentous contribution to the future of the medical profession. Having benefited from those before us, this generation of medical students will be inspired to lend a hand to those after us in a virtuous cycle that the SMA has helped put in motion.”

– Mr Ng Chew Lip, President, NUS Medical Society

SMA also adopted a medical text *Baileys Surgery* for \$3,000 at the Adopt-A-Book Campaign on 20 August 2007 at the ST Lee Atrium, NUS Museum, which was launched by the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine.

The SMA Council and the SMA Social Concerns Committee would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to all donors and the Tan Chin Tuan Foundation who have responded to the SMA Medical Students' Assistance Fund. We would also like to thank the various hospitals who have assisted us in the Christmas cards sale and the medical students who have shared their time in volunteering.

We hope SMA members will continue to support this worthwhile endeavour – because medical students are already members of the medical profession and medical students are our future. ■



(L-R): Mr Eric Teng, CEO, Tan Chin Tuan Foundation; Prof Tan Chorh Chuan, Senior Deputy President, NUS; Dr Wong Chiang Yin, President, SMA; Mr Chew Kwee San, Council Member, Tan Chin Tuan Foundation; Dr Tan Sze Wee, Chairman, SMA Social Concerns Committee; and Prof John Wong, Dean, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, NUS.

# List of Donors

(as at 3 April 2008)

Dr Abdul Razakjr Omar  
 Dr Ang Chee Beng  
 Dr Ang Sze Wee Erik  
 Dr Boey Wah Keong  
 Dr Chacha Pesi Bejonji  
 Dr Chan Boon Kheng  
 Dr Chan Hsiu Mei  
 Dr Chan Kenneth  
 Dr Chan Kin Ming  
 Dr Chan Kok Yew  
 Dr Chan Kong Hon  
 Chan Sing Kit Pte Ltd  
 Dr Chan Teng Mui Tammy  
 Dr Cheah Si Oon  
 Dr Chee Phui Hung  
 Dr Chen Ai Ju  
 Dr Chew Ling  
 A/Prof Chin Jing Jih  
 Ms Chin Ling Fang Regina  
 Dr Chong Ee Mei Vivien  
 Dr Chua Seng Chew  
 Dr Chua Swee Boon  
 Dr Daniel Su Hsien Wen  
 Dr Eu Pui Wai  
 Eye Care Clinic Pte Ltd  
 Dr Fazlur Jaufeerally  
 Dr Fock Kwong Ming  
 Prof Foo Keong Tatt  
 Dr Fung Mei Keng Janet  
 Dr Han Chew Ching  
 Dr Heng Boon Wah Joseph  
 Dr Heng Tung Lan  
 Dr Ho Chok Chan Alan  
 Dr Ho Gien Chiew  
 Dr Ho Wei Kuo James  
 Dr Ho Tzu Leung  
 Dr Hsu Pon Poh  
 Dr Kho Kwang Mui  
 Dr Koh Philip  
 Dr Koo Yih Meng, Kenneth  
 Dr Kutbuddin Dohadwala  
 Dr Kwa Soon Bee  
 Dr Lee Chee Siang Bernard  
 Dr Lee Ee Lian

Dr Lee Keen Whye  
 Dr Lee Lay Tin  
 Dr Lee Pheng Soon  
 Dr Lee Siew Chong John  
 Dr Lee Suan Yew  
 Dr Lee Yik Voon  
 Dr Leong Kwai Yin Noel  
 Dr Leong Oil Ken  
 Dr Lew Yii Jen  
 Dr Liang Hsueh Lin  
 Dr Liew Geok Cheng  
 A/Prof Lim Beng Hai  
 Dr Lim Choie Cheio Tchoyoson  
 Dr Lim Hai Chiew  
 Mr Lim Kin Siong Ben  
 Dr Lim Loon Haw  
 A/Prof Lim Yean Teng  
 Dr Loh Kia Ee Sheila  
 Dr Loh Philip  
 Dr Loh Seng Wei Adrian  
 Dr Lok Ying Fang  
 Dr Low Cheng Hock  
 Dr Marie Stella P Cruz  
 Dr Ng Boon Keng  
 Dr Ng Keck Sim  
 Dr Ng Lee Beng  
 Dr Ng Sok Bee  
 Dr Ng Swee Cheng  
 Dr Ngui William Paul  
 Dr Ong Choo Phaik Caroline  
 Dr Ong Eng Cheng  
 Dr Ong Jin Ee  
 Dr Ong Kiem Kiok  
 A/Prof Pang Weng Sun  
 A/Prof Quah Thuan Chong  
 Thomas  
 Dr Quek Koh Choon  
 Dr Rachel Pereira  
 Dr Radhika d/o Lakshmanan  
 Prof Raj Mohan Nambiar  
 Dr Sarina Omar  
 Dr See Tho Kai Yin  
 SN Fertility Clinic Pte Ltd  
 Dr Sukhvinder Singh

Susan Quek Heart Care Pte Ltd  
 Dr Suwandi Kojodjojo  
 Dr Swaminathan Ikshuvanam  
 Dr Tambyah John Anantharajah  
 Dr Tan Ai Ling  
 Dr Tan Chee Beng  
 Dr Tan Chin Hor  
 Tan Chin Tuan Foundation  
 Dr Tan Chong Tien  
 Dr Tan Choon Kiat Nigel  
 Dr Tan Chor Hiang  
 Dr Tan Eng Choon  
 Dr Tan Geok Jim  
 Dr Tan Hong Kiat  
 Dr Tan Keng Wah Jerry  
 Dr Tan Ru Yuh  
 Dr Tan Seung Po  
 Dr Tan Teck Siang  
 Dr Tan Thian Hwee  
 Dr Tan Wee Khin  
 Dr Tan Yew Weng David  
 Dr Tan Yuen Lan Diana  
 Dr Tay Hung Ling  
 Dr Teow Kay Leong Roy  
 A/Prof Thai Ah Chuan  
 The Tow Yung Clinic  
 Dr Thirumoorthy s/o  
 Thamothersampillai  
 Dr Toh Han Chong  
 Dr Wee Joo Ling Mary  
 Dr Wee Siew Bock  
 Dr Wong Chiang Yin  
 Dr Wong Kai Sang  
 Dr Wong Su Lin  
 Dr Wong Tien Hua  
 Dr Yap Boh Wei  
 Dr Yap Hwa Ling  
 Dr Yap Peng Leng Karen  
 Dr Yau Khai Weng  
 Dr Yeo Sow Nam Alex  
 Dr Yip Chin Ling William  
 Dr Young Sherry  
 Dr Zhu Xiu Chun