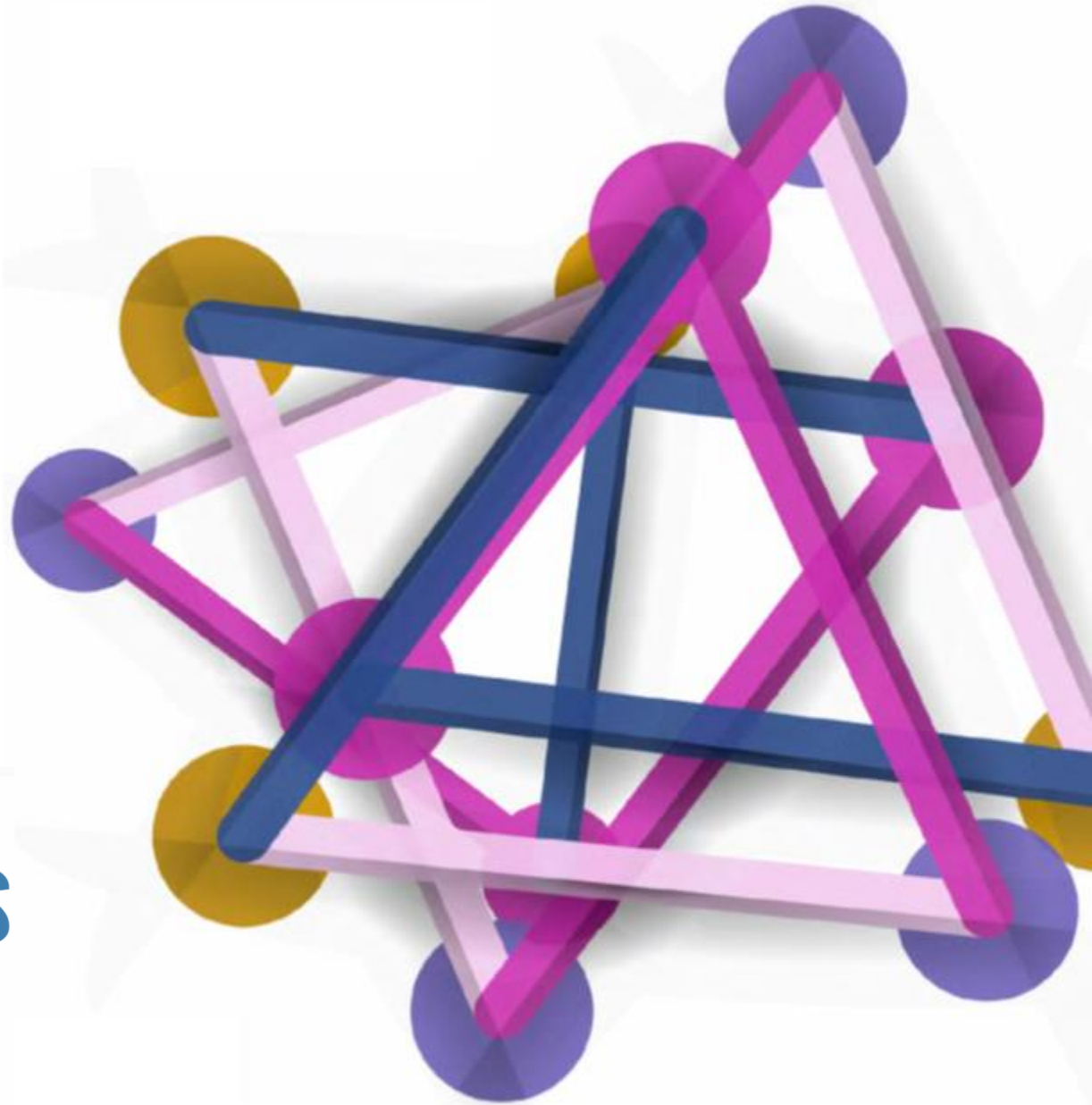




Singapore
Medical
Association

SHAPING TOMORROW'S HEALTHCARE TOGETHER



COUNTRY REPORT

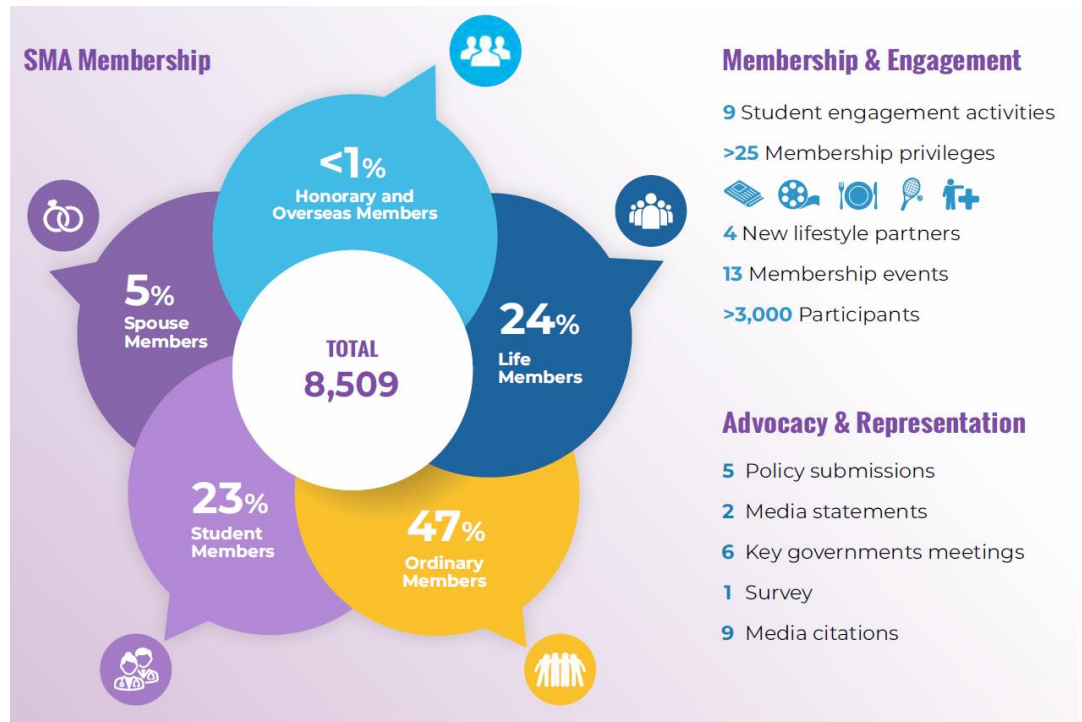
OVERVIEW

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- Appreciating and Connecting with our Members
- Continuing Medical Education in Healthcare

65th SMA COUNCIL (2024/2025)

President	Dr Ng Chee Kwan	
1st Vice-President	Dr Daniel Lee Hsien Chieh	
2nd Vice-President	Dr Lim Kheng Choon	
Honorary Secretary	Clin Asst Prof Benny Loo Kai Guo	
Assistant Honorary Secretary	Dr Chie Zhi Ying	
Honorary Treasurer	Adj Assoc Prof Ng Chew Lip	
Assistant Honorary Treasurer	Adj Asst Prof Raj Kumar Menon	
Members	Assoc Prof Anantham Devanand	Adj Asst Prof Lambert Low Tchern Kuang
	Dr Chan Teng Mui Tammy	A/Prof Tan Sze Wee
	Dr Lee Pheng Soon	Dr Tan Yia Swam
	Dr Michael Lim Khong Jin	Dr Tina Tan Zhenwen
	Dr Lee Yee Mun	Dr Toh Choon Lai
	Dr Ivan Low Jinrong	Dr Wong Chiang Yin

Key Statistics in 2023



Professional Development



18
Webinars
and Courses



52
CME
Activities



Up to 70
CME
Points



5,194
Participants



SMA Charity Fund



43
Bursaries



\$258,000
Disbursed



\$377,255
Raised

ADVOCATING FOR THE PROFESSION AND HEALTHCARE

Supporting Healthcare

Then Nominated Member of Parliament (NMP), SMA 1st Vice President Dr Tan Yia Swam, together with two other NMPs, introduced a motion titled "Supporting Healthcare" in Parliament in May 2023, stating that "this House commits to supporting healthcare beyond the COVID-19 pandemic and the whole-of-Government efforts for consistent and sustainable support." The motion was agreed to without amendments.

Medical Professionalism and Ethics

The SMA Centre for Medical Ethics and Professionalism (CMEP) has successfully launched a new series of medical ethics programmes that will help members meet Singapore Medical Council's (SMC) new requirements for Mandatory Medical Ethics (MME) continuing medical education (CME).

ADVOCATING FOR THE PROFESSION AND HEALTHCARE

National Electronic Health Record (NEHR)

The Health Information Bill, when passed into law, will make it mandatory for all licensed healthcare providers to contribute data to the NEHR. SMA provided feedback on the draft NEHR guidelines and Health Information Bill.

Specifically, on the appropriate use of and access to the NEHR, SMA agreed that access should only be granted for the purpose of patient care, and not for non-care-related purposes such as employment, insurance and research.

SMA also supported the guidance that history-taking and physical examination should remain the primary approach in clinical assessment, and that the NEHR is a complementary tool to aid clinical assessment. As part of patient privacy rights, SMA was of the opinion that the NEHR must allow a patient to opt out of uploading any or all information to NEHR, and to select which information already in NEHR that he/she would like to share with his/her doctor.

ADVOCATING FOR THE PROFESSION AND HEALTHCARE

Health Insurance

SMA continued to participate in the Ministry of Health (MOH) Multilateral Healthcare Insurance Committee (MHIC). The MHIC comprises representatives from SMA, Academy of Medicine, Singapore, Consumer Association of Singapore, Fee Benchmarks Advisory Committee, Life Insurance Association, MOH and private hospitals. The MHIC has been renewed for another term, from 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2025. SMA provided inputs regarding MOH's claims management initiatives relating to MediShield Life claims, highlighting that with the MOH claims management process in place, insurers could be assured that the number of inappropriate claims will be reduced. Therefore, there was no reason for insurers to limit the number of doctors on the panel. SMA also called for insurers to either open up their panels for more eligible specialists to join or choose not to have panels of doctors altogether. The process to reform health insurance will take a long time. Nonetheless, SMA will continue to push for patient welfare and transparency in healthcare.

ADVOCATING FOR OUR JUNIORS

Outreach

The SMA Junior Doctor Telegram and Instagram channels play a crucial role in the dissemination of information related to junior doctor advocacy and support initiatives. Leveraging social media, these platforms serve as channels for announcements, reducing information asymmetry and offering a balanced perspective on various issues faced by junior doctors.

Educational Resources

The DIT Committee has been working on an SMA DIT 101 mobile app, which will serve as a comprehensive resource and pocket handbook for junior doctors. The app will be based on the SMA House Officer's Handbook, which has been a useful guide for house officers in navigating the local healthcare system and fulfilling basic roles and responsibilities as a postgraduate year one doctor.

ADVOCATING FOR OUR JUNIORS

Social Events

Since 2022, SMA has collaborated with MOH Holdings to organise an annual end-of-year party for house officers, with the aim to foster a sense of community and provide opportunities for social interaction among junior doctors.

Educational Resources

The 5th National Medical Students' Convention, organised by the TriMedSoc Alliance in collaboration with SMA on 6 May 2023, centred around the theme, "A Lifetime Career in Medicine." The goal of the event was to unite and amplify the voices of local medical students. The programme included two tracks: Track A addressed issues relevant to junior medical students and Track B provided practical experiences for seniors. Attendees had the flexibility to switch between tracks, and a livestream option catered to international participants.

APPRECIATING AND CONNECTING WITH OUR MEMBERS

Social Events

- SMA Annual Dinner
- Member's Appreciation Night
- SMA-NK Yong Wine Appreciation Night
- Sports and Games

SMA News



CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION IN HEALTHCARE

Events Held in 2023

NAME OF EVENT	CME Points	No. of Runs	Participants		
			SMA Members	Non-SMA Members	Total
Medical Ethics, Professionalism and Healthcare Course	10	4	126	166	292
Medicine, Doctors and the Law Series	1	6	62	119	181
Faculty Masterclass	4	2	29	-	29
Decision-Making in the Care of Children – Who Decides?	2	1	14	14	28
Clinical Care of Persons with Diminished Capacity	2	1	76	25	101
Annual National Medico-Legal Seminar 2023	6	1	28	79	107
Deciphering Clinic Management Systems and Updates on NEHR	2	1	46	-	46
Private Practice Seminar	2	1	47	-	47
Data Ethics in the Era of Digital Health	1	1	87	-	87

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION IN HEALTHCARE

New Mandatory Medical Ethics (MME) Requirements

In the Singapore Medical Council's circular to all doctors dated 11 May 2023, doctors were informed that compulsory CME on Medical Ethics would be required for renewal of the Practising Certificate (PC) in 2026. Doctors whose 2- year PCs were renewed on 1 January 2024 and expire on 31 December 2025 have to start accumulating their five MME points during this 2-year period. Doctors whose PCs expire on 31 December 2024 need only do so when their PCs are renewed on 1 January 2025. From 2024, MME programmes are offered by the three Professional Bodies—Academy of Medicine, Singapore, College of Family Physicians Singapore and SMA.

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION IN HEALTHCARE

Singapore Medical Journal (SMJ)

Key Statistics 2023



390
New
Submissions



180
Reviewers



2.7
Impact
Factor



24
CME
Quizzes



138
Published
Articles



188
Ahead of Print
Articles



10-year Long Service Award:
A/Prof Sim Kang



Appreciation Dinner

Thank you!