



# SMC Physician's Pledge Affirmation Ceremony 2020

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SMC Registrar - Ke...

Council - Suraj Kum...

Wen Shen Lai M659...

Joo Sheng Bek M63...

Council - Ah Leng L...

Council - Tay Miah ...

Amin Ali M611498

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Rebecca Tian Mei A...

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Benjamin Zhi Wei C...

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JUEN ZHIK CHAN M...

Chiang Yin Wong

Professor Chee Yam...

Chee Luan Lim M62...

Andrea Jiaying Sng ...

John Wycliffe Eboris

Cassandra Teng Ch...

Xin Yu Tan M150...

Peng Shen Ong ...

SMC - Lynette Pe...

Mary Moon-Sun ...

Muhammad F...

Yee Jun Poon ...

Samuel Giap ...

Shannon Xinji...

Sher-lyn Tha...

Edwin Yeo M...

Shilin Wang MP2...

Benedix Sim MP...

Jun Xuan Ng ...

Hong Wei Ya...

Randy Poon MP2...

Hong Jie Won...

Bo Jun MP21...

Shawn Rajoo MP...

En Ning Lim MP...

Gim Hui Lim MP...

Yu Kiat, Darre...

Mui Yee Tan ...

Nian Qin Tho ...

Hong Yu Rin ...

Dominic Yao ...

Vernetta Chai M...



**About 930 doctors took the Pledge to affirm their responsibilities to patients and uphold professional and ethical standards.**

Preparation for an onsite Pledge ceremony was already underway when MOH released a directive on 12 February 2020, restricting movement of doctors and healthcare workers across public hospitals and institutions. The planning came to a halt and the Pledge ceremony had to be postponed. But the Secretariat began to explore organising an online Pledge ceremony, creating an event via a video conferencing platform.

The first-ever virtual SMC Physician’s Pledge ceremony was held over five sessions in June, July and September 2020. A total of about 930 doctors took the Physician’s Pledge alongside their peers and witnessed by Council members and invited guests. In each ceremony, a Council member led the cohort to recite the solemn Pledge. In his virtual Pledge ceremony address, Professor Chee Yam Cheng, President, SMC, expressed his appreciation to fellow doctors and healthcare colleagues at the frontline battling COVID-19.

Many doctors amongst the attendees were probably experiencing and handling such a serious epidemic for the first time. The words of the Pledge became even more resounding as they recited to

*“...dedicate our lives to the service of humanity...make the health of my patient my first consideration...not allow the consideration of race, religion, nationality or social standing to intervene between my duty and my patient; and maintain due respect for human life.”*

Reminding all doctors that ethics and professionalism are core to medical practice, President urged all doctors to attend relevant courses based on SMC Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines which will be organised by the professional bodies namely the Academy of Medicine, the College of Family Physicians and the Singapore Medical Association. Thanking the three professional bodies on behalf of SMC for their support, he acknowledged that many medical and laypersons had volunteered much time and service in various SMC committees, so that SMC can effect self-regulation.



# Excerpts from President's Speech for SMC Pledge 2020:



*I take this opportunity to express our appreciation to you – our medical practitioners and healthcare colleagues at the frontline battling COVID-19.*



Professor Chee Yam Cheng  
President, SMC



*To self-regulate, we need selfless colleagues who put themselves above their own interests to do a public duty. Some of you may be called into such a duty and when that day comes, we hope that you will also espouse the ideals of the generations before you who have set a good example and are role models.*



*We stand here today knowing that as a nation, we espouse these ideals. We must carry the memory of going through these times with both humility and fulfilment. Humility because in the midst of fear and uncertainty, what is material now seems immaterial. Fulfilment because we have done what is right, we have put in our best effort and we have scant or no regrets that we have not done enough.*



## The first Pledge Ceremony

The first Singapore Medical Council (SMC) Physician's Pledge Affirmation Ceremony was held on 2 May 1995. It serves to remind registered medical practitioners in Singapore of their responsibilities to their patients and the medical profession. The affirmation of the Pledge also highlights that doctors must uphold high professional and ethical standards as they embark on their careers as registered medical practitioners.

The Pledge ceremony had been held since 1995. Since 1 Dec 2010, the Pledge Ceremony was mandated through the Medical Registration Act (MRA), and as stated in Reg 16(1) of the Medical Registration Regulations, it is mandatory for every registered medical practitioner who wishes to obtain full registration.



### Did you know?

The SMC Physician's Pledge is an adaptation from the Hippocratic Oath and the Declaration of Geneva. The Physician's Pledge, which replaces the Oath with its ancient phraseology, has been drafted to reflect the practice of medicine today.

The Hippocratic Oath is an ancient Greek oath to guide the ethics and professional conduct of physicians. This original oath was traditionally attributed to the Greek physician Hippocrates.

The Declaration of Geneva was adopted by the World Medical Association in Geneva in 1948. There were several edits in subsequent years and last amended in 2017. It reflected the original oath's principles applying it to the practice of modern medicine.



*Doctors affirming the Physician's Pledge at Yong Siew Toh Conservatory Concert Hall in 2019.*