

SMA Annual Dinner 2011

By Denise Yuen

The 52nd SMA Annual Dinner was held on 14 May 2011 at the Grand Ballroom of the Grand Hyatt Singapore. 280 guests turned up for the event, dressed in their evening best. Dr Tan Cheng Bock, a general practitioner (GP), corporate chairman and former Minister of Parliament for the now defunct Ayer Rajah Single Member Constituency, graced the event as the Guest of Honour.

Polling Day had been held a week prior to the dinner, but the atmosphere remained thick with election fervour. After SMA President Dr Chong Yeh Woei had given his welcome address and introduced the 52nd SMA Council to the audience, Dr Tan Cheng Bock proceeded to deliver his speech. Dr Tan incorporated parts of an address he had made in Parliament in 1985, to thank President Devan Nair for a speech the latter had given at the opening at the first session of that Parliament, and gave these excerpts a fresh spin. Dr Tan noted although his original speech had been given about 30 years ago, its content still remained relevant today.

SMA News Editor Dr Toh Han Chong then made a surprise appearance onstage. In a spoof of Returning Officer Yam Ah Mee, he declared in a monotonous drone that “pursuant to Section 49, Subsection 7E, Paragraph A of the SMA Act, dinner is served”. This announcement was greeted with tremendous applause from the audience.

The highlight of the evening was the conferment of the SMA Honorary Membership on Dr Tan Kok Soo and Dr Charles Toh. Dr Wong Chiang Yin and Dr Peter Yan delivered the citations for Dr Tan and Dr Toh respectively.

The SMA Honorary Membership, first instituted in 1982, is the highest honour that SMA can bestow on persons who are distinguished in public life or who have rendered meritorious service to the medical profession or to this association. Dr Tan is a GP in private practice and member of the Singapore Medical Council, and was President of SMA from 1993 to 1996. Meanwhile, Dr Toh is a cardiologist in private practice, and currently serves as Deputy Chairman of Public Service Commission.

There was a musical interlude in the proceedings as Dr Joyce Liang,

a GP in private practice, performed a few songs from her album “Close to Me”. Her powerful vocals wowed the audience and got everyone clapping and swaying to the music.

This was followed by the presentation of the remaining awards.

The SMA Merit Awards were presented to three individuals for their contributions to SMA. The first SMA Merit Award was given to A/Prof Kanagasuntheram Rajendran, who is currently a professor of anatomy at the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine at the National University of Singapore, and has made significant contributions to local medical education. The next SMA Merit Award went to Mr Daren Shiao, a partner at law firm Allen & Gledhill, who served as the legal advisor for SMA’s appeal of the Guideline on Fees. The last Merit Award was presented to Dr Mary Ann Tsao, President of the Tsao Foundation, a non-profit organisation which supports active ageing. Dr Tsao was also the Co-Chair of SMA’s Home Care Committee in the late 90s. As Dr Tsao was unable to attend the dinner, Dr Tan Sai Tiang collected the award on her behalf.

Next, the SMA International Humanitarian Award was presented to Dr Tan Lai Yong, who spent the past 14 years in Yunnan, China, training over 500 village doctors and carrying out rural healthcare projects such as subsidised or free surgery.

The SMA Long Service Awards were given to five individuals for their service in various SMA committees. The first Long Service Award went to Dr Toh Choon Lai, who has served in the SMA council for the past ten years, and is currently 2nd Vice President of SMA.

The second Long Service Award went to Dr Lim Meng Kin, who has served in the Board of Advisors of the SMA Centre for Medical Ethics and Professionalism (CMEP) for the past ten years. Unfortunately, Dr Lim was unable to attend the dinner. The third Long Service Award went to Dr Tan Siang Yong, who has also served in the Board of Advisors of the SMA CMEP for the past 10 years.

The fourth Long Service Award went to Dr Alvin Koo, who has served in the SMA Sports and Games Committee for the past ten years. The next Long Service Award went to A/Prof Paul Ananth Tambyah, who has served in the Singapore Medical Journal’s (SMJ) Editorial Board for the past ten years. The last Long Service Award went to Ms Noor Azliena Samhudi, who has been working at the SMA Secretariat for the past 15 years.

Tokens of Appreciation were then presented to Prof Wilfred Peh and Prof Ng Kwan Hoong in recognition of their contributions towards the series “Effective Medical Writing”, published in SMJ. The series began in June 2008 and ended in December 2010. As Prof Peh was absent that night, Prof Ng collected the award on his behalf.

Last but not least, the SMJ Best Research Paper Awards 2010 were presented for the three best original research papers published in SMJ from January to December 2010. The award was launched in 2001 to encourage the publication of local and international research papers of high quality in SMJ and to promote and recognise local and regional researchers for their achievements. A

call for contribution of original papers, sponsored by AstraZeneca Singapore Pte Ltd and GlaxoSmithKline Pte Ltd, was placed in the issues of SMJ published in 2010.

The third prize went to Dr Mehrdad Shakiba, Dr Saied Sadr, Dr Zahra Nafei, Dr Hassan Mozaffari-Khosravi, Dr Mohammad Hassan Lotfi and Dr Mohammad Hassan Bemanian, who are from Iran, for their paper, "Combination of bolus dose vitamin D with routine vaccination in infants: a randomised trial". The third prize included \$2000 in cash sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline Pte Ltd, a commemorative trophy sponsored by SMA, and a certificate. Unfortunately, the authors were unable to attend the dinner, so Dr Pwee Keng Ho, SMJ's Specialty Editor in Public Health, collected the prize on their behalf.

The second prize went to Dr Tan Boon Yew, Dr Ho Kah Leng, Dr Ching Chi Keong and Dr Teo Wee Siong for their paper, "Novel electrogram device with web-based service centre for ambulatory ECG monitoring". The second prize included \$3000 cash sponsored by Novartis (Singapore) Pte Ltd, a commemorative trophy sponsored by SMA, and a certificate. Dr Tan Boon Yew received the award on behalf of his team.

The first prize went to Dr Sonia Baig, Dr Sherry SY Ho, Ms Ng Bee Lian, Ms Lily Chiu, A/Prof Evelyn Koay, Ms Gek Har Leow, Dr Leena Gole, Dr Narasimhan Kothandaraman, Ms Jenny Chan, Ms Sun Xiaoli, Dr Chan Yiong Huak, A/Prof Mary Rauff, Asst Prof Su Lin Lin, A/Prof Arijit Biswas and A/Prof Mahesh Choolani for their paper, "Development of quantitative-fluorescence polymerase chain reaction for the rapid prenatal diagnosis of common chromosomal aneuploidies in 1,000 samples in Singapore". The first prize included \$5000 cash sponsored by Pfizer Pte Ltd, a commemorative trophy sponsored by SMA, and a certificate. Dr Sonia Baig received the award on behalf of her team.

Finally, it was the moment all the guests had been waiting for – the lucky draw! Everyone held their breaths as Dr Tan Cheng Bock picked three lucky winners, who walked away with three fantastic prizes. Ms Serene Ho won a pair of return tickets from Qatar Airways to any destination on the Qatar network, Dr Wong Sin Yew won three nights' stay at any of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World represented properties worldwide, and Mr Eric Cher won a set of Zeppelin Air iPod speakers from Bowers & Wilkins.

Throughout the dinner, guests mingled, catching up with old friends and making new ones. The sumptuous eight-course dinner was the icing on the cake. Good friends, good conversation and good food – what more could anyone want? It was a fabulous night, and we hope to see you again next year. And to those who couldn't attend the Dinner, here's what you missed!

SMA and SMJ would like to thank sponsors Bowers & Wilkins, Qatar Airways, Small Luxury Hotels of the World, and STAR BLACK for their generous contributions to the SMA Annual Dinner. The 52nd SMA Council would also like to express their gratitude to all guests who attended the Dinner and contributed to its success. **SMA**



At the busy registration table



A meeting of old and new friends



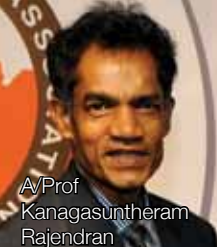
Guests having a good time



Bottoms up!



Bidding each other farewell



A/Prof Kanagasuntheram Rajendran



Mr Daren Shiau



Dr Tan Lai Yong



Dr Toh Choon Lai



Dr Tan Siang Yong



Dr Alvin Koo



A/Prof Paul Ananth Tambyah



Ms Noor Azlena Samhudi



Prof Ng Kwan Hoong



L to R: Dr Tan Yia Swam and Dr Bertha Woon



Standing, L to R: Dr Peter Yan, Dr Charles Toh, Dr Chong Yeh Woei, Prof Tan Cheng Lim and Dr Tan Kok Soo
Sitting, L to R: Mrs Peter Yan, Mrs Chong Yeh Woei, Dr and Mrs Tan Cheng Bock and Mrs Tan Kok Soo



Standing, L to R: Dr Fachmi Idris (President, Confederation of Medical Associations in Asia and Oceania), Mrs Fachmi Idris, Dr Daw Khin Myat, Prof Kyaw Myint Naing (President, Myanmar Medical Association), Dr Lee Yik Voon and Dr Prijo Sidipratomo (President, Indonesian Medical Association)
Sitting, L to R: Dr Oscar Tinio (President, Philippine Medical Association), Dr Ravindran Naidu (Honorary General Treasurer, Malaysian Medical Association), Mrs Ravindran Naidu and Mrs Prijo Sidipratomo



L to R: Dr Toh Lim Kai and Dr Sonia Baig



L to R: Mr Keith Riddiford and Dr Tan Boon Yew



L to R: Dr Pwee Keng Ho and Mr Jondy Syjuco



Ms Serene Ho



Dr Wong Sin Yew



Mr Eric Cher



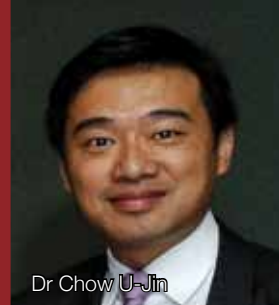
The SMA Secretariat



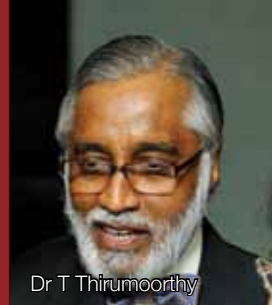
L to R: Ms Anne Claire Marrast, Mr Keith Riddiford and A/Prof Teo Eng Kong



Dr Joyce Liang



Dr Chow U-Jin



Dr T Thirumorthy



L to R: A/Prof Daniel Fung and Dr Jeremy Lim



Standing, L to R: Dr Low Lip Ping, Dr Ling Chaw Ming, Dr Tan Cheng Bock, A/P Cheong Pak Yean, Prof Low Cheng Hock, Dr John Wong and Prof John Wong
Sitting, L to R: Prof Aline Wong, Mrs Low Lip Ping, Mrs Cheong Pak Yean and Dr Chen Ai Ju



Emcee Dr Noorul Fatha As'art



Mrs Jovian Soong, Dr Tammy Chan and Dr Jovian Soong



L to R: Dr Terence Tan, Dr Seo Hee and Ms Audrey Tan



Dr and Mrs Allen Wang and Dr Lawrence Lee



Mr and Mrs Nicholas Cheong



Students and alumni from NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine and Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School