

## 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> SCSS Scientific Seminar

The Singapore Society of Cosmetic Scientists is very pleased to have the privilege of having 2 very prominent speakers for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Scientific Seminars in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2005.

*Dr. Katherine Martin*, Director of Science and Technology of Johnson and Johnson, J&J delivered an in-depth clinical academic paper titled:

### **Targeting Skin Irritation: A Safe Effective Botanical Extract**

Held at a lecture theatre in Singapore Polytechnic on 27<sup>th</sup> September, many of us felt like we were back to school again. The talk was special as Dr. Martin shared with us photos and clinical studies carried out in her laboratories. The audience received a condensed one-hour presentation of data and photographs from studies on skin irritation conducted on human subjects with sensitive skin. As the leader of J&J's preclinical pharmacology group, Dr. Martin shared with us results of clinical studies carried out on a botanical extract, Parthenolide-Free Extract (PFE) of Feverfew (*tanacetum parthenium*), showing how PFE is able to effectively reduce skin irritation and skin sensitivity. As non-researchers, we learnt to appreciate the processes involved in studying anti-in-



**Picture:** *Dr. K. Martin, Director of Science and Technology, J&J*

flammatory and anti-oxidant activities of Feverfew (*tanacetum parthenium*).

Our 4<sup>th</sup> Scientific Seminar was presented by *Dr. Johann Wiechers*, Principal Scientist and Skin R&D Manager of Uniqema of the Netherlands. The theme was:

### **Cosmetic Delivery: Getting the Active Where It Needs To Be Active**

Despite arriving in Singapore very late the night before, *Dr. Wiechers* gave a most impressive and captivating early breakfast presentation that left us yearning for more. With a global responsibility for Uniqema's skin R&D as well as having written more than 200 publications, we were taken aback by how Dr. Wiechers simplified a complex problem through analogies such as bottleneck situation in human traffic flow at airports and the concept of the four R's of delivery. Using probing questions, he jolted us to appreciate the importance of formulation basics to ensure that the ac-



**Pictures:** *Dr. Johann Wiechers demonstrating Relative Polarity Index profiles, and getting down to the basics of formulating*

tive reaches its site of action in order to exert its effect at optimal efficacy. The take-home message is »choose your emulsifier and emollient very carefully to get optimal active concentration at the site you want it to be«.

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**Picture:** *Dr. K. Martin, Director of Science and Technology of Johnson and Johnson (left), Ms. June Baisa, SCSS council member (right)*