

Time For Us to Put Aside Our Differences — Unity Is Crucial



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My sincere thanks and gratitude to those who turned up at the PPS AGM in Ipoh recently, your presence there has enabled the PPSMMA to form a strong team to take on the issues plaguing our doctors in this country.

The PPS Exco will not make any promises to our members because we know and understand the monumental task placed before us. However, we will definitely take on the responsibilities which comes with the office that we have been elected to.

The Technical Working Group (TWG) on Primary Care for the 1Care Health system is one which is being well represented by the various stakeholders. This Group is being observed by many and the progress of this TWG will influence the way the other Groups on 1Care are managed. The claim by many that the MMA is a toothless tiger will be tested here.

Representation on the various TWGs by the MMA is sorely lacking. Despite promises that the MMA will be invited to participate; the general consensus held by many is that they may be empty promises. Getting MMA representation on the various TWGs will be foremost on the minds of the PPSMMA. However, we will need the participation of our members. Let us all be part of a formidable team to be reckoned with.

PPS is not only about Primary Care, which has since overshadowed other concerns related



to our private practitioners. Be assured that other issues will also be looked into.

Lately, the issue of high healthcare costs has resurfaced in the various media, and as usual, fingers are pointed at our doctors. Articles accusing doctors of over investigating their patients and the perceived inappropriate multi-disciplinary approach to treating patients (sometimes without prior approval from the patient or family members) appeared in the media. And of course, there were also refutations by the doctors themselves.

There are so many parties involved in the provision of healthcare services, but invariably, we doctors are perceived to be the culprits. This is something to be addressed if the medical profession is to be regarded as still being noble.

Do the private medical clinics need to be assessed for quality as proposed by the Malaysian Society for Quality in Health and the Academy of Family Physicians of Malaysia? This is something that we may not escape from, though the doctors at large do not really agree to it. This begs an objective scrutiny.

Our medical association is large and represents our doctors who are of various specialities as well as at different stages in their professional development, hence the great multitude of differing opinions on current issues. However, remain united we must for the betterment of our medical profession.

Do contact us at PPSMMA. Your suggestions are needed and so are your constructive criticisms. **M**

