

## SMC President's Message



*D*ear colleagues,

We are already past the halfway mark of 2023 and this is the second SMC Newsletter of the year. In this issue we revisit some areas to learn and re-learn.



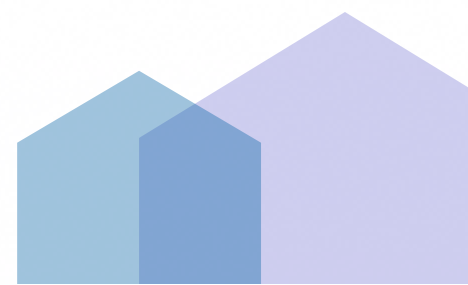
### Mandatory Medical Ethics (MME)

In the last three issues of the SMC Newsletter, the SMC started a Series in Professional Ethics and there were two articles highlighting two of the most common areas of complaints in SMC viz Propriety and Sexual Boundaries in a doctor's practice, and the prescriptions of Hypnotics, Benzodiazepines and Codeine Containing Cough mixtures. Doctors have been suspended or removed from the medical registration register for such offences.

The SMC Physician's Pledge states that we must comply with the provisions of the Ethical Code. No doctor can comply with an Ethical Code which he/she neither reads nor knows about. The number of complaints that SMC receives can be significantly reduced if doctors are aware of their ethical and professional obligations and make the health of their patients their first consideration.

The Council issued a circular on 11 May 2023 to inform doctors that Mandatory Medical Ethics (MME) CME core points must be acquired before the renewal of Practising Certificates (PCs) from 2026. SMC reminds practitioners to start acquiring these core points from January next year for those whose PCs are expiring this year in December 2023.

We are grateful to the three medical professional bodies viz the Academy of Medicine Singapore (AMS), College of Family Physicians Singapore (CFPS) and Singapore Medical Association (SMA) who have established the Medical Ethics curriculum for the MME core points. The curriculum which includes four basic topics encompassing the doctors learning are Professionalism; Ethics; Informed Consent and Medical Decision Making; and Medical Records, Privacy and Confidentiality. The curriculum has been thought through and thoroughly discussed in the SMC CME Co-ordinating Committee and its subcommittee looking into the implementation of MME.



## Guidelines on Aesthetic Practices for Doctors

The current Guidelines on Aesthetic Practices for Doctors came into effect from 1 August 2016. In this issue, doctors involved in aesthetics practice are reminded to comply strictly to the Guidelines, including the type of aesthetic procedures they can perform. Complaints regarding aesthetic practices are also on the rise and doctors who perform aesthetic procedures should be mindful of the types of aesthetic procedures that they are allowed to perform in Table 1 and Table 2 of the Guidelines.

## Support Programme for Doctors

While we protect the safety of patients, the well-being of our doctors is just as important. We continue to remind doctors on the Emotional Support Programme jointly launched by AMS, CFPS and SMA last year to provide advice and guidance to doctors as well as provide counselling and emotional support if needed, for those undergoing the disciplinary process.

## SMC Election

I would also like to thank all doctors who had participated in the recent SMC Election 2023 and warmly welcome two newly elected members, Dr Chua Jun Jin and Dr Lai Siang Hui and the five re-elected members to the Council namely Dr Chen Suet Ching Jeanette, Dr Lim Khong Jin Michael, A/Prof Ng Wei Keong Alan, Dr Subramaniam Surajkumar and Dr Wong Chiang Yin. I would also like to thank immediate past Council members Dr Tay Miah Hiang and Dr Christopher Chong for their various contributions to the work of the Council in its policies, disciplinary processes and in various committees.

**Professor Chee Yam Cheng**  
**President**

