

# SGH Alumni Newsletter

ISSUE 42 | July — September 2023

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SGH PGMI  
Postgraduate  
Medical Institute



## NEW APPOINTMENTS

### Key Leadership & Clinical Appointments

#### Singapore General Hospital



**Dr Robert Chen**  
Head, Neuroradiology  
Singapore General Hospital



**Mr Lim Chee Tiong**  
Deputy Director, Patient Support  
Singapore General Hospital

#### SingHealth HQ & SingHealth Institutions



**Prof Ng Wai Hoe**  
Group Chief Executive Officer (Designate),  
SingHealth



**Ms Amber Yeong Hor Kwan**  
Chief Operating Officer,  
(Retail Services & Visitors Services),  
SingHealth



**Adj A/Prof Tan Bee Yee**  
Group Chief Allied Health Professional,  
SingHealth



**A/Prof Lita Chew Sui Tjien**  
Group Chief Pharmacist,  
SingHealth



**Mr Lee Jiunn Kee**  
Chief Operating Officer,  
Singapore National Eye Centre  
Chief Operating Officer (Admitting Services  
and Emergency Services),  
SingHealth



**CI A/Prof Ng Kee Chong**  
Chief Executive Officer (Designate),  
Changi General Hospital



**Adj A/Prof Ng Yong Hong**  
Chief Risk Officer,  
KK Women's and Children's Hospital



**Dr Sharifah Zainah Alsagoff**  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Clinical  
Services) (Designate),  
Singapore National Eye Centre



**CI A/Prof Goh Bee Tin**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
National Dental Centre Singapore  
Academic Chair,  
SingHealth Duke-NUS Oral Health Academic  
Clinical Programme (ORH ACP)



**Prof Marco A Peres**  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Research  
& Education  
National Dental Centre Singapore  
Academic Vice Chair, Research  
ORH ACP



**CI A/Prof Lui Jeen Nee**  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer,  
Clinical & Regional Health  
National Dental Centre Singapore  
Academic Vice Chair,  
Clinical & Regional Health  
ORH ACP



**Dr Francesca Lorraine Lim**  
Head,  
SingHealth Duke-NUS Cell Therapy Centre

## AWARDS

## WORLD'S BEST HOSPITALS &amp; WORLD'S BEST SPECIALISED HOSPITALS 2024



Following our top 10 ranking in Newsweek's World's Best Hospitals list for 2023, SGH has been ranked among Newsweek's Best Smart Hospitals 2024 and World's Best Specialised Hospitals 2024 in, Cardiology (NCHS), Oncology, Endocrinology, Urology and Obstetrics & Gynaecology!

Newsweek's inaugural ranking has expanded to cover the best facilities in 12 specialties: Cardiology, Endocrinology, Neurology, Neurosurgery, Gastroenterology, Oncology, Urology, Orthopaedics, Pulmonology, Paediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

For more information, visit <https://for.sg/worldsbesthospital>

*Source: SGH Website*

## NATIONAL MEDICAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2023



The National Medical Excellence Awards (NMEA) recognises the efforts of outstanding clinicians, clinician scientists and other healthcare professionals for their contributions. It acknowledges their achievements in advancing healthcare, improving the standards of patient safety and driving research and education, which ultimately improve people's lives. View the list of winners and the photos at this link: <https://for.sg/nmea2023winners>

*Source: SingHealth Website*

## AMEI GOLDEN APPLE AWARDS 2023

Congratulations to the winners of the AMEI Golden Apple Awards 2023!

40 Outstanding educators across our academic Medical Centre were recognized for their excellence in healthcare education at the SingHealth Duke-NUS Scientific Congress. An accolade for educators, the AMEI Golden Apple Award is a testament to their passion, dedication and innovation in teaching. View the full list of winners and programme winners here at this link: <https://for.sg/gaa2023>

*Source: SingHealth Facebook*

## AWARDS

## PUBLIC SECTOR TRANSFORMATION (PST) AWARDS 2023

Congratulations to our SingHealth winners for the Public Sector Transformation (PST) Awards-July 2023!

The award commends public officers and agencies for excellence in their work and organisation and practices and are aimed at encouraging officers and agencies to pursue excellence in their work by recognizing best practices as well as desired behaviours and values that undergird their achievements. Find out more about our winners and the awards here: <https://for.sg/pstawards2023>

*Source: SingHealth Website*

## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

## LAUNCH OF ALICE LEE INNOVATION CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE @ SGH CAMPUS



*Manpower Minister Dr Tan See Leng delivers his opening address*

A new innovation centre, which aims to bring clinician-innovators and researchers under one roof to accelerate healthcare innovations, was launched during the opening ceremony of the biennial SingHealth Duke-NUS Scientific Congress on 22 September.

Named the Alice Lee Innovation Centre of Excellence # SGH Campus (A.L.I.C.E@SGH Campus), the centre is the first of several innovation centres slated to open across the SingHealth Duke-NUS Academic Medical Centre(AMC) campuses.

Emphasising the nation's focus on strengthening health promotion and disease prevention, Guest-of-Honour, Dr Tan See Leng, Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Trade and Industry, called for a "more data-driven, patient-centric and technology-based healthcare approach" as he delivered the opening address to the seventh SingHealth Duke-NUS Scientific Congress at The Ngee Ann Kongsi Auditorium at the Academia.

With the Scientific Congress opened, it was time to launch A.L.I.C.E@SGH Campus. Joining Dr Tan on stage for the Centre's launch was SingHealth Group CEO Professor Ivy Ng, Duke-NUS Associate Dean for Research Professor Roger Vaughan, as well as the Centre's Clinical Director Professor Henry Ho.

Following its launch, the Centre welcomed its first batch of visitors including Dr Tan, Prof Ng, Prof Vaughan, as well as distinguished guests and members of the SingHealth Duke-NUS AMC community. Led by Prof Ho, the visitors embarked on a tour of the Centre, where they learnt about the latest innovations at the AMC, including the aiTriage™.

Housed in the SingHealth Tower, the Centre is a purpose-built living laboratory for brainstorming, prototyping and test-bedding innovations. It is also home to SingHealth's first supercomputer, CHROMA developed in partnership with the National Supercomputing Centre Singapore to facilitate large-scale and complex healthcare research at the AMC.

Prof Ivy Ng said: "The opening of A.L.I.C.E@SGH Campus, the first innovation centre situated in our biggest campus, is a significant milestone in our efforts to improve care through innovation."

She added: "The Centre's co-location with our institutions on the SGH Campus is strategic, so that healthcare professionals can bring unmet clinical needs to the innovation table, and work with partners to ideate and test potential solutions in a real-world setting."

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Elaborating on the expanded possibilities for innovation brought about by the Centre, Duke-NUS Dean Professor Thomas Coffman, said: “The new A.L.I.C.E Centre is the first node of a new network that will spur bench-to-bedside innovation at the SingHealth Duke-NUS AMC, adding to the vibrancy of our academic campuses by bringing new technologies and resources like the supercomputer, to the repertoire of tools and technologies available to our clinician-scientists and innovators.”



The campus was officially launched by (L-R) SingHealth Group CEO Prof Iry Ng, Dr Tan See Leng, Duke-NUS Associate Dean for Research Prof Roger Vaughan and A.L.I.C.E@SGH Campus Clinical Director Prof Henry Ho

“I am confident and I am excited that we will hear about more healthcare innovation initiatives such as A.L.I.C.E@SGH Campus that will make a difference to patient care, operations, and clinical outcomes,” added Dr Tan.

The newly launched Centre is supported by a generous gift of \$50 million from the Lee Foundation to advance innovation and research at the AMC and named after Mrs Alice Lee, wife of the Lee Foundation’s founder, the late Lee Kong Chian.

After viewing a short video about the new Centre, the audience’s attention shifted back to the podium as keynote speaker Duke Professor in Population Health Sciences Lesley Curtis took to the stage to share her insights on the science of population health.

Themed “Advancing Frontiers in Population Health through Academic Medicine”, this year’s Scientific Congress featured several new population health initiatives and innovation projects, with more than 38 symposia and plenary talks centred on diverse topics ranging from medicine to nursing, as well as allied health. Running until Saturday, 23 September, participants at the Congress can expect to hear from more than 120 international and local speakers at the event, said Associate Professor Ong Sin Tiong, Co-organising Chairperson of the Scientific Congress. Read all about it here: <https://for.sg/alice>

Source: Duke-NUS website

## SGH TO BECOME THE NEXT TRAINING CENTRE IN THE REGION FOR RADIOFREQUENCY ABLATION TECHNIQUE



A giant leap forward in healthcare! SGH has recently signed an MOU with STARmed Co Ltd. to become the next training centre in the region for radiofrequency ablation techniques!

Thyroid disorder treatments have transformed with technology. From conventional surgery to robotics, endoscopy, and minimally invasive procedures—SGH is embracing the latest less invasive techniques to ensure the best patient outcomes! Radiofrequency ablation is now part of our treatment arsenal because our commitment to cutting-edge care, innovation, and progress in patient management knows no bounds.

Source: SGH Facebook



## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

## SGH SIGNS MOU WITH SYNEOS HEALTH



SGH is pleased to have signed an MoU with Syneos Health, a Nasdaq listed provider of contract research & commercial services to pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies.

At SGH, we take pride in being the preferred institution for conducting clinical trials. With a growing pool of highly qualified investigators and dedicated support staff, robust ethical reviews by our esteemed ethics committee, and transparent regulatory oversight, we have successfully conducted over 300 clinical trials in the last 15 years. Our track record includes numerous global, regional, and local accolades, such as top recruiter, first patient enrolled, superior performance, and quality, as well as being the first site to randomise.

Our partnership with Syneos Health underscores our unwavering commitment to clinical research and our drive to enhance competitiveness. SGH strongly believes that clinical trials are pivotal in expanding our understanding and improving patient care, ultimately granting our patient's access to cutting-edge treatments that can transform lives.

*Source: SGH Facebook*

## SGH SIGNS MOU WITH INSPIRE SLEEP APNEA INNOVATION



SGH is the first centre in Singapore and Southeast Asia to provide Inspire upper airways stimulation implant surgery for patients with Obstructive Sleep Apnea. Since our inaugural implant on 27 May 2022. We have successfully completed 30 cases to date, surpassing Japan and Hong Kong to become the leading centre in Asia. By integrating this therapy in our armamentarium, we are now the only sleep Centre in Singapore offering a comprehensive range of surgical and non-surgical treatments for our valued patients. SGH is dedicated to transforming into a Centre of Excellence for implant surgery, training and research.

*Source: SGH Facebook*

## MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TO COMMUNITY



*(L-R) Patron Choo Chian Beng and founder Angie Chew, Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat, East Coast GRC MP Jessica Tan and Brahm Centre chairwoman Chen Yew nah at the opening of the Simie @ 148 branch.*

Brahm Centre, a mental health and wellness charity has opened its Simie @ 148 branch to provide mental support to young people adults and seniors.

A key initiative at the branch 148 Simei Street 1 its youth care programme.

To encourage young people to pay more attention to their mental well-being, Brahm Centre offers mental health screening, emotional support through coaching and befriending, psychoeducation sessions, parenting support, as well as counselling and art therapy. Read all about it here: <https://for.sg/brahmcentre>

*Source: SGH website*

## SINGAPORE UPS GAME IN CELL AND GENE THERAPY

A new 2,000 sq m cell therapy facility aims to meet the increasing demand for cell and gene therapy (CGT) in the Republic, and allow patients to receive such treatments faster.

The facility, under the Advanced Cell Therapy and Research Institute, Singapore (Actris), includes 14 clean suites which comply with good manufacturing practice standards, four translational laboratories and a quality control laboratory.

Hospitals, research institutions and biotech start-ups will be able to use the facility to support their work in areas such as cell selection and genetic modification.

A task force has also been formed to develop and support the growing field of precision medicine.

Convened by the Ministry of Health (MOH), it will be chaired by director-general of health Kenneth Mak and include clinicians, researchers and health economists. Cell therapy is a growing field in medicine where living cells are used to treat a variety of diseases and conditions. It falls under the sphere of precision medicine, where treatments are tailored to meet the specific needs of patients.

Such treatments can be costly. For example, Kymriah Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-cell therapy – where certain blood cells are extracted from a patient, manipulated to target cancer cells and then reinfused into the patient – reportedly costs US\$475,000 (S\$637,000).

Market research firm Grand View Research said the global cell therapy market is expected to reach US\$15.89 billion by 2028, from US\$5.46 billion currently.

The new facility was launched on Friday during the first Singapore Cell and Gene Therapy Conference, held at the National Cancer Centre Singapore (NCCS). It is located in NCCS' 24-storey building on the Singapore General Hospital (SGH) campus.

Actris chairman Chee Yam Cheng described the facility as a game changer in Singapore's cell therapy ecosystem.

“Being able to manufacture high-quality cell therapies locally will mean that treatments can reach our patients in less time, and they get access to life-saving therapies sooner,” he said.

Including those undergoing clinical trials, Singapore sees about 100 patients each year who require cell and gene therapy treatments, which are usually offered to those who have not responded well to conventional treatments for conditions such as aggressive leukaemia and lymphoma.

The institute's interim executive director, Associate Professor Danny Soon, said the facility will help to contribute to ground-breaking work in the advancement of cancer treatment and regenerative medicine, referring to new treatments to heal tissues and organs.

“In addition, Actris will facilitate more public-private partnerships in future and help companies looking to develop their CGT products to obtain the required regulatory approvals to bring their cell therapy products into Singapore,” added Prof Soon, who is also chief executive of the Consortium for Clinical Research and Innovation, Singapore (Cris).

The scale of the facility could also result in the cost of such treatments coming down, he told reporters.

Read all about it here: <https://for.sg/advancedcelltherapyandresearchfacility>



*Minister for Health Ong Ye Kung during the tour of the new Advanced Cell Therapy and Research facility on Aug 4.*

## FELLOWSHIPS & INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

### Dr Edward Teung Woo from Philippines shares his fellowship experience in SGH, Department of Orthopaedics/Adult reconstruction

#### What was your impression of Singapore's healthcare industry?

Singapore's healthcare system is of the best healthcare system. It provides high quality of care with efficient delivery of system and excellent infrastructures. It has a comprehensive healthcare system that provides a universal coverage for all citizens and permanent residents.

#### Are there any differences compared to the healthcare industry in your country?

The healthcare system in the Philippines is largely privatized, with the majority of healthcare services being provided by private hospitals and clinics. The government provides some basic healthcare services, but the majority of healthcare services are provided by the private sector. The government also provides subsidies for certain medical services, such as vaccinations and preventive care. The quality of healthcare in the Philippines varies greatly, with some areas having better access to healthcare than others.

#### Why did you choose to apply to Singapore/SGH for your attachment?

SGH is a tertiary hospital that caters a wide range of surgical cases. It is renowned for its excellent patient care and its commitment to provide the highest quality of care. It has a strong commitment to provide the trainees the necessary skills and knowledge to become successful clinicians.

#### Did you face any difficulties (e.g. culture, language) during your attachment? What were they?



Dr Edward (right) with colleague, Senior Consultant, Dr Darren Tay Kong Jin (left) from Department of Orthopaedic Surgery.

Yes. Difficulty in adjusting for the potential cultural differences, family and living alone. Language is also difficult due to patient's preference to speak in Mandarin. As the posting continued, I was able to re-learn some of the Mandarin.

#### During your attachment, what was a 'typical' day like?

My day would typically start to prepare before 7am. We have department meeting at 7am via Zoom. After which, I join the clinic, go for the ward rounds and or join the operations. Depending on the task given, I would go for the gym and then go around Singapore.

#### What were your learning experiences?

I came here with minimal skills in doing AR. I was not confident in doing AR surgery prior to my posting. I gained the knowledge, skills and the trick and pearls from different consultants in handling various cases.

#### How has the attachment made an impact on you?

I gained more confidence in handling the cases and to trouble shoot before I finished my attachment period.

#### Do you have any interesting/memorable experience during your attachment that you would like to share?

Most memorable experience was the difficult revision of the total hip revisions that was done many years ago with associated medical concern. It gave the team members on how to deal a "complicated" case. From preparation for the case to intraoperative decisions on what to do.

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## FELLOWSHIPS & INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

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### What did you enjoy most during your attachment?

I enjoy being present and involved in the department activities. I enjoy every opportunity to learn from one of the best AR consultants in Singapore.

### Would you recommend SGH to interested fellows? Why?

Definitely! SGH has an excellent fellowship training programs. They highly encouraged their colleagues to go for further training and enrichment programs. The department encourages new learnings and new innovations.

Even I was training in AR service, the other services are friendly and accommodating. The staffs are very supportive as well.

### How would you describe your fellowship experience in 3 words?

Amazing, Memorable and Fulfilling.



*Dr Edward (left) along with Dr Yeo Seng Jin and Dr Emmannel Nerit.*

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## WELCOME!

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We welcome our new Alumni Members:

Name	Specialty	Country
Ho Ying Ci	Anaesthesiology	Singapore
Jennifer Justice Manzano	Vascular Neurology	Philippines



## TELL US WHAT YOU WANT!

We are always looking for ways to improve and engage our alumni members. If you have any suggestions or ideas for newsletter contents or alumni events, know anyone who would like to contribute to the newsletter, please let us know! Email your suggestions and contributions to [alumni@sgh.com.sg](mailto:alumni@sgh.com.sg)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 2023

## 11TH **SGH Lunchtime Q+A with GPs**

Presented by Dr Christina Yang Shi-Hui, Department of Breast Surgery, SGH  
A/Prof Leslie Lim Eng Choon, Department of Psychiatry, SGH

Nov 2023

## 2ND **GPCME Webinar: Renal Transplant\***

## 8TH **SGH Lunchtime Q+A with GPs**

Presented by Dr Tan Hwee Leong, Department of Hepatopancreatobiliary and Transplant Surgery, SGH, Dr Tham Wei Ying, Department of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging, SGH.

## 22ND **GPCME Webinar: SGH ENT\***

\*Please refer to our website <https://www.sgh.com.sg/pgmi> for events updates.

# SGH LUNCHTIME Q+A WITH GPs

Have burning questions pertaining to medical care?

Join our clinicians at the SGH Lunchtime Q+A with GPs that takes place on Wednesday from 1pm to 2pm. Each session, we have our specialists from 1-2 disciplines online to take your questions live.

For more information on the upcoming sessions and to register and pre-submit your questions, please click on the below link (internet access required):

<https://for.sg/sgh-lunchtime-gp-qna-2023-registration>





**SGH ALUMNI NEWSLETTER**

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