



SINGAPORE MEDICAL COUNCIL

16 College Road, #01-01 College of Medicine Building, Singapore 169854

E-mail Address: enquiries@smc.gov.sg

Website: <http://www.smc.gov.sg>

Fax Numbers: (65) 6221-0558 (Main) / (65) 6258-2134

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PRESS RELEASE

SINGAPORE MEDICAL COUNCIL NAMES PROFESSOR CHEE YAM CHENG AS ITS NEW PRESIDENT

1. Professor Chee Yam Cheng, Senior Advisor of the National Healthcare Group and Emeritus Consultant of Tan Tock Seng Hospital, will take over the reins as President of the Singapore Medical Council (SMC) from Professor Tan Ser Kiat on 20 August 2019. Professor Tan, a renowned orthopaedic surgeon and a well-respected leader in the medical community, completes his term in the Council on 19 August 2019 after being at the helm as its President for more than nine years.

2. Under Professor Tan's astute leadership and guidance, SMC achieved several major milestones in carrying out its functions to fulfil its objective of protecting the health and safety of patients. Notably these include the inception of the Register of Family Physicians in 2011, which sets the standards of practice for family medicine in Singapore. Professor Tan was also instrumental in guiding the Council to implement registration and accreditation policies and reviews to ensure high standards of practice by medical practitioners. Among which are the review of the list of overseas medical schools in the Second Schedule of the Medical Registration Act that was completed in April 2019, the revisions made in 2017 to the registration criteria for doctors, and strengthening of the supervisory framework for doctors under supervised practice.

3. Professor Tan dedicated time and energy in strengthening the SMC disciplinary framework. During the period from 2012 to 2014, he supported the Review Committee appointed by the Ministry of Health (MOH) and Ministry of Law to study and propose recommendations to streamline and strengthen the disciplinary processes; and now he contributes to the ongoing development of the sentencing guidelines. Under his stewardship, the SMC also updated two important guidelines in 2016 – the SMC Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines, and the Guidelines on Aesthetic Practices for Doctors to help doctors understand the principles of medical ethics and its application in modern medical practice.

4. "I would like to thank fellow members and the Secretariat for their strong support these past years. After close to a decade in SMC, I have seen how the healthcare landscape has evolved. Though there may be challenging times ahead, I am confident

that the Council is in good hands under Professor Chee's leadership. I call on fellow colleagues from the medical fraternity for your continued support alongside the SMC to uphold the standards of practice and maintain the trust and confidence that have been placed upon us by our patients," said Professor Tan. The SMC expresses its heartfelt appreciation to Professor Tan for his dedication to the profession, and invaluable contributions to the Council and the medical community at large.

5. The Council extends a warm welcome to Professor Chee who was elected by its members as the new President of the SMC. Professor Chee, a specialist in internal medicine by training, was first appointed to the Council in 2017. He is a distinguished leader, doctor and teacher, who has dedicated more than 45 years to public healthcare in clinical service, operations, hospital administration, manpower management and education. Prior to his appointment to the Council, he was the Group Chief Executive Officer of the National Healthcare Group (NHG) where he led NHG through its transition to becoming the Regional Health System for Central Singapore.

6. "I am honoured to be elected by fellow members to lead the Council. I hope to build on Professor Tan's excellent work and bring SMC forward in its next phase of growth. The Council has heard the feedback from the ground and I would like to reassure doctors that we are committed to and working on improving our processes. We will be able to see successful transformation only with the strong support of the medical community," said Professor Chee.

7. The immediate key areas which Professor Chee would focus on is to lead the Council in strengthening its organisational structure, engaging the medical community, as well as working closely with MOH to implement the recommendations of its Workgroup on the review of SMC disciplinary processes. Both the recommendations by the Sentencing Guidelines Committee and MOH Workgroup on disciplinary processes are expected to be ready by the end of the year. The Council will also continue with its regular reviews of its registration, accreditation and supervisory framework policies as well as administer continuing medical education for doctors.

8. Please refer to [Annex](#) for additional information on Professor Tan and Professor Chee.

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Annex



Professor Tan Ser Kiat
President, Singapore Medical Council (2010 till 19 August 2019)

Professor Tan Ser Kiat is a renowned orthopaedic surgeon. He has dedicated more than 40 years to public healthcare and served in numerous national-level committees that helped shaped the local healthcare landscape.

Professor Tan took over the helm of the SMC in 2010 when it was operationalising the amendments to the Medical Registration Act and Medical Registration Regulations. Under Professor Tan's leadership, the Council conducted reviews and smooth implementations of policies related to registration, supervisory framework, continuing medical education and regulation of the ethics and conduct of registered medical practitioners in Singapore.



Professor Chee Yam Cheng
Incoming President, Singapore Medical Council
(with effect from 20 August 2019)

Professor Chee Yam Cheng is a specialist in internal medicine by training. He is currently the Senior Advisor of the National Healthcare Group and Emeritus Consultant of Tan Tock Seng Hospital, where he continues to practise and see patients weekly.

Professor Chee is a distinguished leader, doctor and teacher, who has dedicated more than 45 years to public healthcare in clinical service, operations, hospital administration, manpower management and education. He was appointed to the Singapore Medical Council in September 2017 and is actively serving in numerous committees under MOH and other medical schools and institutions.