

# Council News

## 1. SMA MEDICAL STUDENTS' ASSISTANCE FUND

The SMA Medical Students' Assistance Fund was set up in 2007 to help poor Singaporean medical students with their basic living expenses. The bursary amount was set at \$3,600 a year per student. This was based on an earlier survey by the NUS Medical Society, which found that a NUS medical student needed at least \$4,410 a year, or \$367.50 a month, to survive day-to-day (transport, food, books and miscellaneous).

**In view of inflation and to ensure that the fund continues to help recipients cope with their daily expenses, SMA would now like to raise the bursary amount to \$4,000 a year per student, starting from 2009. SMA welcomes feedback from members on this matter.**

## 2. LIFE MEMBERSHIP

We would like to draw Members' attention to Article III, Section (i) of the SMA Constitution:

"Life membership may be granted to: –

- a. **Ordinary Members who have been in continuous membership for at least five years, who have reached the age of 55 years and who have retired from active professional practice in Singapore; &**

- b. **Ordinary Members who have been in continuous membership for at least twenty years, on payment of a sum equivalent to ten years' annual subscription at Ordinary rate."**

- c. **Ordinary Members who have been in continuous membership for 30 years without any further payment of subscriptions.**

Ordinary Members who wish to apply for Life Membership can write in to the SMA Secretariat.

## 3. SMA CAR DECAL

The Alumni Association would like to remind SMA Members that they may park their vehicles in the Alumni Medical Centre Carpark if they are **attending to errands and official matters at the SMA Secretariat, or attending talks/seminars in the Auditorium**. SMA Members are also reminded to display the SMA car decal as an identification of membership. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated

Please note that to check unauthorised parking of vehicles by people who are in the vicinity, the Alumni Association implemented vehicle wheel-clamp at the carpark since 1 June 2006. The wheel-clamp release fee is \$100.

**SMA Medical Students' Assistance Fund**

**"There is really no more relevant cause to us than helping our poor youths who desire and deserve a meritocratic medical education."**

**Dr Wong Chiang Yin**  
President, 48<sup>th</sup> Council  
Singapore Medical Association

Members who wish to contribute to the fund can download the donation form at <http://www.sma.org.sg> or donate online at <http://giving.nus.edu.sg/sma>. All donations received will go directly to the students and will not become part of an endowment fund. All amounts are welcome and will be eligible for double tax exemption.



Members can also help poorer medical students by buying the SMA Christmas Card, specially designed by Dr Wong Tien Hua and available for sale at **\$30 nett for a box of 20 cards**. The booking form is included in this month's mailbag and can also be downloaded from <http://www.sma.org.sg>. Proceeds from sales of the cards will go towards the SMA Medical Students' Assistance Fund.