

# President's Message



**D**ear Colleagues,

My heartfelt thanks to each of you for serving in the frontline against the COVID-19 pandemic. In the blink of an eye, we have been battling this pandemic for almost 18 months. We moved into Phase 3 Safe Re-opening late last year and we now find ourselves back in Phase 3 Heightened Alert status. The recent resurgence of unlinked community cases in Singapore is a stark reminder that we are not out of the woods and we still cannot afford to let our guard down. We cannot predict how long this battle with COVID-19 will last and we have to start planning that COVID-19 will be endemic. As medical practitioners, we can lead the way, show by example and develop a new normal in the way we deliver healthcare services that continue to protect the health and safety of patients and maintain a high standard of care.

During this COVID-19 pandemic, the Council has continued with its regulatory reviews and engagement with medical practitioners. Over the past months, we have been preparing for the implementation of the changes to the Medical Registration Act (MRA), as well as to update the

SMC Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines (ECEG) and Handbook on Medical Ethics (HME) which were last revised in 2016.

Consultation exercises on the ECEG and HME were held since end 2020 to gather feedback from fellow colleagues and representatives from the medical professional bodies as well as from non-medical professionals to look into the areas for improvements and refinements. In this edition of the SMC newsletter, we have provided an update of the consultation sessions and outreach to the various sectors of the medical profession. We look forward to further improvements and clarity to be made to the ECEG and HME. If you have any further thoughts and suggestions, it is not too late to share them with SMC. We have also included an update on our inaugural Supervisory Framework 'Train-the-Trainer' workshops for SMC-approved supervisors that were held in July 2020. These workshops aimed to better guide the supervisors in their assessments of conditionally registered doctors under supervision; that they are able to practise independently and safely when they eventually convert to full registration.

It is the SMC's hope that every doctor continues to remember their call to medicine. It is without a doubt that the clinical work is tough, at times unappreciated but rewarding always. We must at all times place our patients' interests before our own. As we look ahead to the future in a new normal, we must remember the calling to serve our patients well.

Best wishes and always stay safe.

Professor Chee Yam Cheng  
President