

# Members' Consultation Proposal to Set Up SMA Charity As Separate Legal Entity

SMA is committed to addressing social concerns and public health education, and has achieved these goals through the establishment of annual national medical conventions, the holding of seminars and workshops, and the SMA Medical Students' Assistance Fund to support the daily living expenses of needy medical students. SMA also supports various other initiatives, academic awards and requests raised.

However, SMA recognises that there are a myriad of current needs to be met in Singapore's healthcare landscape. These include the need for provision of non-biased public education, to the investment in medical and public health research beginning at the undergraduate level. An independent charity set up to pursue overarching goals of improving Singapore's healthcare environment will be more effective and efficient than the setting up different funds for each unique purpose.

Additionally, international organisations such as the British Medical Association (BMA) and Law Society in the UK also have established social concerns arms (the BMA Charities Trust Fund and Law Society Charity respectively), aimed to assist members, support causes and promote public education to maintain professional standards. In line with international trends and the changing needs of Singapore's population, SMA wishes to further engage the public and community. In response to recent government calls for active participation from different groups to contribute to Singapore society, SMA believes that more can be done to meet these needs and create a greater impact.

The 52nd SMA Council seeks your feedback on the proposal to set up an SMA Charity as a separate legal entity, to achieve the following:

- Be the social concerns arm of SMA and its members;
- Encompass the current work of the SMA Medical Students' Assistance Fund and other regular or ad-hoc social projects that SMA and SMA Pte Ltd (SMAPL) fund;
- Broaden the scope of the work undertaken by SMA and SMAPL to result in greater social impact through meeting current gaps, and greater flexibility to meet new social and public health needs and challenges.

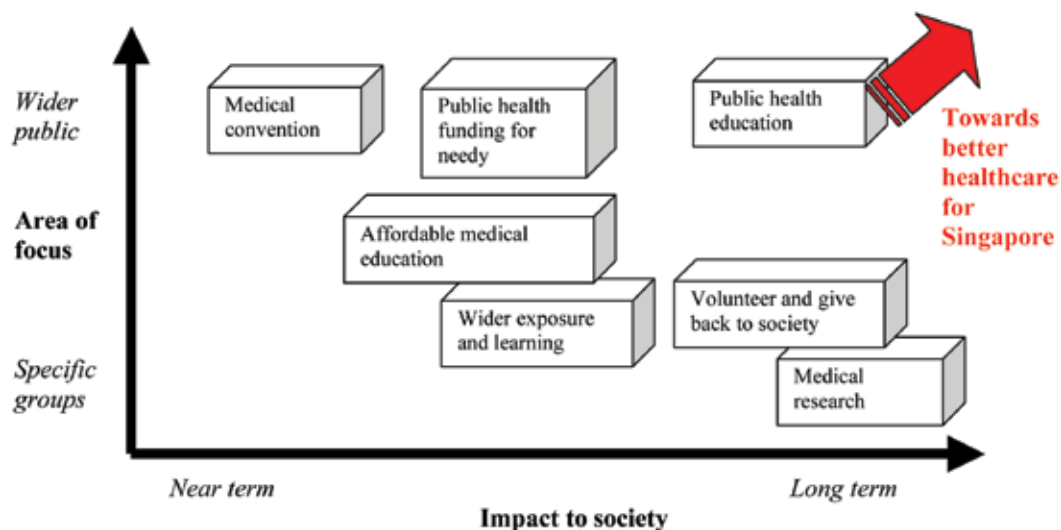
SMA and SMAPL also intend for the SMA Charity to pursue both charity and Institute of Public Character (IPC) statuses in Singapore.

## Overview of the SMA Charity

- Vision: Towards better healthcare for Singapore.
- Missions and Objectives ("FEVER"):
  1. Financial  
To relieve the distress, poverty and suffering among members of the public, including members of the medical profession in Singapore, and also to provide scholarships, financial assistance and awards for students pursuing studies in medical courses.
  2. Education  
To educate the public in areas of healthcare and habits that lead to better health outcomes.
  3. Volunteerism  
To promote both local and overseas volunteerism amongst the medical profession.
  4. Exposure  
To support students pursuing studies in medical courses to attend conferences, seminars, workshops, studies, humanitarian trips or the like, resulting in better medical knowledge and experience for better health outcomes for the public.

5. Research

To support medical research and public health projects, resulting in better health outcomes for the public.



**Proposed road map**



We welcome your feedback and suggestions, and believe that the SMA Charity can be further finetuned to become relevant and impactful. With your support, we will follow up with a proposed constitutional amendment in the SMA Constitution in the next Annual General Meeting, which will be held in April 2012.

Email your feedback to [smacharity@sma.org.sg](mailto:smacharity@sma.org.sg), including:

- Your name and MCR number; and
- Your views on the proposed SMA Charity.

All feedback on the SMA Charity should be sent to SMA by 30 November 2011. **SMA**