

October 2017  
Volume 1, Issue 4

# PHILANTHROPY IN FOCUS



## GREETINGS FROM ACP CHAIR

Dear all,

With the recent launch of the SGH Division of Anaesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine on 1<sup>st</sup> Oct, the ACP now spans across 7 departments in 4 hospitals with more than 150 faculty. I would like to extend a warm welcome to new HODs, Chai Rick, Kian Hian and Shin Yi, who will be joining us at the ACP Council.

As the ACP matures, we will be looking towards philanthropic funds to sustain some of the academic medicine initiatives. During the recent SingHealth Duke-NUS Gala Dinner, Boon Leng, Nian Chih, Hwan Ing and Jane George made significant contributions in our efforts to raise funds for the ACP. We have managed to raise approximately \$99,000 from the event. We are also grateful to some of our staff, Andy Kong, Mavis Teo, Tong Khee, Chai Rick and Li-Ming who have generously donated their honorarium to the ACP General Funds.

On the research front, Shariq, Eileen Sim and Ban Leong managed to secure grants for their research projects. Congratulations too to Nian Chih, who emerged as the 1<sup>st</sup> runner up winner for his poster at the recent SingHealth Duke-NUS Education Conference. We are also proud that during the recent residency graduation ceremony, Sui An was named as the Valedictorian for the graduating cohort.

Warmest regards,

A/Prof Ruban Poopalalingam

## WORDS FROM DIRECTOR, SPECIAL PROJECTS & INNOVATION (SPRINT)

Philanthropy is one of the key focus areas in SPRINT and we look for support from our industry partners, collaborators and also those who have benefitted from training with us. For example, one of our collaborators, Messe Dusseldorf Asia as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility, has recently donated to our ACP General Funds. The gift is in support of research, education and quality improvement initiatives relating to improved health of the aged and the frail. We have also received funding support from the institution's philanthropic effort to upgrade the equipment at Neuro ICU in SGH. We look forward to your support and welcome more philanthropic initiatives.

Thank you.

Regards,

A/Prof Chan Yew Weng

## CONGRATULATIONS!



*Prof Hwang Nian Chih*

**1st Runner Up Poster Competition  
(Education Research), SingHealth Duke-NUS  
Education Conference 2017**

*"Mileage for Pretest as a Tool for Accelerating  
Learning for Anaesthesiology Posting"*



*Dr Shariq A Khan*

**Grant Recipient SRG- NIG Grant Awards 2017**

*"Development of real-time navigation system to aid  
Epidural injection or Lumbar puncture (EpiNav): a  
proof-of- concept study"*



*Dr Eileen Sim*

**Grant Recipient SRG- NIG Grant Awards  
2017**

*"Feasibility study to investigate the utility of CARES  
risk tool in predicting risk of postoperative morbidity  
after elective abdominal surgery"*



*A/Prof Sng Ban Leong*

**Grant Recipient Duke/Duke-NUS Collaboration  
Pilot Grant 2017**

*"Evaluation and risk assessment for persistent postsurgical  
pain after breast surgery: a collaborative prospective  
cohort study"*

# PHILANTHROPY IN MEDICINE

*By Assoc Prof Anette Jacobsen,*

*Director, International Medical Program , KK Women's & Children's Hospital*

## HIGHLIGHTS

### **Biggest team**

When travelling with TIMA (Tzu Chi Medical Mission) we are usually travelling in at least 2 buses. The medical personnel is supported by an engineering and logistics team. It is quite a different experience to travel in such a large group. It is good to confer freely with available colleagues. It is awesome.

### **Most challenging cases**

There have been two patients in particular that I always remember. The first newborn baby was born with Duodenal Atresia. She came severely ill and while I wanted to do corrective surgery, she was too ill for anaesthesia and subsequent recovery without any Intensive care support. We had to decline to operate. The second patient I remember was a child with a known oesophageal atresia. While we were operating it became obvious that there were further atresias in the small and the large bowel. This was a very long operation and the baby initially did very well but sadly succumbed after we had left.

My own foray into philanthropic activities, in the form of surgical outreach in the region, was spurred on by strong encouragement from one of my paediatric anaesthetic colleagues. I have not looked back since; I have enjoyed every bit of the journey and the opportunity to contribute.

In Singapore, we live in a very privileged environment. We have excellent access to internationally benchmarked quality healthcare. While the healthcare cost may be high; a large proportion of the population is insurance covered and outcomes overall are very good – excellent and predictable. In terms of benchmarking Singapore stats are some of the best in the world<sup>1</sup>. We now have three medical schools, a structured post graduate training program and a certification / re-certification process.

Helping the less fortunate is a calling for many, just as is the decision to pursue a career in medicine. There is a considerable healthcare need in many of our surrounding countries, with lack of access, training, and safe, predictable outcomes. During training at undergraduate as well as postgraduate level in Singapore outreach serves to inspire us, and also allows us to gain additional exposure by contributing in the region.

Charity begins at home, and there are many ways in which we can contribute. As human beings we should all be a little like Albert Schweitzer<sup>2</sup> or perhaps Mother Theresa<sup>3</sup>; continually striving to improve the lives of others.

Philanthropy and charity comes in many forms. In KKH I have had the privilege to assist the KKROK fund, which assists to bring children from the region in to KKH for corrective surgery. KKH also assists with Fellowship training for aspiring specialists. While some specialties can solicit Industry funding and some have home Ministry or hospital support, many of the Fellows in the past have been supported by charitable funding. This has allowed KKH to contribute meaningfully to specialty training for regional doctors.

My passion for over 15 years now has been outreach, planning and training. As a surgeon I continue to contribute in the form of “mission trips”, conference participation and regular e-mail advice to our regional surgeons.

In the last 8-10 years regional contacts and regional knowledge have also allowed expansion into Maternal and Child Health programs. In Emergency care, structured resuscitation programs can be translated adapted and taught in a Train the Trainer fashion. As an educator I know that hands-on simulation based training leaves a lasting impact.

The medical schools and the Academic Programs play a major role in recognizing the value of outreach trips as part of training and also the research potential that is implied.

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<sup>1</sup>“CIA – The World Factbook: Infant Mortality Rate”. *Central Intelligence Agency, The World Factbook* 2016,<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2091.html>

<sup>2</sup>“Albert Schweitzer - Biographical”. *Nobelprize.org*, Nobel Media AB 2014, [https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/peace/laureates/1952/schweitzer-bio.html](https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/1952/schweitzer-bio.html)

<sup>3</sup>“Mother Teresa Biography.com”. *Biography.com*, 22 Aug. 2017, <https://www.biography.com/people/mother-teresa-9504160>

### **Scariest moment**

While bringing laparoscopic setups to colleagues in the region we have also helped to develop these skills in our colleagues. One day while operating there was lots of commotion on the hallway outside. Peeping out I saw several military officers. All I could think was – what did I do wrong? I will miss my family while in jail. However it turned out that unbeknownst to me we had brought down successfully – Lap assisted – bilateral intra abdominal testicles. The young man was the general’s grandson – and I could breathe a huge sigh of relief.

Having a heart for others embodies our core value of compassion. The benefits of philanthropy, charity and outreach are after implied and subtle, rather than obvious or apparent. However, a fulfilled life free from burn-out is an obvious benefit.

## SINGHEALTH DUKE-NUS GALA DINNER 2017: STARS OF THE NIGHT

The SingHealth Duke-NUS Gala Dinner 2017 was held on 3 September 2017 at the Ritz-Carlton, Milenia Singapore. More than 700 guests attended the event, with Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) & Second Minister for Defence Mr Ong Ye Kung, gracing the occasion as the Guest of Honour.

The biennial event closed on a high note with more than \$32.5 million raised from September 2015 by healthcare institutions that are part of the SingHealth Duke-NUS Academic Medical Centre. At our ACP, we have managed to raise approximately \$99,000 from the sale of dinner tables and the auction items. The amount will be channeled towards the ACP general funds which helps to fund some of our education, research and clinical initiatives. We would like to thank Dr June Goh, A/Prof Lim Boon Leng, Prof Hwang Nian Chih, Dr Hee Hwan Ing and Dr Jane George for their contributions towards the Gala Dinner.



*Alumni gathering at the Gala Dinner*



*Dr Hee Hwan Ing & her guests.*

On behalf of the ACP, we would like to thank the following individuals who have been donating to the Anaesthesiology ACP General Funds:

- A/Prof Lim Boon Leng
- Prof Hwang Nian Chih
- Dr Hee Hwan Ing
- Dr Jane George
- Dr June Goh
- Dr Andrew Kong
- Dr Mavis Teo
- A/Prof Tan Tong Khee
- A/Prof Soh Chai Rick
- Dr Teo Li-Ming



## ANAES ACP OUTREACH EVENT

The ACP has hosted its first outreach event on 23 March 2017 at the Open Farm Community restaurant. The guests for the event include some of our past donors, potential donors, grateful patients, industry partners and potential collaborators. This event is a major milestone for the ACP as it marked our first attempt to raise the profile of our ACP and to showcase some of the research, education, clinical and other strategic initiatives being harnessed to further anaesthesiology. Faculty members from the different departments represented the ACP to host the invited guests. They also had the chance to share and promote awareness of the clinical services, research and education initiatives in the different subspecialties. Amongst them were Prof Hwang Nian Chih, Dr Tan Kian Hian, Dr Ho Vui Kian and Dr Hee Hwan Ing.

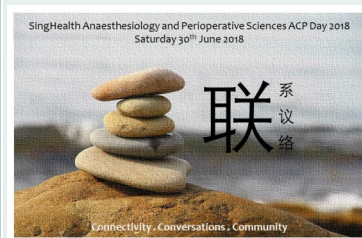


*Save the Date!*

ACP

Academic Day  
2018

30 June 2018



## UPDATES FROM EDUCATION

Our heartiest congratulations to the following 2017 graduands from the SingHealth Anaesthesiology Residency Program (SHARP).

- Dr Chang See Seong
- Dr Chen Yufan
- Dr Ho Ying Ci
- Dr Leong Xin Yu Adeline
- Dr John-Paul Lew
- Dr Lie Sui An
- Dr Low Wen Hao
- Dr Tan Zihui
- Dr Thay Yu Jia
- Dr Tsai Fung Chen
- Dr Zheng Zhongxi



## ACP Pilot Research Grant 2018

The ACP Pilot Research Grant provides funding to developing investigators who are interested in clinical and translational research in Anaesthesia.

Next Grant Call :  
January 2018

## UPDATES FROM RESEARCH

We are pleased to share that one of our students, Ms Gan Yuan Ying, won the best poster presentation award for her project “Angiotensin-related gene polymorphisms and their role in haemodynamic changes during spinal anaesthesia for caesarean delivery” at the recent Duke-NUS Medical School Research Day 2017. Yuan Ying is one of recipients for the Duke-NUS AM-Ethos Medical Student Fellowship award under the mentorship of Prof Alex Sia and A/Prof Sng Ban Leong.



*Ms Gan Yuan Ying (1st from the left) with other award winners at the recent Duke-NUS Medical School Research Day.*

## Make a Gift

Please consider making a gift today and supporting our ACP's academic medicine initiatives!

Below are some examples of the different ways you can make a gift to the ACP:

- [Staff Giving](#)
- [Credit Card & Online Gifts](#)
- Named Gifts\* such as Bursary, Scholarship, Faculty Scholar, Fellowship or Professorship

\* Minimum sum applies

Your donation will enjoy a 250% tax deduction if you are a Singapore tax resident.

Need more information? Please contact Christine ([christine.neoh.g.y@sgh.com.sg](mailto:christine.neoh.g.y@sgh.com.sg))/ 91446446.