

MSKSC

NEWSLETTER



06

MY JOURNEY IN
PHILANTHROPY
PROF TAN KOK CHAI

20

CATCH UP
WITH
A/PROF INDERJEET SINGH

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Partners in **INNOVATION**

The SingHealth Division of Innovation and Transformation (Do-IT) serves to support innovators across the SingHealth cluster in their innovation journey. Do-IT comprises the five enablers.

01 Office for Service Transformation (OST)

The SingHealth Office for Service Transformation (OST) looks at the planning, development and implementation of cluster-wide transformative programmes across different domains.

02 Medical Technology Office (MTO)

The Medical Technology Office (MTO) serves to provide support in terms of product design, development and technical management as well as to advise on overcoming regulatory hurdles.

03 Impact Assessment Unit (IAU)

The Impact Assessment Unit (IAU) focuses on the evaluation of various parameters including ease of adoption and scaling, cost effectiveness and commercial viability.

04 SingHealth Office for Innovation (SHOFI)

The SingHealth Office for Innovation (SHOFI), together with the Duke-NUS Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, supports the Academic Medicine Innovation Institute (AMII), a convening platform that brings together innovators in the AMC to foster a culture of innovation.

Under AMII, these are some of the resources available for SingHealth innovators:

- Innovation Seed Grant
- Clinical & Systems Innovation Grant
- AMII Adoption Grant
- Innovation Clinic
- PACT program
- SME Connect Series

More information can be found at:
<https://www.singhealthdukenus.com.sg/amii/homepage>

05 The Innovation Centre (TIC)

The Innovation Centre (TIC) is a newly established translation platform in transforming healthcare delivery through impactful innovations.

TIC's value creation lies in:

- Deepening innovation through comprehensive industrial partnerships;
- Sharing of domain knowledge and networks as well as physical access to healthcare expertise and assets;
- Empowering and equipping AMC innovators through experiential learning;
- Development, test-bedding, piloting and deployment of impactful innovations.

TIC resources are available for booking via the Facilities Reservation System (FRS). These resources include the TIC space for innovation events, hardware and software for prototyping as well as engineering manpower support.



My journey in Philanthropy



PROF TAN KOK CHAI

SGH Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery

How did you first get involved in philanthropy for MSKSC ACP?

I started my philanthropy journey before the Musculoskeletal Sciences ACP (MSKSC ACP) was even formed, when we first organised the SGH Annual Dinner and SGH Golf Tournament many years ago to raise funds for the Postgraduate Medical Institute (PGMI). With the formation of MSKSC ACP in 2016, I was appointed as Academic Vice Chair, Strategic Initiatives, with one of the roles being to lead the philanthropy piece under the ACP.

“ In the field of healthcare, you want to be able to help people, inculcate that nature and develop that ability to do so. ”

How do you think MSKSC ACP's approach to philanthropy differ from other ACPs?

Traditionally, the musculoskeletal sciences disciplines have a very strong clinical component undergirded by our efforts in research, which is more specialised rather than generic. Majority of the funds raised are mainly utilised for research. There are research components for each musculoskeletal discipline and sub-specialty such as burns, skin bank and robotics just to name a few.

Were there any challenges on your journey in philanthropy?

Philanthropy is usually tied to the nation's economy and this posed a significant challenge during the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the restrictions and safe management measures in place, the MedSG200 Charity Golf event had to be put on hold for a year or so as we were not able to gather physically.

Another constant challenge in philanthropy has always been to get donors interested in our cause. We have to be able to effectively highlight the objectives and significance of our fundraising. As a restructured government institution, public impression is that our funding comes from the government. However, this is not always the case. Where government funding is not available, other funding avenues need to be sourced for our clinical, research and education initiatives.



How can we make philanthropy sustainable in the long run?

Philanthropy is not just about targeting individual foundations who are able to donate large amounts of money. We also have many grateful patients willing to make small contributions and to whom we should reach out on a regular basis. At the end of the day, all these contributions can go a long way in improving patient care and quality of treatments.

Do you have any tips for young clinicians who would like to get involved in philanthropy?

Philanthropy is a long-term process. The most important thing is to cultivate an interest and explore as much involvement as possible. It would be good to integrate this interest with clinicians' routines to it as part of their routine to ensure long-term involvement and sustainability of philanthropic endeavours. In the field of healthcare, you want to be able to help people, inculcate that nature and develop that ability to do so.



SGH 200 KNEE CAMPAIGN

A/PROF DARREN TAY
& DR DON KOH

About SGH 200 Knee

The SGH 200 Knee initiative is a fund-raising endeavour spearheaded by A/Prof Tan Mann Hong, SGH Division Chair, Musculoskeletal Sciences. The Division aims to perform 200 total knee replacement surgeries for needy Singaporeans. The initiative was in conjunction with SGH 200 to commemorate SGH's 200th birthday.

This initiative is a continued effort by the SGH Division of Musculoskeletal Sciences to give back to society. We perform more than 2000 knee replacements annually with very successful outcomes. It was therefore a natural decision for the department to harness the skillsets and resources available to provide needy Singaporeans suffering from end-stage knee arthritis with the surgery that they need.

"One of the earliest memories I had as a junior doctor with the department was that of an elderly lady who was crippled by osteoarthritis of her knees. Having to care for herself, she spent her retirement collecting discarded cardboard, legs bowed and knees perpetually in pain. I will never forget the day I saw her post-operatively and encouraged her to take her first few steps after her knee replacement. The look of disbelief and joy as she took her first painless steps continues to inspire me till this day.

The very core of what orthopaedic surgeons do is to restore function. Function and mobility are key to enable independence, social interaction, and the pursuit of aspirations. My passion has revolved around knee arthritis and I have been actively pursuing research in this area.



This initiative is a continued effort by the SGH Division of Musculoskeletal Sciences to give back to society



DR DON KOH
SGH Orthopaedic Surgery

When A/Prof Darren Tay spoke to me about this project in early 2021, I was extremely excited and brimming with ideas. It was a great opportunity to reach out to suffering patients who have been putting off knee surgery due to financial concerns.

As an orthopaedic resident, it gives me great pride to be part of this amazing team. It has been a great privilege to be involved in this project. I am positive that the work we have done will lay the groundwork for future endeavours in making a difference to the lives of our patients." - **Dr Don Koh**



A/PROF TAN MANN HONG
SGH Division of Musculoskeletal Sciences



A/PROF DARREN TAY
SGH Orthopaedic Surgery

Vision for Philanthropy

We hope for greater engagement between researchers and potential donors. Looking at the ACP's webpage, you can see plenty of exciting research that the ACP is involved in. For a start, we should strive to match like-minded donors with researchers through academic engagements, charity events and interest group meetings. These are great opportunities to bring people together, foster closer collaborations and elevate individual strengths.

Building on the SGH 200 Knee initiative, we need to be more innovative in engaging the public. We should strive for greater awareness about the good work coming out from our institution. This includes research plans in the pipeline, potential cures and novel technologies. We need to get the public excited about our work!

Thank You

We want to thank all generous contributions to the SGH 200 Knee initiative to date. We believe that patients who have benefited from this would like to do so as well. Let us continue to build on this spirit of giving back. Let us bring good people together to enable hardworking clinicians the ability to deliver the best possible care to our people.

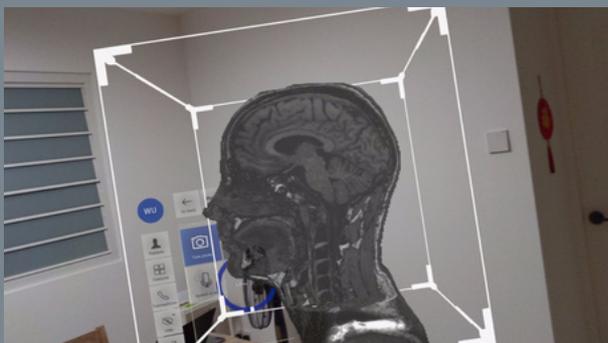
Use of HOLOLENS Technology in Orthopaedic Surgery

Dr Woo Yew Lok, Dr Suraya ZA, Dr Jerry Chen,
Dr Kenny Tay, Dr Soong Junwei
SGH Orthopaedic Surgery

With the recent advancements in technology, various forms of technologies and gadgets have been adapted in the field of surgery to improve surgical precision. Over the years, tools such as navigation systems, robotic surgeries and 3D printing have been used in orthopaedic surgeries with the aim of delivering more precise surgery with better functional outcomes.

Currently, reality technology is the new player in the orthopaedic arena and this includes virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR) and mixed reality (MR). The use of VR technology has a limited role in surgery as it completely immerses the user in a virtual environment and with a lack of awareness of the surroundings.

On the other hand, AR technology superimposes computer-generated 3D virtual models onto physical objects in real space, enabling users to interact with both worlds simultaneously. As for MR technology, it is a recent innovation that allows interactions with holographic images placed in the real world via a mixed-reality headset.



In the field of orthopaedic surgery, MR has been used in various ways such as for telesurgical support, orthopaedic oncological intervention as well as diagnostic and surgical navigations.

The advantage of using MR is that it allows the surgeon to explore different or deeper layers of the scan live while performing surgery, as opposed to only being able to appreciate surface anatomies in a 3D-printed model. The unique features of the MR creates great potential in improving the overall surgical experience.

In SGH, our team in Orthopaedic Surgery recently started our journey in MR technology with the use of the HoloLens 2 headset. HoloLens 2 is a combination of waveguide and laser-based stereoscopic and full-colour MR smartglasses. It generates holograms on the AR screen. The holograms are superimposed onto physical objects in real space, with which users can interact.

The HoloLens 2 can be used as a teaching tool as the vision can be streamed to another device or projected onto a laptop or television. With such devices in place, we hope to develop an app that will enable us to project the trajectory of drills and saws. This will come in handy in complex trauma and osteotomy cases.



DR WOO YEW LOK
SGH Orthopaedic Surgery

HOLOEYES



KKH Orthopaedic Surgery

Could you give us a brief overview of this project?

The main objective of this project is to trial the use of augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) as emerging technologies in paediatric orthopaedic surgery and simulation. The use of AR/VR technology was successfully incorporated in the recent practical workshop at the 2nd KKH Paediatric Orthopaedics Trauma Symposium, where it was showcased in two workshop stations – the ankle transitional fracture and the slipped capital femoral epiphysis.

These fractures are uniquely paediatric and the 3D nature of the fracture patterns make it difficult for orthopaedic residents to appreciate the actual injury. The AR was superimposed on a 3D-printed model to enable participants to appreciate the anatomy and also perform the relevant surgical steps at the same time.

What were some of the challenges you faced while working on this project?

Firstly, the software behind Holoeyes is still in the developmental phase and thus lacks certain features, including a more intuitive touch and control as well as an introductory feature to surgical tools. It would also be ideal if the virtual room or platform could be designed as an environment that closely replicates an actual operating room setting, with the 'patient' positioned on-table as in an actual procedure.

Secondly, the lighting in the operating room also made it difficult to visualise an augmented reality image during an actual surgical procedure. Lastly, the speed of the wireless connection also had a significant bearing on the efficiency of the entire system.

Could you tell us more about your future plans for this project?

We plan to work with the developers to address these challenges. The first step would be to improve the wireless connectivity in the hospital, particularly in the operating theatres. Subsequently, we need to design an effective way to merge 3D images onto the actual patient anatomy accurately. Further improvements are also required in the software. In future, surgical training and product demonstration can also be performed using specially curated VR/AR clips to enhance the realism.

NMRC *Transition Award*

A big congratulations to Assistant Professor Francis Wong, a consultant from the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Sengkang General Hospital, on winning the National Medical Research Council (NMRC) Transition Award (TA).

This award aims to provide salary and mentored funding support for budding, young clinician scientists who have just completed their formal research training, so as to build up their capability in research.

Tell us more about your project for this award.

The project started with the continuation of my work in mesenchymal stem cell (MSC) exosomes to regenerate cartilage. As the meniscus is also fibro-cartilaginous in nature, I began early preliminary work in using MSC exosomes to regenerate meniscus injuries and the results were promising. The NMRC TA will afford me the resources and time to take it to the next level.

“ I hope that by winning this award, it will enable others to travel this path with greater ease in future. ”



ASST PROF FRANCIS WONG

SKH Orthopaedic Surgery

How do you feel about winning this award?

It takes a team effort to win this award especially within the basic / translational sciences arena. This would not have been possible without help from Professor Wang Jie Jin and the Duke-NUS Centre for Clinician-Scientist Development (CSSD), along with my mentors at the National University of Singapore (NUS) who provided guidance and assistance with the preliminary work.

Winning the NMRC TA is a great continuation of my many "firsts", being the first orthopaedic resident to achieve a NMRC New Investigator Grant (NIG), the first senior resident to receive the NMRC Research Training Fellowship (RTF) with a PhD in cartilage regeneration, and now the first orthopaedic surgeon to receive the NMRC TA. By winning this award, I hope to inspire others and show that orthopaedic surgeons can compete and hold our ground in academic research.

What were some of the challenges faced in attaining this award?

The first challenge was linking up the various stakeholders for the project. A second challenge was competing with other specialties that have more established mentors and laboratories. This is uncharted territory for orthopaedic surgery. Being the pioneer running the road not travelled before is always difficult as there is no one to show you the way. I hope winning this award will enable others to travel this path with greater ease in future.

What are your future plans & aspirations for the ACP moving forward?

To hopefully push MSKSC ACP academic research to a level that is competitive, future-proof and more importantly, impactful to the patients we treat.



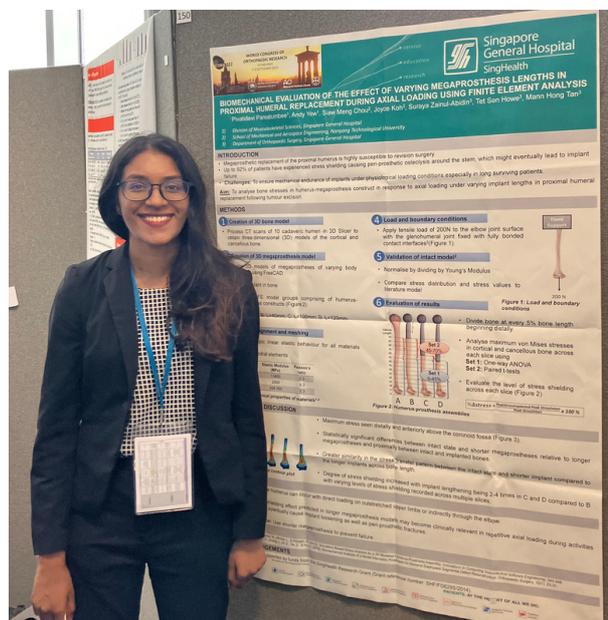
My First Overseas Conference



Introduction

Hi I'm Mini, a research engineer from MSKSC ACP. I had just attended my first overseas conference, the International Combined Orthopaedic Research Societies (ICORS) 2022 in Edinburgh, Scotland. It was a three-day conference spanning 7th to 9th of September and held at the University of Edinburgh. Although jetlagged, I was really looking forward to this new experience.

It was awesome to have the opportunity to share my research project. This being my first presentation at an international conference on-site, I could not help but feel a little nervous. There were several interesting sessions as well as networking opportunities with clinicians and industry peers from around the world.



Ms. Pivatidevi Pareatumbée (Mini)
Research Engineer, MSKSC ACP

It was truly an eye-opening experience that provided me the opportunity to meet people of diverse backgrounds such as engineers and orthopaedic clinicians from across the globe. I also had the opportunity of a group dinner with the ASEAN orthopaedic members at a Lebanese restaurant.



Group dinner with ASEAN orthopaedic members

Exploring Edinburgh

My accommodation was located in Old town, Edinburgh and was within walking distance to the conference hall. The cold, rainy and windy weather was certainly a challenge. Nonetheless, it was a nice change from the warm and sunny weather in Singapore. I enjoyed my morning and evening walks to and from the conference venue on the narrow-cobbled streets that made its way around the beautiful centuries-old buildings. Carrying an umbrella at all times was definitely a must.

On the first day, I wandered around Edinburgh to take a look at the different places. The landscape varied as I moved from hilly Old town to the mostly flat land of the New town. As a food enthusiast, it was a pleasant surprise to see the wide array of cuisines available in Edinburgh such as vegan, Japanese, Lebanese, Vietnamese, Italian, Thai and Indian.

Surgeon's Hall of Museum



Source: Atlas Obscura

Among the tourist attractions that I visited there was the Edinburgh Castle, historically known as the royal residence, a prison and also a fortress. Another site of interest was the Surgeon's Hall Museum where I learnt more about the origins of their medical collection, Edinburgh's unique contributions to current surgical practice as well as the history of dentistry.



Mini at Castle of Edinburgh

SingHealth Excellence Award

Distinguished Lifetime Achievement

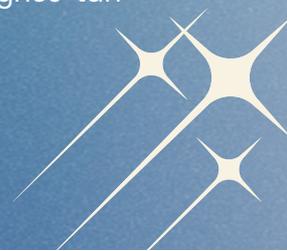


Hand surgeon extraordinaire, mentor and IT-enabler, we pay tribute to **Associate Professor Agnes Tan** who was conferred the Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award at the SingHealth Excellence Awards in June 2022.

Associate Professor Agnes Tan's illustrious journey with SGH and SingHealth began over 40 years ago. She is well-loved by her patients and her personable and affable nature makes her an ideal mentor to many. She is also a well-respected educator, actively teaching the next generation and upskilling fellow colleagues.

In recognition of her outstanding contributions, we would like to congratulate A/Prof Agnes, Senior Consultant, SGH Hand & Reconstructive Microsurgery, on receiving this award.

To read more about A/Prof Agnes' achievements please visit:
<https://www.sgh.com.sg/news/lighternotes/lets-give-associate-professor-agnes-tan-a-big-hand>



National Day Awards

The Public Administration Medal (Bronze)

CONGRATULATIONS

A/Prof Ong Yee Siang

Head & Senior Consultant, SGH Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery

The nationally-recognised Singapore National Day Award is a prestigious accolade. The Public Administration Medal was instituted in 1963 and was initiated by the Prime Minister's Office. It is a means of recognising various forms of outstanding efficiency, competence, merit and service to Singapore.



To find out more, please visit: <https://www.singhealth.com.sg/about-singhealth/newsroom/Pages/National-Day-Awards-2022.aspx>



A/PROF ONG YEE SIANG

SGH Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery

Going Beyond the Call of Duty



Mr Ivan Neo (right)
Senior Executive, MSKSC ACP

Could you tell us more about your time and role in MSKSC ACP?

I have been working in MSKSC ACP for about four and a half years since joining SGH in 2018. I am a Senior Executive and I work on different administrative matters ranging from clinical operations to philanthropy as well as matters relating to Quality Improvement (QI).

Would you like to tell us more about these different portfolios?

In the ACP, we have the different pillars of Clinical Services, Research, Education, Faculty Affairs & Academic Development (FAAD) and Strategic Initiatives. My portfolio encompasses the areas related to Clinical Services, Clinical Governance & Quality Management and Philanthropy.

Other administrative matters include scheduling of meetings, minute-writing and liaison with various stakeholders. Last but not least, I am also involved in other "CCAs" like the SGH Quality Convention and SGH Dinner & Dance in 2022.

I am currently working on an interesting and meaningful project, the SGH 200 Knee initiative. This initiative by the SGH Department of Orthopaedic Surgery aims to help patients with financial difficulties defray some out-of-pocket costs after a Total Knee Replacement (TKR) surgery.



How are you involved in this project?

In this project, I had to liaise with relevant stakeholders such as the Specialist Outpatient Clinic (SOC) and Patient Financial Services on the recruitment of patients as well as consolidation of the final bills and waivers for recruited TKR patients. The team also developed a couple of videos for publicity awareness. In this instance, I was involved in the script preparation, working with the clinician leads to fine-tune the storyboard and working with the video producers to ensure that our requirements were communicated and executed according to the expected timelines.



Fun fact: Ivan is the resident "Coffee Boy" for the admin team.



Mr Ivan volunteering as a patient in Sports Video.

Were there any interesting experiences or challenges for this project?

Yes there were! Coordination between the video production crew and the clinicians for filming was particularly challenging due to the clinicians' busy schedules. A lot of time and effort was spent editing the script to keep it short and succinct.

I had to act and be filmed as a patient who had difficulties with running and with pain in my knee. It was my first experience being in front of the camera. The director was very helpful in guiding me on how to execute the appropriate expression for that scene. The filming went relatively smoothly!

Catch-up with

A/Prof Inderjeet Singh



A/Prof Inderjeet Singh is a Senior Consultant with the SGH and SKH Departments of Orthopaedic Surgery.

He is currently the Academic Deputy Vice Chair (Medical Faculty), Faculty Affairs & Academic Development (FAAD). He was also the Programme Director (PD) for the SingHealth Orthopaedics Residency Programme for 11 years.

Could you tell us a bit more about the journey for your Masters in Health Professions Education?

When I became the PD for the SingHealth Orthopaedics Residency programme, I did not have any knowledge about medical pedagogy and adult learning. It was an interesting journey of personal and professional development. I learnt a lot of new things and it has helped me to broaden my perspective and refine my approaches. In the past as a pure clinician, I would tend to exclude or dismiss things which I did not understand. However, I now make it a point to listen to the other person's point of view and to understand their message before engaging in a discussion.

Could you give us an example of a situation where you applied what you had learnt to your role as PD?

Firstly, I learnt about pedagogy. Secondly, I learnt about how to better manage the younger generations. Thirdly, I learnt how to give feedback without coming off as judgemental or accusatory. The residents might be facing challenges in their personal lives. It is important that we listen and try to consider the various factors affecting their performance.

Finally, I was also able to align our residents' training and assessment with the programme's objectives. The biggest challenge that I found was the difference in how the residents were being assessed from the way they were actually trained throughout the residency period.

How do you feel about relinquishing the role as PD and starting the FAAD Office?

I was a PD for 11 years. It was tough in the beginning but it got better when things became more settled. I actually feel relieved to relinquish the role to someone willing to take up the challenge. A/Prof Denny Lie is a committed gentleman and I believe he will do a great job as the new PD.

What is the purpose of the FAAD office in the ACP?

The FAAD office is to help those who feel that they need someone to talk to for guidance and mentor advice. Nowadays, there are many different tracks available for the younger clinicians such as the Clinician Scientist track, Clinician Administrator track and so on.

Sometimes when our clinicians are unsure about the direction they wish to pursue, the FAAD office can help to point them towards a suitable direction, guide them along the way or pair them up with mentors and seniors who have gone through the journey.

As Academic Deputy Vice Chair (Medical Faculty) for the ACP's FAAD pillar, my door is always open for anyone who needs someone to talk to about mentorship or career pathways.

We should support all - clinicians, allied health professionals, nurses and administrators to upgrade their skills. We aim to assist them in their career development journey.



Musculoskeletal Sciences

Appreciation Dinner



Distinguished guests at the cocktail reception

In conjunction with the bicentennial celebrations, MSKSC ACP took the opportunity to celebrate the rich legacy of our musculoskeletal disciplines. A set of commemorative cards featuring our pioneers was created to recognise their efforts and highlight values worth emulating.

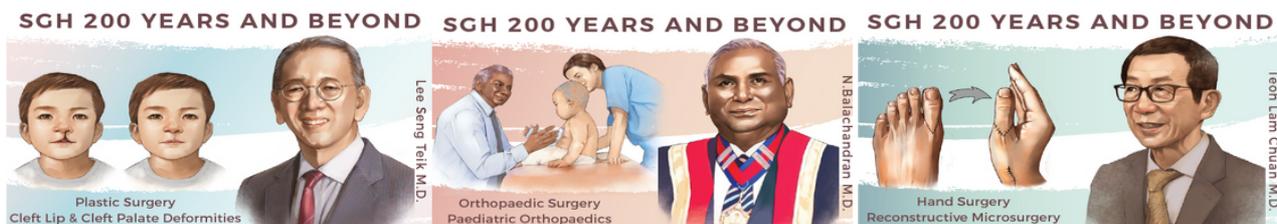
The Musculoskeletal Sciences Appreciation Dinner was held to express appreciation to our clinicians, nurses, allied health professionals and administrative colleagues from Orthopaedics, Plastics and Hand Surgery.

We were honoured to have senior management members, Prof Ivy Ng, Prof Kenneth Kwek, Mr Ang Kwok Ann, Mr James Toi and distinguished guests Prof Lee Seng Teik and Prof Teoh Lam Chuan join us for this joyous occasion.

The response was overwhelming with over 100 colleagues and alumni present at the dinner. It was a memorable night of food, performances and games. More importantly, it was an opportunity for all to connect with one another.



Cocktail reception was held at the rooftop before dinner.



As we commemorate this bicentennial year, a set of EZlink cards featuring our pioneers and their signature work was created. They monumentalise the strong foundations laid and the values upheld by our pioneers that are worth emulating. Central to our mission is “patients at the heart of all we do”.



MSKSC Appreciation Dinner

MSKSC ACP Townhall

19 Aug 2022 | The Innovation Centre, SingHealth

MSKSC ACP Townhall was an opportunity for our faculty to revisit and plan future strategies for the ACP. It was hosted at The Innovation Centre (TIC), SingHealth Tower. The event was a hybrid session where we live streamed it via zoom for those who were not able to join us in person.

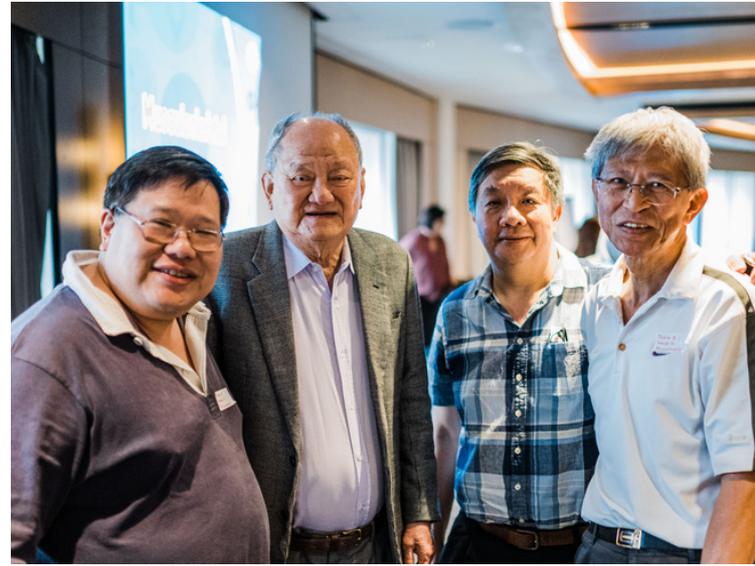
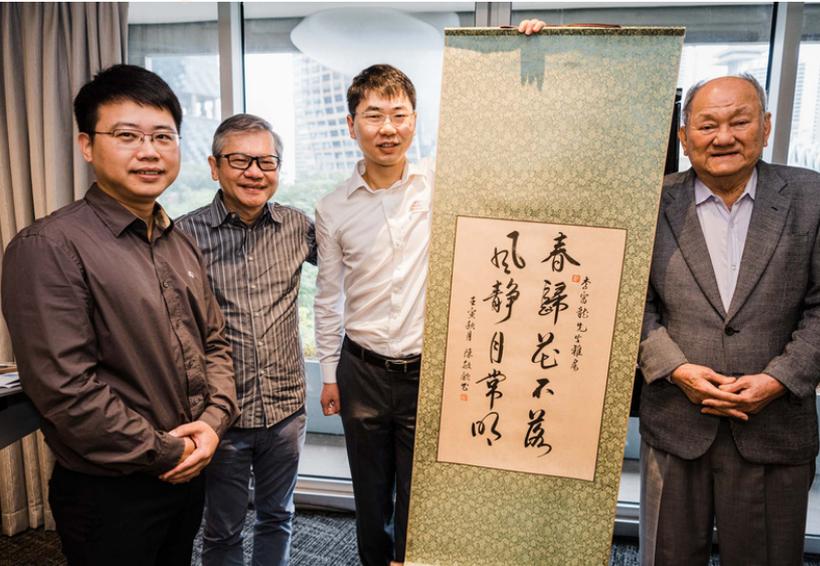


Thank
you!

MSKSC ACP Retreat

19 Nov 2022 | Fairmont Singapore

A special thanks to Mr Lee Hoo Leng for his generous sponsorship for our guest speakers!



Guest Speakers



Ms Marianna Pascal
Certified Speaking
Professional, Intercultural
Communication Expert and
Popular TEDx Speaker



Mr Tim Hamons
Founder, Visual Thinking
Strategist and Creative
Enabler, Art of Awakening



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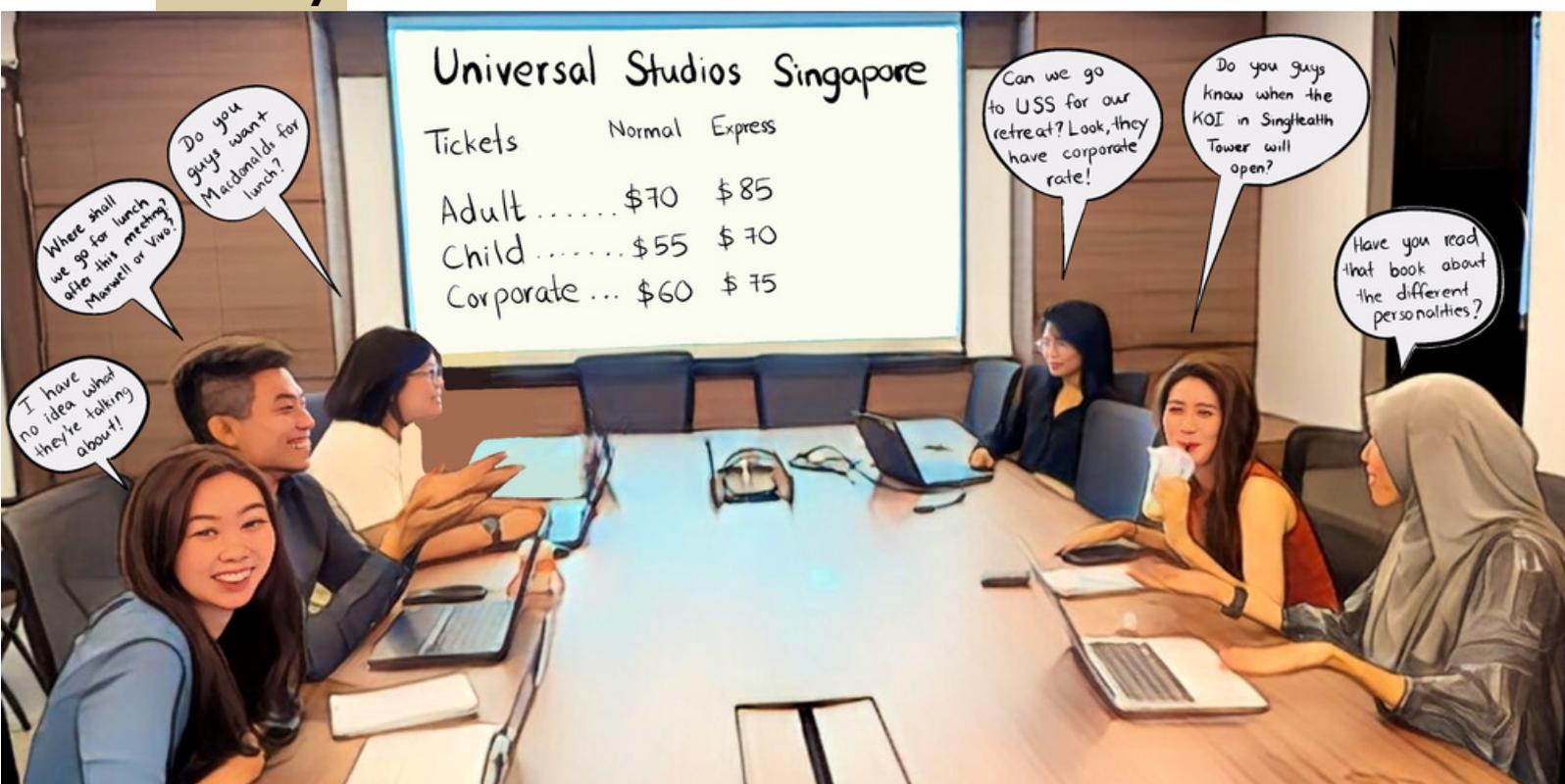
MSK MINIONS

Admin Meetings

Expectation



Reality



July - December Edition | 2022

Keeping up with MSKSC ACP



@msksc_acp



<https://www.singhealthdukenus.com.sg/acp/musculoskeletalsciences>