

9th Student Medical-Nursing Education Conference 2013: Collated Synopses & Speaker Profiles for First-Year Workshops

Emergency Medicine

Medical Speaker:

A/Prof. Malcolm Mahadevan
Head and Senior Consultant
Department of Emergency Medicine
National University Hospital

Nursing Speaker:

Ms. Elaine Ng Kim Choon
Group Director of Nursing
Parkway Health

In recent years, there has been a growing interest in the field of health on communication and collaboration in a team, especially between doctors and nurses. In the hospital setting, communication and collaboration issues can occur in our daily management of cases, for example in situations where multiple members of the inter-professional care team contribute to resolving a patient's issue such as patients' education and discharge planning. Depending on the complexity of the patient's condition, care must be coordinated across multiple disciplines and specialties. Studies have shown that improving communication and collaboration among healthcare team creates a positive work environment, improves staff satisfaction and improves patients' satisfaction, safety and clinical outcomes. On the reverse, ineffective communication and lack of collaboration creates situations where medical errors can occur. These errors have the potential to cause severe injury or unexpected patient death. Medical errors especially those caused by a failure to communicate are a prevalent problem in today's health care organizations. Building good relationship needs commitment, effort and time. A/Prof. Mahadevan and Ms. Ng will share and discuss on how to foster good doctors-nurses relationship. This can be built through understanding each other roles and responsibilities and creating opportunities for interaction both at work and in community work.

Family Medicine

Medical Speaker:

Dr. Chow Mun Hong
Director
Clinical Governance and Quality Management
SingHealth

Senior Consultant and Director
Quality Management
SingHealth Polyclinics

Nursing Speaker:

A/Prof. Edward Poon Wing Hong
Director
Department of Nursing
Ang Mo Kio – Thye Hua Kwan Hospital

Healthcare is an increasingly complex field where success depends on collaboration among many professionals working in teams. In this workshop, two experienced Healthcare Leaders; Dr. Chow and A/Prof. Poon, will share their reflections on their professional journeys and what it means to come to work every day trying to do their best for patients. Working together involves sharing a common purpose, understanding each other's roles and communicating effectively. Why are we in Healthcare? What gets us up every morning? What keeps the fire burning? We will each have to decide what we stand for, and stand for together, in good times and tough times. This will be an interactive session where participants can dialogue with our speakers and gain insights into the road ahead.

General Surgery

Medical Speaker:

Dr. Kenneth Mak Seck Wai
Chairman, Medical Board
Senior Consultant, Department of Surgery
Khoo Teck Puat Hospital

Clinical Associate Professor
Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine
National University of Singapore

Nursing Speakers:

Ms. Chua Gek Choo
Deputy Director for Nursing
Department of Nursing Administration
Khoo Teck Puat Hospital

Ms. Alice Leong Foong Wah
Assistant Director for Nursing
Nursing Administration (Peri-operative Services)
Khoo Teck Puat Hospital

Dr. Mak, Ms. Chua and Ms. Leong will provide an overview on how doctors and nurses work together in a collaborative team environment within the surgical and perioperative setting. They will share from our personal and collective professional experiences, and focus our insights specifically on working in the surgical wards as well as in the operating theatres in our public hospitals.

Geriatrics

Medical Speaker:

A/Prof. Pang Weng Sun
Chairman
Medical Board
Yishun Community Hospital

Senior Consultant
Geriatric Medicine
Khoo Teck Puat Hospital

Nursing Speaker:

Ms. Jasmine Kang
Advanced Practice Nurse
Tan Tock Seng Hospital

The Geriatrics workshop will help participants understand the respective roles of doctors and nurses, allowing for medical and nursing students to develop mutual respect for each other through a better understanding of each profession's role in health care. Through short talks, group discussions, team based learning and role plays, participants will journey through history as well as experience the challenges of teamwork in a busy ward environment.

Infectious Diseases

Medical Speaker:

Dr. Jason Phua
Head and Senior Consultant
Division of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine
National University Hospital

Nursing Speaker:

Ms. Ng Toon Mae
Former Assistant Director for Quality Management
Community Care Development Division
Agency for Integrated Care

According to the Ministry of Health, Singapore had 34,507 nurses and 10,225 doctors in its healthcare system in 2012. Because many of these nurses and doctors work in a healthcare environment with a team-based approach, a healthy nurse-doctor relationship is essential for good and safe care for patients. This workshop aims to provide students with an overview of the working relationship of nurses and doctors in our healthcare system in general, and of their roles and responsibilities in areas specific to infectious diseases. Case scenarios will be provided during the workshop and students will be encouraged to participate actively in discussions on the symbiotic and inter-disciplinary relationship of nurses and doctors in the acute hospital.

Internal Medicine (1)

Medical Speaker:

Dr. Lim Li Lin
Deputy Head and Senior Consultant
Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology
National University Hospital

Nursing Speaker:

TBC

Dr. Lim will be speaking on 5 different areas that are crucial to patient care in the provision of health services, specifically: multi-level communication in healthcare (involving patients and their relatives, senior doctors, nurses and colleagues/peers), how to manage expectations, documentation, limitations & escalation, as well as prioritisation.

Internal Medicine (2)

Medical Speaker:

Dr. Ooi Yau Wei
Consultant Interventional Cardiologist
Tan Tock Seng Hospital

Nursing Speaker:

Ms. Jamie Lim Chuen
Advanced Practice Nurse (CVM)
Tan Tock Seng Hospital

Through fun filled activities, Dr. Ooi and Ms. Lim hope to create unique interactive platforms between the groups and to introduce the importance of respect, communication, professionalism and teamwork. They wish to impress upon our young medical and nursing students that they can and should foster excellent and meaningful working relationships between each other upon graduation. Using the following acronym: may the FORCE (F - Fair, O - Organized, R- Respectful, C - Collegial, E – Empathetic) be with them! And to look at the bright side!

Maternal Health

Medical Speaker:

Dr. Varsha Mulik
Senior Consultant
Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology
KK Women's and Children's Hospital

Nursing Speaker:

Ms. Julie Tay Suan Lay
Senior Nurse
KK Women's and Children's Hospital

Dr. Varsha and Ms. Tay will be highlighting the close and almost symbiotic relations a doctor has to build with their nursing/midwifery colleagues. Some associate being a doctor as a person who has all answers and although a few of us do believe it --- this is a belief which is irrelevant and unrealistic in the 21st century. With advent of internet and digital advances—medicine is no more a thing only known to doctors – in fact sometimes the patient knows more about their own conditions – the rarer the better informed they are! Furthermore, inter-professional inputs is important to improve clinical outcomes where mind healing is equally if not more important than physical healing. In fact almost more 80% of illnesses have some underlying psychological and emotional attachment to it. Inter-professional patient-centred collaborative practice is also envisage to provide more effective and efficient care, along with improved patient engagement and participation in their care processes. In this workshop, Dr. Varsha & Ms. Tay will share with you their experiences from the perspective of Obstetrics and Gynecology which involves caring for 2 people – one of which cannot speak --- in close working relationship together with midwives and nurses.

Neuroscience

Medical Speaker:

Dr. Chan Yee Cheun
Senior Consultant Neurologist
Department of Medicine
National University Hospital

Nursing Speaker:

Ms. Zhou Wentao
Lecturer
Alice Lee Centre for Nursing Studies
Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine
National University of Singapore

Former Advanced Practice Nurse
Tan Tock Seng Hospital

Dr. Chan and Ms. Zhou will be presenting a workshop titled “Understanding Multidisciplinary Care in Chronic Neurological Diseases”. The workshop will provide an introduction to common chronic neurological conditions and how care is provided through multidisciplinary healthcare teams and care pathways. Aspects of care provided by different healthcare team members will also be discussed. Doctors and nurses are all striving to improve our quality of patient care, thus Dr. Chan and Ms. Zhou will explore how better care is delivered by healthcare practitioners working together and communicating effectively as members of inter-professional teams in solving problems. Dr. Chan and Ms. Zhou hope that at the end of the session, all participants will be inspired to be part of future neurological healthcare teams providing quality care. The workshop will include interactive activities and sharing of case studies by the speakers.

Oncology

Medical Speaker:

Prof. John Wong Eu Li

Isabel Chan Professor of Medical Sciences

Vice Provost (Academic Medicine)

National University of Singapore

Deputy Chief Executive

National University Health System

Director

National University Cancer Institute

National University Hospital

Nursing Speaker:

Ms. Catherine Teo

Advanced Practice Nurse (Palliative Care)

National University Cancer Institute

National University Hospital

Oncology is the branch of medicine that deals with cancer, the leading cause of death in Singapore. Work in oncology represents what medicine is all about: holistic care, state-of-the-art science, compassion, empathy, communication, and team-based care. Healthcare has become increasingly complex and no single health professional has all the skills or knowledge required to care for patients and their families holistically. Medicine in the 21st century involves doctors, nurses, pharmacists, allied health professionals, and healthcare administrators working as a team, each contributing their unique skills to shared patient management. Cancer care is an excellent example. In this workshop, Prof. Wong and Ms. Teo will speak about the importance of physician-nurse relationships in the field of oncology, in line with the theme of the conference; *Under One Roof*.

Paediatrics

Medical Speaker:

A/Prof. Quah Thuan Chong
Chief
Division of Hematology/Oncology
University Children's Medical Institute
National University Hospital

Nursing Speaker:

Ms. Pang Nguk Lan
Deputy Director (Patient Safety)
KK Women's and Children's Hospital

Head

Medical Affairs and Risk Management Office
KK Women's and Children's Hospital

In this workshop, A/Prof. Quah will be speaking on the importance of collaborative work that occurs between doctors and nurses in his department, especially considering how nurses are in contact with the patients and their families much more than the doctors! In his own words: "This is an area that needs not only the heads, but also the hearts and the souls too..." Similarly, Ms. Pang will be speaking on how nurses today are more secure in their own clinical knowledge and expertise, and this has empowered them to move their relationships with physicians to a new level of collaboration. Medicine and Nursing are inseparably intertwined especially in hospital care and the pattern of nurse-physician relationships has also been evolving to reflect a more collaborative dimension. The roles, functions and the kinds of expertise nurses and physicians have are maybe different but they are both equally important to patient care. Patient outcomes are dependent upon the physicians' skills in diagnosis and treatment, as well as upon nurses' continuous observations and their skills in communicating the right information to the right professional partner. When both sides bring unique skills and utilize the skills and knowledge base of each other expertise in a cooperative way, patient care and outcomes improve.

Psychiatry

Medical Speaker:

A/Prof. Rathi Mahendran
Senior Consultant Psychiatrist
National University Hospital

Chairman of the Medical Board
Institute of Mental Health

Nursing Speaker:

Mr Arumugum Govindasamy
Assistant Director and Advanced Practice Nurse
Department of Nursing Administration
Institute of Mental Health, Singapore

A/Prof. Mahendran and Mr Govindasamy will present on inter-professional collaboration in the specialized areas of psychiatry and mental health nursing through oral presentations and videos. A role-played clinical scenario will also be carried out to emphasise the importance of multidisciplinary teamwork in the care of patients with mental health issues.

Research

Medical Speaker:

A/Prof. Roger Foo Sik Yin
Associate Professor and Senior Consultant
National University Heart Centre
National University Hospital
Cardiovascular Research Institute
National University of Singapore

Nursing Speaker:

Dr. Piyanee Klainin-Yobas
Assistant Professor
Alice Lee Centre for Nursing Studies
Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine
National University of Singapore

The career of a clinician scientist is still largely an unconventional choice in Singapore but in places such as Addenbrooke's Hospital (University of Cambridge) where A/Prof. Foo undertook his post-MBBS training and was a consultant physician for nearly 10 years, at least one in 5 doctors is a clinician scientist, and almost all doctors would have had a taste of intense scientific research as part of their post-graduate training. Research is so often inaccurately viewed as simply data collection exercises. Epidemiology and data collection, even at the amazing level of using human / patient samples to uncover novel genetic markers or disease biomarkers, is one form of research, but the process of sample collection and excel spreadsheet and analysis may not appeal to everyone. A clinician scientist may instead be using in vitro and in vivo disease models, perturbing molecular pathways and asking whether there are new paradigms in disease aetiology and progression, whether there are novel targets for therapy. There is no reason that research cannot be an end in itself, rather than the question that is often posed "what do you intend to do after your research?". The remarkable life stories of scientists at Singapore's Biopolis reflect how research itself can be a hugely rewarding career. Scientists make amazing discoveries year on year, and uncover amazing new aspects of biology through their persistent hard work at the lab bench. There is no reason why a clinician scientist might not bring his knowledge of his disease of interest and marry that to a well crafted series of lab bench projects and contribute to these amazing clinically-related or disease-related scientific discoveries. A/Prof. Foo is convinced that a clinician scientist can direct basic and fundamental research in a way that immediately becomes relevant to human and disease conditions. His own experience with research started during the year between being a Medical Officer (called SHO in UK) and a Specialist Registrar. He was subsequently lucky to be mentored by eminent clinician scientists in Cambridge and was awarded various fellowships to pursue further research training in UK and USA. When he became a consultant cardiologist at Cambridge, he was also given funding to lead a research group consisting of 2 PhD fellows, 1 BSc technician and 2 PhD students. A/Prof. Foo's research area has remained in the molecular biology of heart failure and he believes we have built up a strong knowledge-base particularly in the epigenome of the disease. A/Prof. Foo looks forward to sharing these experiences more at the workshop.

Dr. Klainin-Yobas will be presenting on "Collaborative research among nurse and physician in the mental health domain". Interprofessional collaboration among nurses and physicians can enhance the quality of care and patients' outcome. Collaborative research enables nurses and physicians to contribute their knowledge, expert opinions, and research-related skills to research projects. Various theoretical models were used to guide collaborative research including the collaborative practice model, collaborative model of primary care, collaborative chronic care, among others. This workshop illustrates a possible collaborative research model for nurses and psychiatrists in mental health care. Evidence concerning outcomes of collaborative research is illustrated. Examples of the collaborative research in the mental health domain are provided. One of which is an intervention research examining the potential effects and feasibility of the stress management intervention on people with mental disorders in a tertiary hospital in Singapore. This study highlights collaborative efforts among nurses, psychiatrist, and other health care providers during the implementation of the project. Another project is a survey to examine perceived stigmatization and discrimination among people with schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders in Singapore. Additionally, recommendations for future collaborative research among nurses and doctors will be discussed.

Simulation

Medical Speaker:

A/Prof. Suresh Pillai
Director
Centre for Healthcare Simulation
Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine
National University of Singapore

Senior Consultant
Department of Emergency Medicine
National University Hospital

Senior Consultant (Disaster Medicine)
Emergency Preparedness and Response Division
Public Health Group
Ministry of Health

Nursing Speaker:

Ms. Sabrina Palham
Lecturer
Alice Lee Centre for Nursing Studies
Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine
National University of Singapore

In this interactive workshop set in a Simulated Clinical Environment, nursing and medical students will have the opportunity to experience some of the urgency and complexity of today's healthcare setting. Students will gain insight into the importance of collaborative decision making and role clarity when working in interdisciplinary teams. Engagement in this workshop will enhance interprofessional communication and situational awareness, participating in the first of many Interprofessional Education opportunities to develop practice-ready collaborative healthcare practitioners for Singapore's burgeoning healthcare needs.

Social Medicine

Medical Speaker:

Dr. Tan Lai Yong
Resident Fellow
Alice and Peter Tan College
National University of Singapore

Nursing Speaker:

Dr. Gilbert Fan
Social Worker & Psychotherapist
Head
Department of Psychosocial Oncology
Deputy Chair
Patient Support
National Cancer Centre Singapore
Singapore General Hospital

Dr. Tan will be introducing a case study followed by a small group discussion and interactive session, while Dr. Fan has a couple of stories to share on his work in a multi-disciplinary team. They are all life lessons of other peoples' journeys with their lives. They are all enriching and bring about diverse emotional responses. There is no absolute right or wrong, good or bad, but experiences that enrich us all.