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Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine

# Medicine

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## Dean's Message



Dear Friends,

Warmest greetings to all!

Time really flies... we are already into the 2nd month of 2013! I thought that it would be nice to recap some of our

major events that took place over the last few months of 2012 to wrap up a very eventful year.

Since our last issue of *Medicine* in end October 2012, I would like to update you on a few important events at the close of last year. The annual Public Health Screening (PHS), in October 2012, continued our noble tradition of serving our community. PHS is entirely organized by our students and is now in its 7th successive year. It has successfully reached out to more than 2,000 members of the public who flocked to Toa Payoh HDB Hub for the free screenings which aimed to detect chronic diseases in the elderly. The Neighbourhood Health Screening (NHS) event has also once again allowed our students to serve the community in the heartlands. Besides hailing the passionate volunteering spirits of our students and doctors involved, we hope that these events will encourage more doctors from our alumni to step forward and volunteer in contributing back to society.

In December, the University Orthopaedics, Hand & Reconstructive Microsurgery Cluster (UOHC) of the National University Health System organised the inaugural Annual UOHC Charity Run, where participants of the run included UOHC doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, radiographers as well as administrative and research staff. This wide spectrum of volunteers is a testament to the fact that despite the holiday season, people did not forget to care and share, but in fact, did more.

Our faculty and students have done the School proud over the past 12 months in many aspects, garnering awards and accolades not only at the University level, but also nationally and internationally. We would like to congratulate our PhD student, Ms Kong Say Li, for being awarded the 2012 Ray Wu Prize for excellent performance in life science research; Ms. Wong Meihua Wendy for being awarded the Young Investigator Award for her research on kidney cancer genetics at the Asia Pacific Conference of Human Genetics in Kuala Lumpur and Research Associate Professor Lai Poh San for being elected as President of Asia Pacific Society of Human Genetics.

In this issue's Voice of Alumni, we have invited Dr Julian Theng, from the Class of 1992, to share about his days as an undergraduate and how he is contributing back to society as a successful Medical Director of his own eye clinic. The year of 2012 also saw our very first Alumni Reunion for the

Class of 2001, jointly organized with the Alumni Relations Department at YLLSOM Dean's Office. We look forward to more Alumni Reunions and call on all Class Ambassadors to play an active role in contacting our office.

Looking forwards, the World Health Summit Regional Meeting Asia-Singapore (WHSRMAS) will be held from 8-10 April 2013 at the Ritz Carlton Millennia, Singapore. The World Health Summit is the world's foremost gatherings of leaders from academia, politics, industry and civil society, and this is the first time that the Summit is held outside of Berlin. The theme for the forthcoming Meeting in Singapore is "Health for Sustainable Development in Asia", and our Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong will be the Guest of Honour. I strongly encourage our faculty and students to participate and interact with international participants in this Meeting. More details can be found on the Summit website <http://www.worldhealthsummit.org/whsrma2013/welcome-message.html>

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of our faculty, staff, students and alumni for your invaluable contributions to the School of Medicine. I am sure 2013 will be an even better year, and I wish everyone good health, joy & fulfillment!

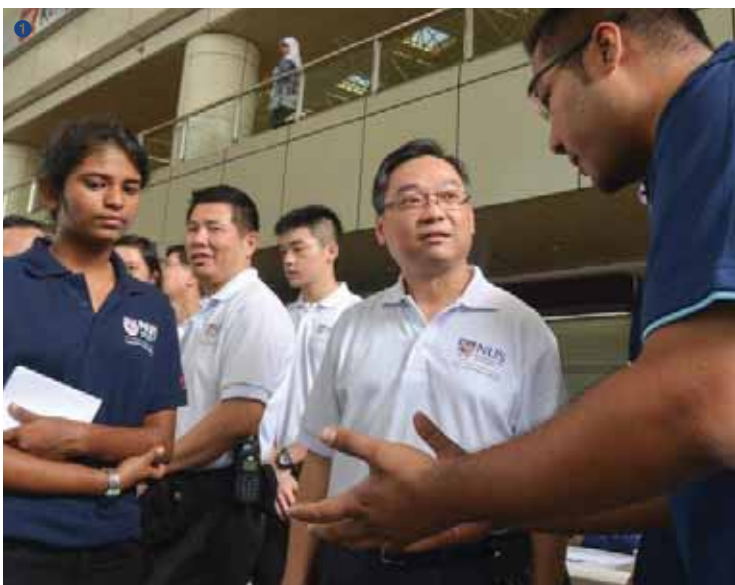
**Yeoh Khay Guan**

*Dean*

*Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine*

## 2012 Public Health Screening

The 2012 Public Health Screening which was held at Toa Payoh HDB Hub on 6 & 7 October 2012 has reached out to more than 2,000 members of the public. The free annual community health screening service initiative organised by the NUS Medical Society from the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine aimed to reach out to adults above the age of 21, in hopes of earlier detection of chronic diseases such as diabetes mellitus, hypertension and hypercholesterolemia prevalent in our population.



- 1 Health Minister Gan Kim Yong gracing the annual event
- 2 Some of the student leaders who were interviewed by Elliott Danker from Power 98 – Tune in to the recorded podcasts at <http://medicine.nus.edu.sg/corporate/alumni/be-involved/podcast.aspx>
- 3 4 Dedicated student volunteers
- 5 Group picture of the brains behind the event



# UOHC Charity Run

In conjunction with the season of giving and consideration for the less fortunate, the University Orthopaedics, Hand & Reconstructive Microsurgery Cluster (UOHC) of the National University Health System organised the inaugural "Annual UOHC Charity Run" as part of the Giving Tree Project. The Giving Tree Project raises funds for the NUHS Fund Limited which pays for the treatment of needy patients.

This is also a special year for the UOHC as it coincides with the NUS Department of Orthopaedic Surgery's 60th Anniversary celebrations. From this year, we hope to raise funds from various sources through an "Annual UOHC Charity Run".

On a cold rainy afternoon on 3 Dec 2012, approximately 200 members of the UOHC family gathered at the NUHS Tower Block to participate in the inaugural Annual UOHC Charity Run – a 3.5km jog across the Kent Ridge campus. Participants of the run included UOHC doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, radiographers, as well as admin and research staff. The participants braved strong winds and wet weather with the hope of raising funds for our disadvantaged patients. The weather might not have been optimal, but spirits were hardly dampened. While the runners were giving their best, a separate 50-man strong team scaled fourteen storeys twice at the NUHS Tower Block. UOHC was proud to report that all participants successfully and safely completed the event.

Our combined efforts culminated in the raising of an impressive sum of \$33,000 which was a combination of solicited donations as well as staff contributions. A cheque for that amount was presented on that same evening by Professor Wong Hee Kit (Chair, UOHC) to A/Prof Benjamin Ong (Chief Executive, NUHS), who graciously received the donation on behalf of the NUHS Fund Limited.

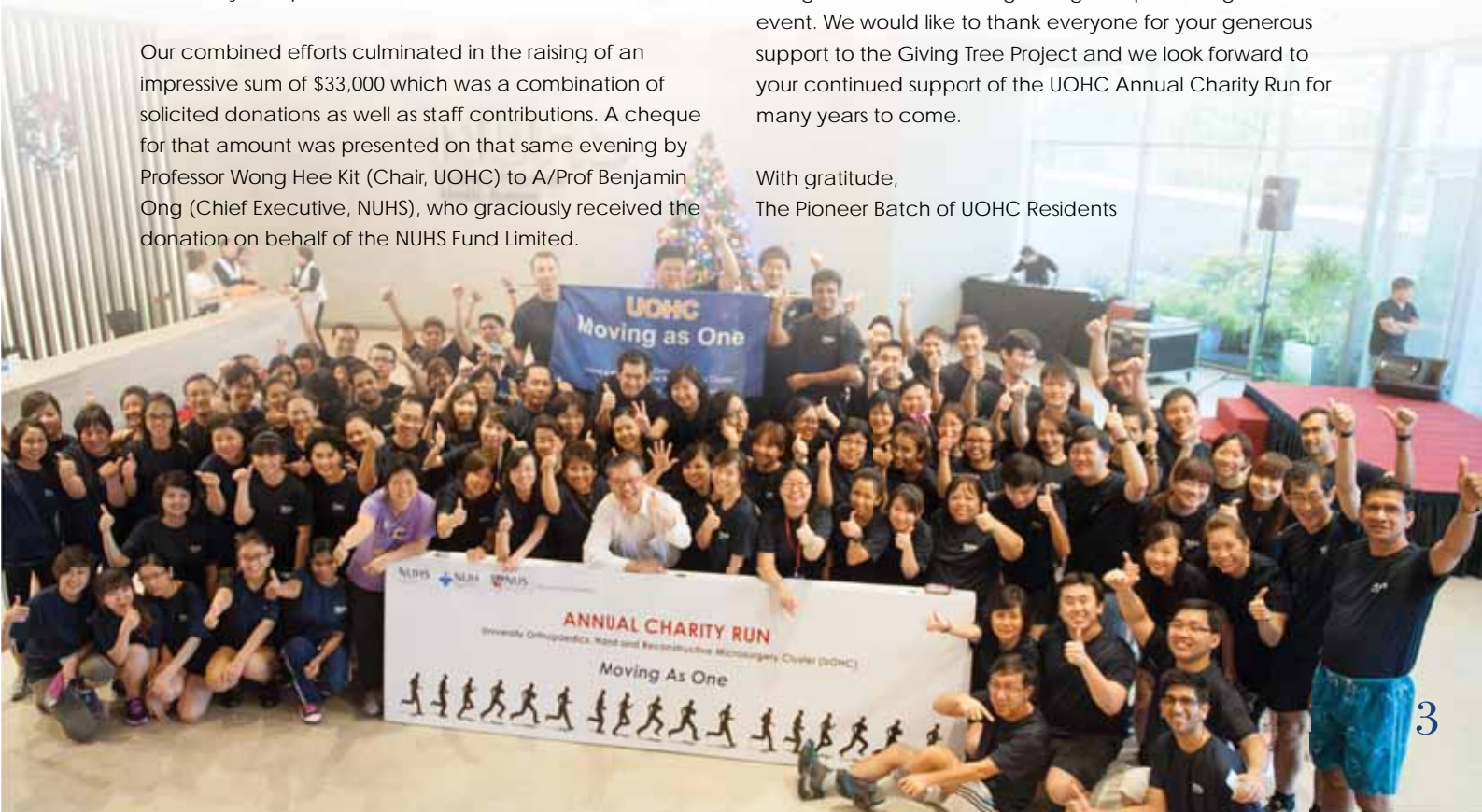


The success of this event is testament to UOHC's commitment and care for our patients. The event reinforced the sense of family within the UOHC as we all came together for one purpose. This event helps to strengthen the understanding that lies between medical staff and allied health personnel. There was also lots of fun and laughter with the Gangnam Style performances.

Having started on a high note, it is our sincere hope as the organisers of this inaugural event that the Annual UOHC Charity Run will grow from strength to strength in the subsequent years. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who took time off their busy schedules to participate in the event. It has been our great honour to receive such resounding support from our friends and colleagues from the UOHC as well as the rest of the extended NUHS family.

A special word of thanks to the NUH HR Wellness and the NUHS Development Office for their gracious assistance and guidance with the organising and publicising of the event. We would like to thank everyone for your generous support to the Giving Tree Project and we look forward to your continued support of the UOHC Annual Charity Run for many years to come.

With gratitude,  
The Pioneer Batch of UOHC Residents



## Associate Professor Lynne Lim Vice-Dean (Academic Affairs) Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine

Associate Professor Lynne Lim is married to a lawyer and they have an 11-year-old daughter. A specialist in otolaryngologist, she is director of the Centre of Hearing Intervention and Language Development, Otolaryngology Department, at the National University Hospital. Prof Lim sub-specialised in paediatric otolaryngology. She treats adults as well as paediatric patients.



### *What made you choose to specialise in otolaryngology?*

Again, this was not planned. It so happened that when I consulted an ENT for an ear problem that I was having, he asked if I would like to take up one of the two training positions in his department and I agreed. I don't plan my life. I think that if we over-plan our lives, we miss out on opportunities. I think what is more important is having a good attitude and the willingness to work.

### *How to prevent hearing loss?*

For some people, their hearing loss is the result of wear and tear as they age. Others may be caused by long-term exposure to loud noise or ear infections. My advice is to avoid loud noises and if you are suffering from any ear infection, have it treated. As with most medical conditions, maintaining good general health like eating a balanced diet and regular exercise is important.

### *Why did you choose to go into the medical profession?*

I wanted to be an architect. My dream is to build tree houses for people to live in! Don't ask me how and where I was going to do this but that was my dream. However, my mother wanted me to do medicine, so I put down medicine as my first choice and second choice, architecture. As it turned out, I got into the course of my first choice in university.

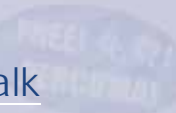
### *Having gone into medicine, how has it turned out for you?*

Although it was not my first choice of a career, I've come to like it. It's a huge privilege to interact with patients, a chance to heal and comfort when they are sick. And being a doctor keeps you grounded because you're exposed to a wide spectrum of people. Indeed, healthcare is a great leveler of people.

### *Tell us more about your work.*

With the ageing population in Singapore, there will be more people with hearing problems. About 40 per cent of people over 60 years old have some degree of hearing loss. We need to improve and increase our ENT services to meet this need. We need to train more people to do screening tests for hearing so that any problems can be picked up early. For now, we only have 50 audiologists in the whole of Singapore for a population of 5.5 million, which is grossly inadequate. It is for this reason that I recommended a degree course in audiology which will commence next year at the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine. It is a two-year Master of Science in Clinical Audiology. Applicants will need to have a basic degree in science, life sciences or engineering, or relevant industry experience.

...being a doctor keeps you grounded because you're exposed to a wide spectrum of people. Indeed, healthcare is a great leveler of people.



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 Program Kesihatan Komuniti

# Neighbourhood Health Screening 2012



NHS exemplifies the motivation I had to enter medical school. When my NHS seniors first made their presentation to the Year One medical students to recruit committee members, I was drawn to the vision and the cause of the project. That led me to apply to be a Follow-Up subcommittee member in September 2011, and I have been volunteering with NHS ever since.

Being a Year One and not knowing much back then, NHS opened my eyes to the needs of the local community that were hidden to me. The elderly we served taught me so much, in terms of the value of patient-doctor relationships, patient communication, and most importantly, learning to view them beyond their medical problems simply by being in the environment they live in every single day. Furthermore, being part of Follow-Up allowed me to continue my interaction with residents long-term and observe the impact NHS has made in their lives.

When I got elected as chairperson for 2012/2013, the ultimate goal the team had, besides integrating the elderly back into the healthcare system, was to lay a foundation where future batches of students could go above and

beyond what their seniors have accomplished. This year, NHS saw the introduction of new systems and new initiatives that impacted not just the elderly we served, but whoever experienced NHS. The success of NHS is determined not by the quantity of elderly we serve, but rather by the inspiration of future batches and other volunteers to carry on this flame and achieve greater things. We also do not forget the importance of inspiring and empowering the elderly to take charge of their health. I definitely treasure the joy and satisfaction of seeing the elderly benefit from our expertise. I strongly believe NHS will reap its harvest with future batches doing better than the previous and looking further into the horizon with passion and dedication. NHS although tiring, was one of the most fulfilling experiences I have ever had in medical school. The pride of being an NHS volunteer – the fond memory stays in your heart forever.

*Contributed by:*

**Chua Shuxian Calida (Miss)**

*6th Neighbourhood Health Screening Chairperson  
 MBBS Year Two, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine  
 National University of Singapore*

## SoM PhD student – Recipient of Prestigious Ray Wu Prize (2012)

Ms Kong Say Li has been awarded the prestigious Ray Wu Prize (2012). The Ray Wu Prize is an international prize awarded each year to graduate students for excellence in life science research.



Ms Kong Say Li is a PhD student in the Department of Medicine under the main supervision of Prof Edison T Liu. She has recently submitted her thesis and will be conferred the PhD degree soon.

Her PhD thesis is on "Deciphering the enhanceosome-mediated transcriptional activation and cell proliferation in Breast Cancer". Estrogen receptor  $\alpha$  (ER $\alpha$ ) is a ligand-inducible hormone nuclear receptor that regulates estrogen signaling in numerous human systems. Though the co-expression of ER $\alpha$ , FOXA1 and GATA3 has been documented in primary breast tumours, the nature of their coordinated interaction at the genome level or the biological consequences of their co-expression remains poorly understood. Hence, she carried out this work to decipher the genomics and biological impact by the conjoint action by ER $\alpha$ , FOXA1 and GATA3 in breast cancer cells. Interestingly, the genome-wide binding profiles revealed that these three transcription factors (TFs) co-localized in a coordinated fashion to form a functional enhanceosome that cooperatively orchestrates the optimal transcriptional activation upon estrogen stimulation. Importantly, this work revealed that the composition of enhanceosome is competent to reprogramme the transcriptome of breast cancer cells to establish new transcriptional regulatory cassettes favoring the estrogen-induced growth phenotype. Taken together, she has uncovered the genomics impact as well as the functional importance of an enhanceosome comprising ER $\alpha$ , FOXA1 and GATA3 in the estrogen responsiveness of ER $\alpha$  positive breast cancer cells. This enhanceosome exerts significant combinatorial control of the transcriptional network regulating growth and proliferation of ER $\alpha$  positive breast cancer cells.

## 2002 Alumni Reunion

*Were you the main organizer of this event? What motivated you to initiate this get together?*

This event was brought together by a group of enthusiastic people who worked together to make it happen. A few of us were at a friend's daughter's birthday party last year when someone brought up the idea of a 10-year reunion. After we have gotten over the shock of how long it has been – 10 years to be exact, we decided to get to work officially after some procrastinating.

*When was the last time the Class had a reunion?*

This is our very first proper class reunion since graduation. We have had small gatherings with a turnout of approximately 20-30 people, however, they were nothing of this scale. They did not involve this much coordination.

*Share the difficulties you faced when organising this reunion.*

One of the first problems was getting the complete class list compiled – it was a real challenge sorting out the clinical groups. The NUS Dean's Office Alumni Relations Department was a great help – if only we had contacted them earlier. We were also delighted that Alumni Relations hired a photographer for the reunion and sponsored the entertainment for the children. Several of us have young children and having the magician and balloon artist on site kept the children distracted – long enough for us to have proper conversations with our friends.

*How did you feel when you see the impressive turnout?*

We were very pleasantly surprised (almost shocked, actually). I expected a rather dismal turnout and was prepared for much less enthusiasm. I evidently did not have enough faith in our old friends! Several of our classmates were still away on HMDP, but many of them wrote to say they would love to see photos of the reunion. One of our classmates had to work on the night of the reunion but he had a cake delivered to the dinner instead, which was a lovely surprise. Others offered to pay a little extra, or to pay even though they knew they could not attend, simply to make up for any problems we might have faced with the collection of payments. People were a lot more helpful than we expected them to be and this was very heartwarming.

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*Why do you think it is important to have Reunions despite everybody's busy schedules?*

It is extremely easy to forget old friends especially when you are busy with work and family, but it is certainly worth the effort to meet up with everyone again. We can reminisce about the memories of medical school which many times, only our very own classmates can relate with and these experiences are very precious. In addition, many of us currently work outside of government institutions and can become quite isolated. These gatherings will allow us to keep in touch with colleagues from different subspecialties and even with some who have left medicine altogether.

*What is the best / most memorable part of the 10-year reunion?*

The best part for me was during the fifteen minutes after the dinner started, when people started streaming in and it dawned on us that the reunion was not going to be a complete flop! Before that, I was a little nervous that we might have a pretty empty ballroom with maybe twenty people sitting around looking bored. Of course, that was not the case at all. The Alumni Relations Department also helped us put together a slideshow of our old photos, from the time when we were all younger, thinner and apparently far less self conscious. The walking down of memory lane was a lot of fun too!

*Anything else you would like to share with your fellow alumni and current undergraduates?*

Stay in touch! And if you're planning a reunion, the very first thing you need is a group of people who will tirelessly call and email former classmates whom they have not spoken to in years. This also includes calling and emailing your former classmates for another five times before getting a response! Enthusiasm and a fairly thick skin are very useful traits.

Contributed by:  
**Neeta Satku**  
 Class of 2002

## Calling All Class Ambassadors

We know the above article has tugged on your heartstrings. You must be wondering when your Class' next reunion, or like the Class of 2002, when your 1st reunion will be! Why wait for your former classmates to take the first steps?

Up the ante and kick off this long-awaited reunion by contacting us at [alumni.med@nus.edu.sg](mailto:alumni.med@nus.edu.sg).

If you are not a Class Ambassador, IT IS PERFECTLY ALRIGHT. We just need people who are passionate and willing to take the first step to initiate this whole process and we, yes we, will look after all other details and logistics (with some help from you of course) in the planning of your upcoming reunion!

Get in touch with us now!

## From the desk of TODAY'S DOCTORS, YESTERDAY'S STUDENTS

Dr Julian Theng (Class of 1992)  
Group Chairman, Group Medical Director,  
Director of Cornea and Refractive Surgery  
Eagle Eye Centre Pte Ltd, Mount Alvernia Hospital

**Have you always aspired to be a doctor?**

As a matter of fact, I have! Young children always aspire to be doctors and I was one of them from as early as I can remember.

**What factors / incidents led to your decision to embark on your medical journey?**

The personal motivation has always been there, so I believe that when my parents gave their vote of support, the decision was an easy one for me.

**How were you like as an NUS Medical undergraduate? Feel free to reminisce the good old days.**

I was pretty much like any other undergraduate, trying to get the most out of my university education while enjoying the experience at the same time. I put in a great deal of effort in my studies, but always had time for my favourite sport – tennis. There was no partying for me. If I weren't hitting the books, you would probably find me on the courts hitting balls, recharging for my next round of revisions. Church activities, back then, as today, were also a big part of my life. I have been serving in my church's music ministry for more than two decades.

**You captained the NUS tennis team for three years and were once part of the Singapore National Tennis Team. What do you miss most from those days? Do you still play tennis now?**

I definitely miss the fellowship, the camaraderie, the competitions and of course the overseas exposure. I love the game and still play today. In fact, I've even been competing in SMA organized tournaments for the past 15 years.

**Why ophthalmology?**

One of my earliest postings was to an ophthalmology department, and although the stint was short, it was a pivotal moment in my medical career. I was so inspired by the work being done, that there was no doubt what my specialization was going to be thereafter.



**When you were still with SNEC, you were part of the Singapore Volunteers Overseas programme team which launched a three-year training programme in Myanmar. Would you like to elaborate on your role?**

I believe the broad concept at that time was to leverage on our expertise to benefit and empower local medical practitioners to bring their level of care and professionalism to another level. It was a real privilege to be part of that effort to make a difference to so many lives through the hands of just a few. Even today, the bonds forged still remain strong as we get visits from time to time.

**What was your most memorable moment when conducting trainings for local doctors and nurses? What did you gain from this programme?**

The entire experience was in itself, a defining moment in my life. It was a real eye-opener, both rewarding and humbling at the same time. It gave me a much broader perspective of our profession, and I left the experience a wiser and more mature doctor.

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**Besides the above overseas stint, have you been involved in any other community service projects?**

Running a full service eye centre is a full-time job so it has been challenging to find the capacity. However, as the Medical Director of Eagle Eye Centre, I've made it part of our mission to be socially responsible and to give back to the community through various programmes and collaborations. A case in point is our ongoing project with the Assisi Hospice which offers free eye screenings for their patients and even sponsoring cataract surgeries for some.

**You wrote a book on Presbyopia. Why is presbyopia the chosen topic?**

What originally started as a study into an area of ocular concern that was not frequently ventured, became a full-blown endeavour to shed some light on the subject of Presbyopia. At the time, very little information was available on this condition, but with emerging treatment options becoming readily available, it seemed to be an opportunity to kill two birds with one stone.

**Briefly elaborate what presbyopia is, at what age range will people begin to experience effects of presbyopia and what kind of treatments are available.**

Shall I just pass you a copy of my book? => Well.. in short, presbyopia, or "lau hua yen" is an age-related ocular condition generally affecting individuals aged 40 and above, which involves the progressively diminished ability to focus on near

objects due to the gradual loss of elasticity of the eye's organic lens. The most common treatment options include bi-focal/multi-focal prescription spectacles, implantable contact lenses, monovision LASIK (where one eye is corrected for near vision using LASIK) and most recently, intra-corneal inlays. One of the latest treatment options, the ICOLENSTM system, was launched first in Asia on 28 Nov 12!

**Any interesting patient experience to share?**

Every patient has something interesting about them, but the most memorable have to be patients whom I had treated for conditions which were previously thought to be beyond hope. There is nothing like the feeling of restoring sight and belief to those who think they have lost it forever.

**Any words of wisdom to share with our current students and peers alike?**

Hard work, determination and perseverance are just the beginning. Ours is a profession that involves a lifetime commitment to bettering the lives of others. So choose wisely and serve with passion.

**If given the chance to live your life again, would you have done anything differently?**

Everything about my life, the peaks and the valleys, have been crucial to bringing me to where I am today and I have treasured every moment. I have absolutely no regrets.



Ours is a profession that involves a lifetime commitment to bettering the lives of others. So choose wisely and serve with passion.

## Giving like a King

His was a larger than life presence and one that continues to wield influence at his alma mater even after his passing. The feisty Dr Chee Phui Hung (1923-2010), who was among the first Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) cohort to graduate from the University of Malaya (UM) in 1950, was a pioneering force in the setting up of the National University of Singapore's (NUS) vast alumni network for the medical fraternity. UM was one of NUS' predecessor institutions.

The legendary Dr Chee, who was known as the 'Agong' or King for his forceful personality, believed that for NUS to be one of the world's top universities, it had to inculcate in its undergraduates the spirit of giving back to their alma mater. His giving spirit and attachment to the University live on in the Chee Phui Hung Bursary established by the Medical Alumni Association to help deserving students studying Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmacy at NUS.

Mr Koe Khoon Poh, immediate past Chairman, Medical Alumni Association (SB), said, "The reason for setting up the Bursary in Dr Chee's name was simple. Dr Chee had always championed the spirit of the alumni and spoken fearlessly about the issues of the day, especially about helping needy students, the future leaders of the professions."

Wilson Ong, a Second Year student at the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (YLLSoM), Wee Hui Ling, a Third Year student at the Department of Pharmacy, and Chen Xiangluan, from the Faculty of Dentistry, are three recipients of the Bursary, which is helping them make the most of university life and turning their thoughts to giving back to society.

Says Wilson, whose father is a driver and his mother a housewife, "Without the Bursary, I would have had to work part-time to relieve the financial situation in the family. I may have also had to give up on opportunities to participate in overseas Community Involvement Programmes and Conferences."

Wilson decided to study medicine when he was a Secondary One student and his mother was in hospital with a life-threatening condition. He says, "At that time, my life was filled with uncertainty and fear. A doctor explained my mother's condition to me and calmed my heart. He set me thinking about the life-changing power of a doctor. I told myself, one day, I will be just like him."

Xiangluan says, "Thinking of Dr Chee's life, it dawned on me that a successful career is measured by one's contribution to the community rather than the wealth accumulated. Dr Chee's spirit inspires me to contribute more to society. My family's gratitude for the Bursary has helped us to look beyond individual needs to the bigger picture of the community."

All three students are involved in community programmes. Wilson volunteers at Tzu Chi Medical Centre, a free clinic, and is a part of the Neighbourhood Health Screening 2012 Team and Project Silvercare 2012, which provides free health screening to disadvantaged people. Xiangluan volunteers in Cambodia and Hui Ling visits the National University Hospital to interact with patients and checks on medications for low-income families.

Hui Ling says, "Giving has always been a part of my life and receiving this Bursary has made me believe that giving is something that one does naturally for a person in need. I think it is part of human nature to take care of one's own species."



CPH Bursary – Wilson Ong, Koe Khoon Poh, Chen Xiangluan

Wilson adds, "In the future, I would like to join the Medical Alumni Association and see how I can contribute, and possibly to the Chee Phui Hung Bursary. I would also look for other opportunities where I can contribute to society as much as possible."

And so the spirit of the Agong passes to the next generation.

For information on making a gift to NUS, contact us at 1800-DEVELOP (1800-338-3567) or email [askdvo@nus.edu.sg](mailto:askdvo@nus.edu.sg). If you have a story to share, please contact us at [whatsyourstory@nus.edu.sg](mailto:whatsyourstory@nus.edu.sg).

## Awards & Achievements

NAME	ACHIEVEMENTS
Ms. Kong Say Li	Awarded the Ray Wu Prize during the 3rd Ray Wu Symposium at Zhejiang University in Nov 2012 (Award is opened to Chinese graduates from the mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore)
Ms. Wong Meihua Wendy	Awarded the Young Investigator Award at the Asia Pacific Conference of Human Genetics in Kuala Lumpur against international competition from universities from Australia to China etc, on her research on kidney cancer genetics
Prof Lai Poh San	Elected President of Asia Pacific Society of Human Genetics at the Asia Pacific Conference of Human Genetics in Kuala Lumpur

## Major Grant Winners & Publications

NAME OF AWARDEE	DESIGNATION	DEPARTMENT	TITLE OF AWARD	EMAIL ADDRESS
Aung Tin	Professor	Ophthalmology	Faculty Outstanding Researcher Award 2012	tin_aung@nuhs.edu.sg
James Hui Hoi Po	Associate Professor	Orthopaedic Surgery	Faculty Research Excellence Award (Clinician Scientist) 2012	james_hui@nuhs.edu.sg
Tai E Shyong	Associate Professor	Medicine	Faculty Research Excellence Award (Clinician Scientist) 2012	e_shyong_tai@nuhs.edu.sg
Raymond Seet Chee Seong	Associate Professor	Medicine	Faculty Research Excellence Award (Clinician Scientist) 2012	raymond_seet@nuhs.edu.sg
Wang De Yun	Associate Professor	Otolaryngology	Faculty Research Excellence Award (Basic Scientist) 2012	de_yun_wang@nuhs.edu.sg
Reshma Taneja	Associate Professor	Physiology	Faculty Research Excellence Award (Basic Scientist) 2012	reshma_taneja@nuhs.edu.sg
Kevin Tan Shyong Wei	Associate Professor	Microbiology	Faculty Research Excellence Award (Basic Scientist) 2012	kevin_tan@nuhs.edu.sg

We congratulate the above winners for their outstanding achievements and encourage all faculty members and students to continue making the School proud through their hard work and unrelenting research.

# Singapore to host inaugural World Health Summit Regional Meeting – Asia



NUS will be co-organising the first World Health Summit, Regional Meeting – Asia (WHSRMA) with MOH Holdings (MOHH). Held for the first time outside of Berlin, this summit will be opened by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and attended by several ministers and leading healthcare experts from the region.

Playing a key role in bringing this reputed healthcare symposium to Singapore is Professor John Wong, Vice Provost (Academic Medicine), NUS, and incoming President of WHS 2013. “Although the 21st Century is touted as when Asia represents half the global economy, several threats could prevent this growth from achieving its full potential. These include rapid urbanisation, food security, access to sufficient clean water, climate change, infectious diseases, environmental degradation, the widening income gap, the epidemic of chronic non-communicable diseases, and the impact of aging populations. This Summit will bring international experts and key policy makers together to propose strategies to tackle these complex challenges,” said Professor Wong, who chairs the WHSRMA 2013 Organising Committee along with Dr Derrick Heng, Group Director, Public Health Group, Ministry of Health (MOH).

Aptly themed “Health for Sustainable Development in Asia”, the WHSRMA will serve as a timely platform to address these issues by bringing together up to 1,000 healthcare leaders from around the world to discuss key challenges including financing healthcare, emerging health threats, the impact of health on Asian economies and innovations in health in the region. Conference topics will include point of care diagnostics, non-communicable diseases, challenges in drug and device regulation, and stratified medicine.

The WHSRMA, to be held 8th to 10th April 2013 at the Ritz Carlton, will also see the participation of non-government organisations, civic society and international aid organisations that play major roles in public health and healthcare provision in Asia.

### Prominent speakers at the conference include:

**Professor Rifat Atun,**  
Professor of International Health Management, Imperial College Business School and Faculty of Medicine, UK

**Professor Jose Otavio Auler Junior,**  
Director, Medical School of the University of São Paulo, Brazil

**Dr Dennis Ausiello, Jackson**  
Professor of Clinical Medicine at Harvard Medical School, Chief of Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital, and Chief Scientific Officer of Partners Healthcare, USA

**Professor Jo Ivey Boufford,**  
Co-Chair, InterAcademy Medical Panel, Italy

**Dr Guy Breton,**  
Rector, Université de Montréal, Canada

**Professor Ivan Dedov,**  
President, Russian Academy of Medical Sciences, Russia

**Ms Laurie Garrett,**  
Senior Fellow for Global Health, Council on Foreign Relations, USA

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**Professor Bryan Grenfell,**  
Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Public Affairs, Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University, USA

**Professor Annette Grütters-Kieslich,**  
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Professor of Economics, Department of Health Policy and Management and Department of Global Health and Population, Harvard School of Public Health, USA

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**Professor Andrew Morris,**  
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The WHS was initiated four years ago by a group of Academic Health Centers and Medical Universities, bringing together leading figures from the fields of science, politics, economics and civic society who are all committed to improving global healthcare.

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For queries, the WHSRMA Singapore Secretariat can be reached at 66220980 or [secretariat@whs-regional.org](mailto:secretariat@whs-regional.org).



# Regional World Health Summit

Asia, Singapore 2013 | April 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013

## Health for Sustainable Development in Asia

Join health care experts from academia, government, industry and civil society at the inaugural World Health Summit Regional Meeting – Asia, Singapore 2013 (WHSRMA 2013), to address key health care challenges in Asia. Discussion topics include:

- The Impact of Health on Asian Economies
- Innovations in Health in Asia
- Financing Health Care in Asia
- Emerging Health Threats in Asia

There is also a high-powered Ministerial Panel Discussion on the impact of health on Asian economies. Don't miss the landmark health care meeting of 2013!

### When

April 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013 (Mon – Wed)

### Where

Ritz-Carlton, Millenia Singapore

### Registration

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### Call for Abstracts

Take action to address key challenges in medical research, global health and health care delivery by submitting an abstract. Check out the details at <http://www.worldhealthsummit.org/whsrma2013/call-for-abstracts.html>  
Closing date: Dec 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013

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**Guest-of-Honour: Mr. Lee Hsien Loong**  
Prime Minister of Singapore

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**FEBRUARY**

**6** NUS Excellence Day  
*University Cultural Centre*

**22-24** NUHS – Harvard BIDMC  
Internal Medicine  
Update 2013  
*NUHS Tower Block, Auditorium*

**MARCH**

**9** YLLSOM Class of 2001 Reunion  
*TBA*

**13-15** Oon Chiew Seng  
Distinguished Visitor  
Programme  
*TBA*

**APRIL**

**8-10** World Health Summit Regional  
Meeting – Asia 2013  
*The Ritz-Carlton, Millenia  
Singapore*

**12** NUHS Diabetes, Obesity  
and Other Metabolic  
Diseases Symposium  
*NUHS Tower Block, T12-03*

*Details are subject to changes at the discretion  
of the respective departments.*



The **Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine** was the first academic body in Singapore's history dedicated to tertiary education. Established in 1905, it has the honour of being the foundation of what has now evolved into the National University of Singapore. The School is a strong component in the University's Mission to advance knowledge and foster innovation, educate students and nurture talent in service of Singapore and society.

**Quote of the Day**

Life is 10% what happens to us  
and 90% how we react to it.

*– Dennis P. Kimbro*



**Laughter**  
– The lighter pill

**White coat humour**

Peter says, " Doctor, I see double!"

"Sit on the chair, please," the doctor says.

"Which one?" Peter replied.

Three old ladies sit in a diner, discussing their health.

One lady says, "You know, I'm getting really forgetful. This morning, I was standing at the top of the stairs, and I couldn't remember whether I had just come up or was about to go down."

The second lady says, "You think that's bad? The other day, I was sitting on the edge of my bed, and I couldn't remember whether I was going to sleep or had just woken up!"

The third lady smiles smugly. "Well, my memory is just as good as it's always been, knock on wood," she says as she raps on the table. Then with a startled look on her face, she asks, "Who's there?"

*Remember:*

***If you can laugh at it, you can survive it.  
Look for humour and humour will find you!***