

# MMA Tri-Event: Towards Excellence Series



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The Inaugural Towards Excellence Series seminar, organised by PPS and SCHOMOS on 20 February 2016 at Sheraton Imperial, Kuala Lumpur was indeed a success.

The event covered issues involving Government Doctors, to be precise, exposing medical students and equipping housemen to housemanship training, women empowerment and not forgetting pressing long-standing issues faced by General Practitioners on Managed Care Organisations (MCOs) or Third Party Administrators (TPAs) and also the Pharmacy Bill. There were *Lembaga Hasil Dalam Negeri* speakers, to address issues on taxation.

The Organising Committee which was Co-chaired by Dr Muruga Raj and Mr Vasu Pillai, met just one time throughout the planning of the event. Most of the meetings were conducted via WhatsApp and emails. Its high time many of MMA's meetings are conducted using various technologies available. This will definitely reduce the operational cost, as it is too costly to mobilise all our leaders from different parts of Malaysia to just attend a one to three-hour meeting. Not forgetting our precious time that we spend in our vocation and family cannot be measured with the compensation received. This will also allow more members outside Greater KL to participate in activities.

We arranged for an Event Management Team to manage the entire seminar which went on uneventfully and many participants from the 480 odd attendees were pleased with the flow

of the event without any hiccups. All the stakeholders who participated including the exhibitors were pleased with the outcome of the event. This is very important in keeping the event at or below cost. Based on the successful outcome of these few seminars organised by the event management team, it is obvious that we should leave the organising to the professionals whilst we, the medical professionals, focus on the issues surrounding the medical profession.

The Society of MMA Medical Students (SMMAMS) was also included in the Committee, in order to help them gain exposure and also understand current issues faced by the medical fraternity. We believe a succession plan is very vital in the sustainability of any organisation. This should be cultivated and more junior members should be empowered and entrusted to carry out important projects. This will give them the confidence to do better as future leaders in MMA.

It is very important to continuously have dialogues with MCO/TPA representatives at the same time, getting the policymakers involved so as to keep the momentum going till we achieve what we are fighting for. Dr Ahmad Razid, the Director of Medical Practice Division and also Dr Harshinder Singh who is in charge of MCOs/TPAs at the Ministry of Health (MoH), were present to give a detailed presentation on MCO and its guidelines. They acknowledged that the long term solution is the Managed Care Bill which is currently being drafted with MMA as one of the participants together with Malaysian Medical Council (MMC), Association of Private Hospitals of Malaysia (APHM), Academy of Family Physicians of Malaysia (AFPM), Federation of Private Medical Practitioners' Association Malaysia (FPMPAM), Medical Practitioners Coalition Association of Malaysia (MPCAM), and *Pertubuhan Doktor-Doktor Islam Malaysia* (PERDIM). As the bill is being drafted, AMALAN has acknowledged and is willing to be the arbitrator to the conclusion of the series of stakeholder engagements that is ongoing between MMA and the MCOs/TPAs. The minutes of the



*Dr Muruga Raj, addressing the 150 odd General Practitioners*



*Dr Ahmad Razid, taking questions from attendees on issues regarding MCO/TPA*

meeting will be published in the next issue of *Berita MMA*.

The Pharmacy Bill which may change the landscape of GP practice was also addressed by Tuan Hj Ghazali from the Pharmaceutical Service Division of MoH. He was kind enough to record all our concerns with regards to the Pharmacy Bill. It was also informed that the outcome of the *Rand Undang-Undang Farmasi* (RUUF) Stakeholders Meeting at Port Dickson in December 2015, will be briefed to the Health Minister on 8 March 2016. We have also stated that the Medical profession should be regulated by doctors themselves via MMC as the Pharmacists are being regulated by their own. MMA is keeping close tabs on the evolution of the Pharmacy Bill.

Lastly, we can only resolve issues by being united. Please bear in mind resolving long term issues is a marathon and not a sprint and requires lots of patience and endurance.