

26 April 2023

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**Dr SOON Yu Yang**

The Cancer Drug List (CDL) took the headlines for the Medical Oncologists last year. As publicized, the ramifications went beyond the government hospitals to the private sector. For the first time, Medical Oncologists from both the public and private sectors sat down with the Minister of Health to talk through concerns about the implementation of the CDL. There was even a follow-up meeting after the implementation of the CDL.

SSO is not an MOH mouthpiece, and likes to think that it gives credit where credit is due. Through this journey of implementing the CDL, MOH has been on-the-ball and responsive dealing with CDL queries. Also, they have been true to their word about updating the CDL – the CDL listing we see today is much longer than the CDL that was first presented in September 2022. The part of the story that needs to be underlined is that the Medication Assistance Fund (MAF) listing has also increased a great deal, and in fact, this is a significant amount of support from the government, in terms of treatment costs.

As the story unfolds with time, we shall see how insurance companies find their place in the new ecosystem as to how riders may/may not support their clients for drugs not on the CDL, as well as cancer

services. Regardless, the page has been turned, and we are now in a new chapter of cancer healthcare financing.

The 5<sup>th</sup> MedOnc Review Course was held in February earlier this year. There were nail-biting and cringeworthy moments during the Mock Viva. To the examination candidates: there are still 4 months to the Exits, and Best of Luck! Eileen Poon and Evelyn Wong organized it, together with help from administrative executives from the National Cancer Centre of Singapore's Department of Medical Oncology. Thank You!

SSO held its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) last July. Dawn Chong and Eileen Poon were organizing Co-Chairs, and Joline and myself were Scientific Co-Chairs. It was the 1<sup>st</sup> time holding it hybrid fashion and it really tested and laid bare how stable/unstable the various hotels' WiFi connections were, so much so that we now have a blacklist and a whitelist of hotels' WiFi quality! Presentations were top-notch, selected from several meetings and conferences. Congratulations again to the authors of the winning submitted abstracts.

Many found the Clinical Trials session illuminating, thanks to Soon Yu Yang and Daniel Tan. The Cancer Immunotherapy Conference held in conjunction with the ASM was an excellent update for our day-to-day clinical practice, thanks to Joe Yeong and Joline Lim

SSO was invited by the Japanese Society of Medical Oncology (JSMO) to make remarks at its 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in March 2023 at its Presidential Opening Dinner, alongside ASCO (American Society of Clinical Oncology) and ESMO (European Society of Medical Oncology). Being the only Asian representative, SSO made a plug for Asian unity, collaboration and stepping forward to assume greater leadership roles on the world stage of cancer care, be they in research/clinical trials and/or education, especially since



**SSO Secretariat**

22 Sin Ming Lane, Midview City, #03-85,

Singapore 573969

Tel: +65 6513 7310

Email: [sso@singaporeoncology.org.sg](mailto:sso@singaporeoncology.org.sg)

Asians constitute the majority of the world's population. This was particularly well received by fellow Asian oncology societies.

It has been a busy and fruitful year for SSO – may it again be so for the coming year.

Yours sincerely

Elaine Lim

President – SSO