



SINGAPORE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION^{*1}

Bertha WOON¹

COUNTRY REPORT

DR BERTHA WOON

Singapore Medical Association

56th SMA Council (2015 – 2016)

President	Dr Wong Tien Hua
1st Vice President	A/Prof Chin Jing Jih
2nd Vice President	Dr Tah Choon Lai
Honorary Secretary	Dr Lee Hsien Chieh Daniel
Assistant Honorary Secretary	Dr Lim Kheng Choon
Honorary Treasurer	Dr Tammy Chan
Assistant Honorary Treasurer	Dr Loo Kai Guo Benny
Members	Dr Chong Yeh Woei Dr Anantham Devanand Dr Noorul Fathia As'at Dr Lee Pheng Soon Dr Lee Yik Yoon Dr Ng Chee Kwan A/Prof Tan Choon Kiat Nigel
	A/Prof Tan Sze Wee Dr Tan Tze Lee Dr Tan Yia Swam Dr Tah Han Chong Dr Wong Chiang Yin Dr Woon Yng Ying Bertha

SINGAPORE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION COUNTRY REPORT

New Logo and Tagline

Singapore Medical Association

For Doctors, For Patients

SINGAPORE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION COUNTRY REPORT

New Logo and tagline

- ▶ Finding a common pathway
- 1. Ultimately the medical association balances the interests of the physician and the patient.
- 2. The fundamental unit of doctor patient interaction is found in the doctor-patient relationship (DPR).
- 3. A good DPR results in better outcomes for all parties involved.
- 4. Professionalism and Medical Ethics support the notion of good DPR. This is something worth fighting for.
- 5. The SMA should align its basic priorities towards this goal of protecting the doctor-patient relationship

SINGAPORE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION COUNTRY REPORT

^{*1} This article is based on a presentation made as the Report of Activities by each NMA at the 30th CMAAO General Assembly and 51st Council Meeting, Yangon, Myanmar, on September 23-25, 2015.

¹ Council Member, Singapore Medical Association, Singapore (sma@sma.org.sg).

Membership

- ▶ Our members are at the heart of what we do. We remain focused on engaging the profession and delivering services that our members value.
- ▶ Highlights of 2014
 - ▶ Broadening our representation
 - ▶ We are heartened that 750 new members have joined our ranks this year.
 - ▶ Expanding our online resources
 - ▶ As more doctors take to online platforms to perform their day-to-day transactions, SMA has likewise worked to expand our online resources to members.
 - ▶ Interest groups and membership events
 - ▶ In the course of the year, 25 events attended by approximately 2,500 members and their guests were organized. These interest groups enable members to network and build friendships across ages, specialties and institutions in a relaxed and informal environment.
 - ▶ Updating of membership database
 - ▶ The update keeps the contact details of our membership current, allowing us to better engage our members and inform them of our advocacy work and upcoming programmes.

SINGAPORE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
COUNTRY REPORT 

Courses & Events

- ▶ 88 courses in 2014 benefitting >2500 participants
- ▶ 45th National Medical Convention, Active with Allergies
 - ▶ The Public Symposium aimed to empower its participants to manage their allergies so that they could live as normally as possible. The Lunch and Medical Symposia, which were attended by doctors, provided a perfect platform for them to share their knowledge, expertise and experience on treating allergies, and to stay abreast of the latest developments in this area.
- ▶ SMA Lecture 2014
 - ▶ Prof Tan Chorh Chuan- Innovating for Future Health
- ▶ Core Concepts in Medical Professionalism
 - ▶ Train-the-trainers programme that aimed to allow participants to gain a deeper understanding of the important concepts of professionalism.
- ▶ Medical Experts Training Seminar
 - ▶ A joint collaboration with SMA(CMEP), AMS and SAL
 - ▶ Equip medical practitioners with the legal knowledge and skills required to prepare medical expert reports and give oral expert evidence in proceedings before the Singapore Courts
 - ▶ Curriculum was written by Mr Edmund Kronenburg, Prof T Thirumorthy and Dr Bertha Woon
- ▶ Basic Cardiac Life Support/CPR + Automated External Defibrillation Course
- ▶ Social events including Annual Golf Tournament, Social Dance Nite, Wine Chapter Dinner

SINGAPORE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
COUNTRY REPORT 

Major Events in 2015

- ▶ SCS-SMA Cancer Education Series 2015
 - ▶ A collaboration between Singapore Cancer Society and Singapore Medical Association
 - ▶ Create awareness and updated information about cancer indications, symptoms, diagnosis, screening and treatment plans that family doctors and medical practitioners may observe in their patients from time to time
- ▶ 25 July, 46th SMA National Medical Convention: Good Urological Health
- ▶ 5 Sept, Medical Protection Conference 2015
 - ▶ The Changing Medicolegal Landscape: Rising to the Challenge
- ▶ 24-25 Oct, The Annual National MedicoLegal Conference 2015
- ▶ 7 Nov, SMA Lecture 2015: Medicine & Diplomacy
 - ▶ Prof Tommy Koh, Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

SINGAPORE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
COUNTRY REPORT 

Publication

Singapore Medical Journal (SMJ)

- ▶ SMJ has remained an open-access journal, as we recognise that broad access to research results is an essential component of lifelong learning.
- ▶ Highlights of 2014
 - ▶ This year saw a total of 553 manuscript submissions from more than 30 countries, with nearly half the submissions from Singapore. Our acceptance rate remained at around 40%. In all, 206 articles were published, with local papers making up 56% of the published articles.
 - ▶ The online submission platform for our monthly SMC Category 3B CME questionnaires underwent a revamp to create a more user-friendly and accessible interface. This resulted in a nearly three-fold increase in participation from local doctors (3,687 versus 10,743 submissions in 2013 and 2014, respectively).

SINGAPORE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
COUNTRY REPORT 

Publication

SMA News

- ▶ SMA News is a newsletter for doctors, by doctors. We encourage a spirit of free discussion and an exchange of ideas, in the hope that this will spark movement for change and improvement in the management of patients and the practice of medicine in Singapore.
- ▶ Highlights of 2014
 - ▶ Five themed issues were published in 2014.
 - ▶ April - Family Medicine
 - ▶ July - Doctor in Training (brought attention to challenges faced by trainee doctors and medical students)
 - ▶ September - Allergies (in conjunction with the SMA Annual National Medical Convention 2014)
 - ▶ October - Foreign-trained doctors (an important part of our local healthcare workforce)
 - ▶ December - Our members and volunteers (the heart of SMA)

SINGAPORE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
COUNTRY REPORT 

SMA Charity Fund

Our Vision

A compassionate profession that impacts healthcare

Our Mission

To strengthen medical professionalism to benefit the community

SMACF contributes toward better healthcare in Singapore through four strategic initiatives:

- ▶ Providing Financial Assistance
- ▶ Promoting Volunteerism
- ▶ Supporting Learning Exposure
- ▶ Recognising Mentorship

SINGAPORE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
COUNTRY REPORT 

SMA's Key Engagement in 2014

- ▶ **National Telemedicine Guidelines:** SMA provided feedback to the Ministry of Health (MOH) on aspects pertaining to the practicality and the possible implications of telemedicine. SMA raised concerns about a human resource-related policy and its impact on doctors in training. Concerns about the policy's negative impact on staff were conveyed to the relevant policy-making body.
- ▶ **Personal Data Protection Act – Advisory Guidelines for the Healthcare Sector:** SMA met with MOH to discuss data protection scenarios faced by the healthcare sector. We subsequently submitted feedback during the public consultation period, and organised a seminar for members in August and November 2014.
- ▶ **Medical records:** In light of the submission of queries to SMA by members unsure of how long medical records should be kept, SMA wrote to MOH to enquire about the ideal retention period of medical records. MOH's reply was published in SMA News' April 2014 issue. New MOH guidelines were subsequently published in January 2015.

SINGAPORE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
COUNTRY REPORT



SMA's Key Engagement in 2014

- ▶ **Medical students:** SMA organised several dialogue sessions with students from the three medical schools, highlighting current medical issues and receiving feedback on issues related to medical education.
- ▶ **Collegiality:** SMA had regular meetings with representatives from the Academy of Medicine, Singapore (AMS) and the College of Family Physicians Singapore (CFPS). These dialogues assist greatly in the exchange of information and discussion of issues that affect the medical profession.
- ▶ **Regulation of liposuction:** SMA provided feedback on the proposed changes to the regulation of liposuction. The finalised licensing conditions were published by MOH in October 2014.
- ▶ **National Ethics Capability Committee:** SMA was invited to be a member of the new committee, which is currently planning a national framework of ethics education for doctors, dentists, nurses and pharmacists in Singapore.
- ▶ **Member assistance:** SMA provided advice and assistance to a member with employment issues, and the issue was subsequently resolved.

SINGAPORE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
COUNTRY REPORT



SMA's Key Engagement in 2014

- ▶ **Draft 2014 SMC Ethical Code and Professional Standards:** SMA alerted members to the consultation exercise, and asked for feedback from members. We requested for a time extension, to allow members more time to review the long document. SMA subsequently drafted a position statement and asked for feedback from members, so as to better reflect the views of the medical profession. In all, 535 votes were received, of which 526 voted in support of our position statement. Feedback, including anonymised comments by individual SMA members, were submitted to Singapore Medical Council (SMC). SMA's feedback to SMC was shared with our members in full via e-mail on December 3, 2014. SMA also facilitated a joint AMS-CFPS-SMA letter to SMC, highlighting the concerns of the three professional bodies.

SINGAPORE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
COUNTRY REPORT



Thank You

SINGAPORE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
COUNTRY REPORT

