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SingHealth **DukeNUS**
ACADEMIC MEDICAL CENTRE

SURGERY

SurgeOn

NEWSLETTER

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JOY AT SURGICAL SERVICES (J@SS) IN DSSO!



What does Joy at Work mean to you? Perhaps, as a junior doctor, it means working in an environment of trust, having a sense of pride in your work or simply getting enough sleep! Residents, on the other hand, may find joy in exposure to a great case mix and opportunities in a safe learning environment, with job security at the end. For consultants, it could be a sense of purpose, meaning and appreciation for all you do, coupled with a fair salary. Whichever it may be, it is fair to say that we at DSSO may not have prioritised your Joy at Work enough.



**Asst Prof Sachin Mathur and
Preetha Madhukumar**
J@SS Committee Co-chairs

DSSO began the challenge of assessing the state of Joy at Work, with the first J@SS committee meeting in February 2022. The committee's (Fig. 1) inaugural meeting brought together department champions under the leadership of Division Chair, Assoc Prof Henry Ho, to examine key priorities related to:

Talent - Can we work to improve work-life balance in relation to working hours and attract other groups e.g. RP/non-training registrars/overseas fellows to work in our departments?

Task re-allocation - Can we think outside the box to revolutionise how we conduct ward rounds, run our clinics, elective theatre and endoscopy lists?



Talks - Can we address the underlying work culture in DSSO? How can we learn from the areas some departments are doing well in and pay attention to feedback on others that could be improved on?

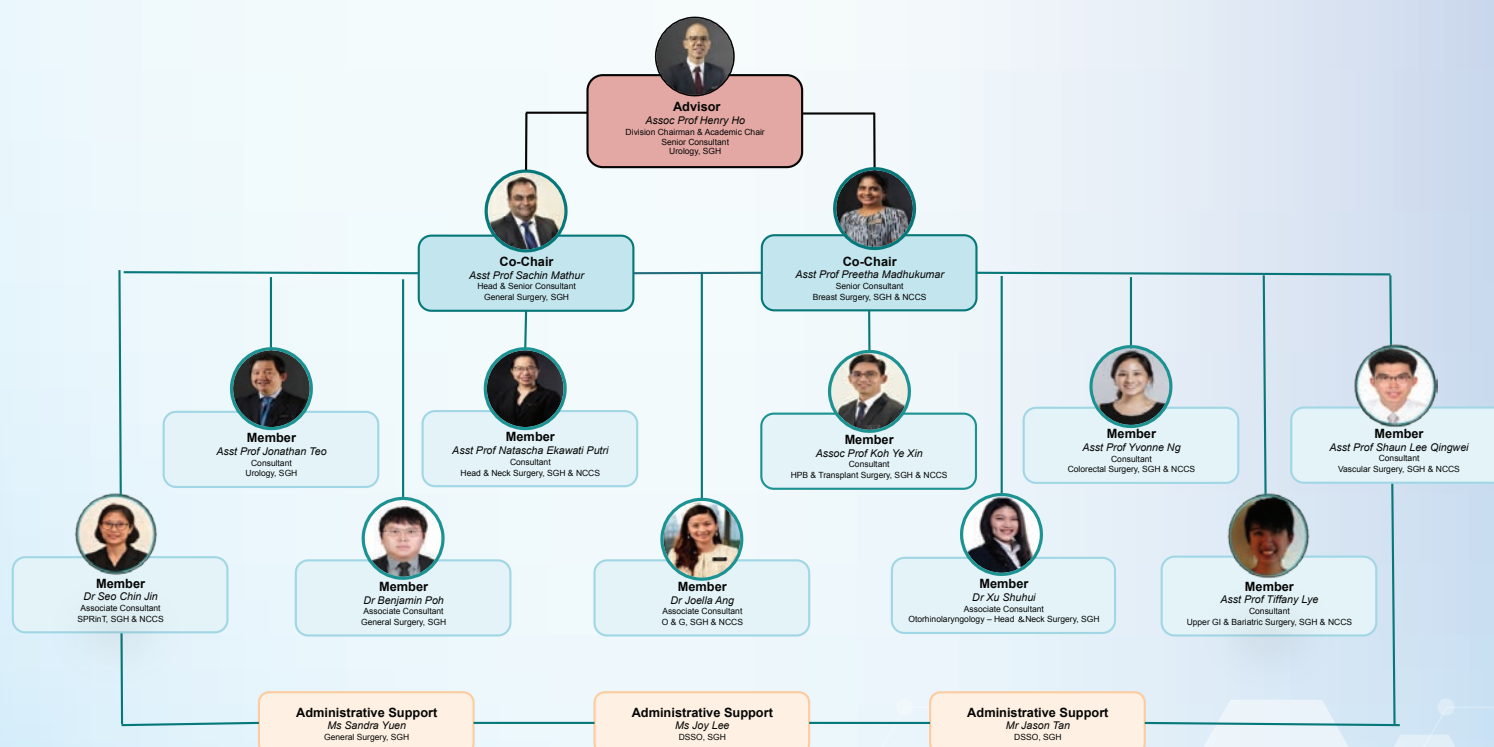


Fig.1 J@SS Committee

Over the past few months, various initiatives have been piloted, including:



Establishing a roster for 24+0 for our junior doctors on call in the GS group in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MOH). This has proven to be a success, drawing positive feedback from junior doctors who have found the roster to be beneficial. The long-term implementation of this roster is, however, dependent on manpower allocations and ongoing discussions with MOH. Non-GS Group departments are in the initial phases of discussion regarding junior doctor working hours.



Ward round transformation – Each department has committed to working on key elements of the ward round to facilitate better work-life balance: establishing start times, firm end times for exits, consultant commitment to round times and duration, no need for pre-rounding. This is ongoing and will require co-operation from all in the department to make this a success.



Adjuncts to our daily routines – Utilising scribes for ward rounds has been trialled, the scope for more assistance and manpower re-distribution has been discussed.



Recognition of staff at all levels: The first J@SS Townhall on August 3 2022 recognised the achievements of all DSSO medical staff. Numerous awards were given to HO/MO, residents/SSR, AC and C/SC from across DSSO (fig 2). This Townhall will occur bi-annually to celebrate all within DSSO!

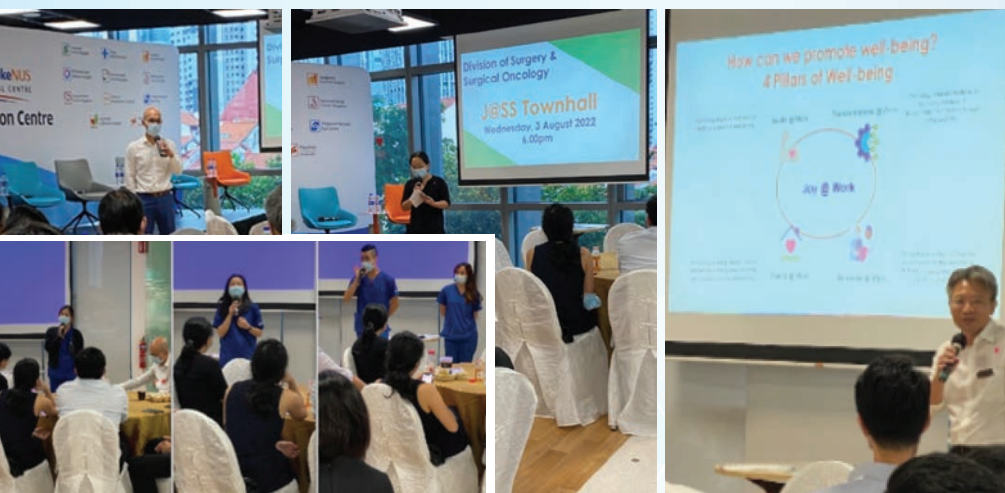


Fig. 2 J@SS Townhall

We have only scratched the surface of what the J@SS committee can deliver for the improvement of work-life balance for all staff across DSSO. With nearly every DSSO department represented in the committee, we will continue to engage other groups such as residents, AC's and C/SC to understand more of what can be achieved.

On behalf of the J@SS committee co-chairs – Sachin Mathur and Preetha Madhukumar



Top row, Left to right

Dr Stanislaw Mitew
Dr Khor Shao Nan
Asst Prof Luke Tay on behalf of Vascular Surgery (Department Award)
Asst Prof Tay Kae Jack

Second row

Dr Akshatha Dinesh Khokal
Dr Xu Shuhui
Dr Toh Wuen Lynn

Last row

Dr Ng Yan Shun
Dr Lin Wenjie
Asst Prof Ch'ng Jack Kian



Dr Nathalie Grace Sy Chua
Specialist Pharmacist
(Antimicrobial Stewardship Unit)

THE 4Rs IN SURGICAL ANTIBIOTICS PROPHYLAXIS AND OPTIMISING ANTIBIOTICS USE IN SURGICAL DEPARTMENTS

The Antimicrobial Stewardship Programme (ASP) is pleased to share that the first National Surgical Antibiotic Prophylaxis Guideline was recently published in September 2022. It was developed by a multi-disciplinary workgroup, consisting infectious disease (ID) physicians, ID or ASP pharmacists, surgeons and anaesthesiologists from various hospitals in Singapore. It has also been endorsed by the

Academy of Medicine, Singapore and National Centre for Infectious Diseases. The full guideline can be found here: <https://www.ncid.sg/Health-Professionals/Documents/NationalSAPGuidelineSingapore.pdf>. It has also been recently published in Annals Academy of Medicine, Singapore (<https://doi.org/10.47102/annals-acadmedsg.2022273>).

In brief, the guideline provides evidence-based recommendations for antibiotic prophylaxis in elective clean and clean-contaminated surgeries. To reduce surgical site infections and risks of adverse effects from antibiotics, we would like to remind all surgeons to practice the “4Rs in surgical antibiotic prophylaxis”:

The 4Rs in Surgical Antibiotic Prophylaxis:



Right Choice

- **Use cefazolin for most surgeries.** It is adequate against skin flora, which are commonly associated with surgical site infections.
- Expand coverage against gram-negative ± anaerobic flora for selected intra-abdominal and head and neck procedures.
- Use vancomycin for MRSA colonised patients especially in selected high-risk procedures.

Right Dose (and Re-Dosing Interval)

- Increase antibiotic dose for obese patients (e.g. IV cefazolin 3 g for patients weighing > 120 kg).
- **Re-dose antibiotics in prolonged surgeries (e.g. every 4 h for cefazolin) or when there is excessive blood loss (>1500 mL).**

Right Time

- Administer antibiotic prophylaxis within **30 to 60 mins before surgical incision.** Exceptions: Antibiotics requiring longer infusion times (e.g. vancomycin, ciprofloxacin) should be given at least 1 h before incision.

Right Duration

- **Do not extend antibiotic prophylaxis beyond 24 h for most procedures.** A systematic review of 83 RCTs, involving various surgical procedures, demonstrated that extended antibiotic prophylaxis has no additional benefit. In fact, its subgroup analysis found that **if antibiotic prophylaxis was given at the right time and re-dosed adequately during surgery, prolonged antibiotic prophylaxis had no effect on surgical site infection rates.**¹

Collaborations between Surgeons and ASP to Optimise Antibiotic Use

The ASP teams from various SingHealth institutions are committed to promoting rational antibiotic use across the cluster. Over the years, we have collaborated with various surgical departments to optimise antibiotic use for surgical patients. We are grateful for these opportunities!

For feedback or queries regarding the antibiotic guidelines or for collaborations in research or quality improvement projects, please contact the respective ASP physicians or pharmacists in your institution. We thank the various surgical departments for their continued support and we look forward to further collaborations!

References:

1 de Jonge SW, Boldingh QJJ, Solomkin JS, et al. Effect of postoperative continuation of antibiotic prophylaxis on the incidence of surgical site infection: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Lancet Infect Dis.* 2020;20(10):1182-1192.

Recent examples of our collaborative efforts include:



Changi General Hospital

- Extending an antimicrobial stewardship hand of friendship: successful use of handshake stewardship with vascular surgery patients (poster presentation at ECCMID 2021)



KK Women's and Children's Hospital
SingHealth

- Impact of antimicrobial stewardship interventions on post-elective caesarean antibiotic prophylaxis and surgical site infections (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8643913/>)



Sengkang General Hospital
SingHealth

- Implementation of vancomycin prophylaxis for MRSA colonised patients undergoing orthopaedic surgeries
- Creation and implementation of oral bowel decontamination protocol (using neomycin and erythromycin) for colostomies with colorectal surgery department



Singapore General Hospital

- Microbial profile of biliary stent, bile and surgical site cultures in pancreaticoduodenectomy patients – implications for surgical prophylaxis (poster presentation at IDWeek 2022)
- A single-centre retrospective study on the impact of reducing surgical prophylaxis from 48 hours to 24 hours in cardiothoracic surgery (2022 Editor's Pick for European Medical Journal Interventional Cardiology) [EMJ Int Cardiol. 2022;10(1):37-46.]
- Reducing prophylactic antibiotics use in laparoscopic cholecystectomy and liver resections [Eur J Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2021;33(4):533-534.]
- Single dose antibiotic prophylaxis is sufficient in uncomplicated colorectal surgeries (poster presentation at ECCMID 2021)

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION:

SURGERY ACADEMIC CLINICAL PROGRAMME (SURG ACP) EDUCATION RETREAT

Saturday, 13 August 2022 @ Grand Hyatt Singapore

The annual Education Retreat is back, after a two-year hiatus due to COVID restrictions!

The Saturday morning retreat at Grand Hyatt was attended by 40 members from ten surgical departments at SGH and NCCS, as well as invited guests from SGH Campus Education Office and Duke-NUS Medical School. The retreat began with a warm welcome from Assoc Prof Henry Ho, Academic Chair of Surgery ACP, followed by greetings from the event Leads - Assoc Prof Chong Tze Tec and Dr Natascha Putri, who also outlined the objectives of the retreat, setting the stage for the breakout group discussions.

Presentations by the Duke-NUS Surgery Programme Leads (SPLs), Dr Chang Meihuan, Prof Wong Wai Keong and Assoc Prof Chan Weng Hoong provided insights to the surgery curriculum structure and created interest and interactions in the breakout group discussions.

The retreat provided a great platform for faculty engagement and focused on two themes of discussions:

Theme 1: Communication & Curriculum

Theme 2: Teaching Culture and Learning Environment

It encouraged interactions from different perspectives and helped to open minds to issues of surgery postings at SGH. With four breakout groups led by eight Department Education Reps (DERs) and selected SPLs (from across three medical schools), four key initiatives were eventually proposed. The Education Team is currently working with various stakeholders on the implementation plans in the coming months.

Prof Lim Swee Han, Director of SGH Campus Education Office, provided attendees with insights into the new honorarium model and clarified doubts raised about the honorarium.

Prof Scott Compton, Associate Dean for Medical Education at Duke-NUS, also shared

some of his thoughts for the retreat:

- Good clinical teaching that incorporates **authentic patient care responsibilities** is the key to the quality of the educational program
- The Department of Surgery has many excellent clinical educators!

Assoc Prof Henry Ho concluded the retreat by thanking the attendees for their time and marvelled at the commitment and ideas put forth throughout the retreat to enhance undergraduate education in SGH Surgery.

Event Committee



Event Advisor

A/Prof Henry Ho Sun Sien,
Academic Chair, Surgery ACP



Event Leads

A/Prof Chong Tze Tec, Event Lead;
Vice Chair (Undergraduate Education),
Surgery ACP



Dr Natascha Ekawati Putri, Event Co-Lead;
Consultant, Head & Neck Surgery, NCCS



Event Survey Outcomes (81% responded)

81%
Retreat met its objectives

96%
Retreat was well structured

88%
Retreat presented at appropriate pace

96%
Happy with the venue

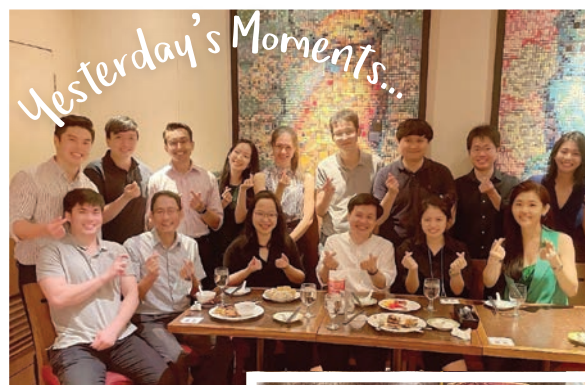


RESIDENTS' GRADUATION



SIG RESIDENCY

APPRECIATE RESIDENTS
THROUGH FEASTING, WHEREAS
MARVEL MOVIE BONDS US
TOGETHER IN THE DARK!



Today's Memories



Congratulations

to our faculty & Residents for receiving
the Residency in Singhealth Excels (RiSE)
Awards 2022!

BEST/MOST IMPROVES PROGRAMME AWARD

Most Improved ACGME-I Programme Award	+	General Surgery (less than 40 Residents)
Most Improved JCST Programme Award	+	Urology

FACULTY APPRECIATION AWARD

General Surgery	+	Clin Asst Prof Fu Wan Pei Cherylin
Urology	+	Clin Assoc Prof Ho Sun Sien Henry

OUTSTANDING RESIDENT AWARD

Surgery-in-General	+	Dr Chan Xue Wei Dr Lim Xuxin Meghan
General Surgery	+	Dr Cai Mingzhe Dr Sim Kher Ru Sarah Dr Soon Jia Yi Joel
Urology	+	Dr Lim Ee Jean Dr Tan Yu Guang
Otolaryngology	+	Dr Tay Kaijun Dr Yu Yue

OUTSTANDING FACULTY AWARD

Surgery-in-General	+	Dr Lee Zhen Jin Assoc Prof Ong Hock Soo Dr Natascha Ekawati Putri Dr Jai Prashanth Rao
General Surgery	+	Dr Ch'ng Jack Kian Dr Lee Lip Seng Dr Lim Chin Hong Dr Ong Chin-Ann Johnny Dr Tan Winsun Jianhong Dr Tay Ci An Gerald Dr Thiruchelvam Nita
Urology	+	Dr Edwin Jonathan Aslim Assoc Prof Lee Lui Shiong
Otolaryngology	+	Dr Kiong Liqin Kimberley Dr Lee Tee Sin Dr Low Yong Ming David Andrew

RESIDENTS' COMMITTEE (RC) APPRECIATION AWARD

General Surgery	+	Dr Prasad S/O Palaisamy
Urology	+	Dr Neo Wei Li



SURGICAL INTERNATIONAL TRAINING EXPERIENCE (SITE) SHARING SESSION

The Surgery Academic Clinical Programme (ACP) is proud to introduce the **“Surgical International Training Experience (SITE)”** sharing session - created with the aim to engage and connect. Clinicians returning from overseas skills attachment shared their learning experiences, provided insights and tips on making the best of their training and the preparations required for overseas skills attachment training programmes. To date, we have run two sessions with positive feedback from clinicians.

The inaugural session was held on 22 July 2022 (Concorde Hotel), with a second session held on 21 September 2022 (Sheraton Towers). Up to 50 attendees from different departments within SingHealth institutions were present at each of the sessions, which saw lively and fruitful discussions.

We had the pleasure of hearing from six speakers, from different specialties

in SGH, KKH and SKH. From SGH, we had Dr Isaac Seow-En (Colorectal Surgery) and Dr Ng Jia Hui (Otorhinolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery). From SKH, we had Dr Tousif Kabir (Hepato-pancreato-biliary (HPB) Service).

Finally, from KKH we had Dr Yan Zhiyan (KK Breast Centre), Dr Chan Ching Yee (Otolaryngology) and Dr Lee York Tien (Children’s Surgery Centre & Paediatric Brain and Solid Tumour Programme).

Our speakers shared their stories and respective unique learning experiences from their overseas skills attachment in countries such as Canada, United Kingdom, Taiwan, Australia and the Netherlands. Both our moderators for the sessions, Assoc Prof Koh Ye Xin from the Department of HPB & Transplant Surgery,



SGH and NCCS (Session 1) and Assoc Prof Kam Juinn Huar from the Department of General Surgery, SKH (Session 2) also conducted thoughtful discussions and conversations during the engaging Q&A segments.

Surgery ACP is excited to bring more of such insightful sessions for every healthcare professional within the institute. Do look forward to our next SITE session in January 2023!

AWARDS:

NMRC Award Winners

NMRC oversees the development and advancement of medical research in Singapore. NMRC’s mission is to promote excellence in translational and clinical research, nurture a vibrant research community of clinicians and enhance knowledge translation for better health and economic outcomes.

These awards and programmes recognise clinician scientists and researchers for their outstanding achievements and contributions, in transforming medicine and improving patient care for Singapore and beyond.



NMRC CLINICIAN INNOVATOR DEVELOPMENT AWARD (CIDA)

Dr Luke Tay Hsien Tsung
Consultant, Department of Vascular Surgery, SGH & NCCS



NMRC RESEARCH TRAINING FELLOWSHIP (RTF)

Dr Andy Chua Jian Kai
Consultant, Department of Otorhinolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery, SKH



NMRC Research Training Fellowship (RTF)

Dr Mok Chi Wei
Consultant, Department of Breast Surgery, CGH



NMRC RESEARCH TRAINING FELLOWSHIP (RTF)

Dr Tan Hwee Leong
Associate Consultant, Department of HPB & Transplant Surgery, SGH & NCCS

(NMRC awards from Nov 2021 grant call cycle)

SingHealth Value Driven Care (VDC) festival top poster award on 19 Aug 2022-A CHASE approach to Improve Breast Cancer Patients Post-Operative Length Of Stay

Authors: Lim Geok Hoon¹, Lim Swee Ho¹, Tan Qing Ting¹, Yan Zhiyan¹, Jinnie Pang Siyan¹, Lee Jung Ah¹, Veronica Siton Alcantara¹, Jubal Pallavi Chinthala¹, Shin You Chan¹, Ng Ruey Pyng², Nor Izzaty Fitry Binte Azman¹, Kong Tze Yean³

¹ Breast Department, KK Women's and Children's Hospital

² Division of Nursing, KK Women's and Children's Hospital

³ Department of Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery, KK Women's and Children's Hospital

Healthcare Quality Society of Singapore (HQSS) 1st runner up oral presentation on 29-30 July 2022- Target Zero missed radiotherapy referrals with improved work efficiency by using technology in the new normal

Authors: Lim Geok Hoon¹, Cham Mooi Tai², Agnes Ng Hsiang Ying³, Ng Ruey Pyng², Fadilah Ab Razak², Li Yinghong², Si Peck Hua², Chang Nyet Mung², Nor Hidayu Rahim², Wong Fuh Yong³, Raymond Ng Chee Hui⁴

¹ Breast Department, KK Women's and Children's Hospital

² Breast Centre, KK Women's and Children's Hospital

³ Radiation Oncology Department, National Cancer Centre Singapore

⁴ Medical Oncology Department, National Cancer Centre Singapore

Merit poster award at SGCRC/WIRES in 12-14 Aug 2022- Use of axillary ultrasound to guide breast cancer management in the genomic assay era

Authors: Geok Hoon Lim¹, John Carson Allen², Yien Sien Lee³, Sze Yiu Teo³, Li Ching Lau³, Thida Win³, Lester Chee Hao Leong⁴

¹ Breast Department, KK Women's and Children's Hospital

² Duke-NUS Medical School

³ Department of Diagnostic & Interventional Imaging, KK Women's and Children's Hospital

⁴ Department of Diagnostic Radiology, Singapore General Hospital



From left: Dr Raymond Ng Chee Hui¹, Li Yinghong², Felin Si Peck Hua², Jenny Chang Nyet Mung², Clin A/Prof Lim Geok Hoon¹, ADN Teresa Ng Ruey Pyng², SNM Cham Mooi Tai², Nor Hidayu Rahim², Fadilah Ab Razak²

Not in photo: Dr Wong Fuh Yong³, Agnes Ng Hsiang Ying³

¹Breast Department, KK Women's and Children's Hospital

²Breast Centre, KK Women's and Children's Hospital

³Radiation Oncology Department, NCCS

⁴Medical Oncology Department, NCCS



From left: Dr Andrea Lau Li Ching³, Dr Thida Win³, Dr Lee Yien Sien³, Clin A/Prof Lim Geok Hoon¹

Not in photo: John Carson Allen², Dr Teo Sze Yuen³, Dr Lester Chee Hao Leong⁴

¹Breast Department, KK Women's and Children's Hospital

²Centre for Quantitative Medicine, Duke-NUS Medical School

³Department of Diagnostic & Interventional Imaging, KK Women's and Children's Hospital

⁴Department of Diagnostic Radiology, Singapore General Hospital



From left: Nor Izzaty Fitry¹, Dr Lim Swee Ho¹, Zhao Xiaowei¹, Li Yinghong², ADN Teresa Ng Ruey Pyng², Dr Tan Qing Ting¹, Dr Yan Zhiyan¹, Clin A/Prof Lim Geok Hoon¹, Dr Veronica Siton Alcantara¹, Dr Lee Jung Ah¹, Dr Jinnie Pang Siyan¹

Not in photo: Dr Kong Tze Yean³, Dr Jubal Pallavi Chinthala¹, Dr Shin You Chan¹

¹Breast Department, KK Women's and Children's Hospital

²Division of Nursing, KK Women's and Children's Hospital

³Department of Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery, KK Women's and Children's Hospital

SGH 24th ASM Abstract Winners



YOUNG INVESTIGATOR'S AWARD

Ms Carine Ng
Database Coordinator,
Department of Urology



OUTSTANDING RESEARCH AWARD

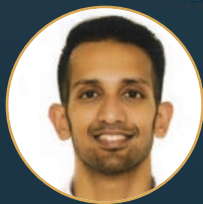
Ms Nanthakumharee D/O Gunasegaran
Nurse Clinician I, DNA - Patient Care
Services & Professional Affairs Admin



BEST POSTER AWARD

Ms Fazila Binte Abu Bakar Aloweni
Senior Nurse Manager, DNA - Patient
Care Services & Professional Affairs
Admin

Publish! Team Award 2022



Dr Tousif Kabir
Consultant, Department of
Surgery, SKH



Dr Lim Hui Jun
Resident, General Surgery
Residency, SingHealth

JOAM ACP Programme Grant Awardees FY2022 Cycle 2

ACP Programme Grants fund worthy ACP initiated projects to advance Academic Medicine and contribute to effective collaborations across the AMC with Joint Institutes, SingHealth Duke-NUS Disease Centres, Signature Research Programmes, and/or relevant external entities.



**CLINICAL AND SYSTEMS
INNOVATION SUPPORT (CSI)**

A/Prof Lee Lui Shiong
HoD, Department of Urology, SKH



INNOVATION SEED GRANT (ISG)

Dr Ronnie Mathew
Senior Consultant, Department of
Colorectal Surgery, SGH & NCCS



GLOBAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Dr Chong Tsung Wen
Senior Consultant, Department of
Urology, SGH & NCCS



EDUCATION SUPPORT

Dr Wong Si Min Jolene
Consultant, Department
Sarcoma, Peritoneal & Rare
Tumours, SGH & NCCS



EDUCATION SUPPORT

Dr Neo Shu Hui
Associate Consultant,
Department of Urology, SKH



**NURTURING CLINICIAN RESEARCHER
SCHEME (NCRS) – NURTURING
CLINICIAN SCIENTIST AWARD (NCSA)**

Dr Nicholas Shannon
Senior Resident, General Surgery
Residency, SingHealth

National Day Award 2022



In recognition of their exemplary contribution to our AMC, our patients and our nation's success. Congratulations to Assoc Prof Henry Ho who was conferred the Public Administration Medal (Bronze)!

Assoc Prof Ho Sun Sien Henry
Academic Chair, Surgery ACP
Chairman, Division of Surgery & Surgical Oncology, SGH & NCCS
Senior Consultant, Department of Urology, SGH

PROMISING RESEARCH IN SKH GIVES HOPE TO DIABETIC FOOT ULCER PATIENTS

In Singapore, the vast majority of leg amputations are related to blocked arteries in diabetic foot ulcers (DFU). The vascular surgeons at Sengkang General Hospital (SKH) lead a dedicated diabetic limb salvage programme for ischemic DFUs, which incorporates cutting edge technologies in wound management and revascularisation techniques.

In diabetic patients, the affected arteries are usually in the most distal small arteries (below the knee artery). There are advanced techniques to unblock such small arteries; however, the rate of these small arteries becoming blocked again is very high, resulting in frequent re-interventions to keep the foot alive. There is clearly an unmet need for more durable treatment, but most major international trials have had disappointing results.

In 2018, SKH was the first centre in the world to start and complete a pilot study (XTOSI Trial) investigating the role of novel sirolimus coated balloon technology for small distal arteries. Led by Senior Consultant Vascular Surgeon and Assoc Prof Edward Choke, the promising findings from the XTOSI trial have been widely presented in international meetings and published in peer review journals.

Following this, Assoc Prof Edward Choke is currently the Global Principal Investigator (PI) for the industry-funded multi-national multi-center FUTURE BTK randomised controlled trial (RCT), which is the world's first RCT investigating the effectiveness of sirolimus coated balloon versus standard balloon angioplasty for below-the-knee disease. The FUTURE BTK trial, which spans across four Asian countries, has completed 25% enrolment

and Assoc Prof Choke was recently in New York to present updates of the trial at the Veith 2022 Symposium. Assoc Prof Choke is also the Global PI for the FUTURE SFA trial, which is a trial for above the knee arteries.

This novel technology has attracted much interest internationally and concurrently, other trials in the United States and Europe are also ongoing, investigating novel sirolimus coated balloon technology for distal small arteries. The pipeline of data which will emerge in the next few years are eagerly awaited by the vascular community and will hopefully help achieve the goal of reducing leg amputations.



ALEX CHAO RESEARCH FACULTY FUND: STUDY TRIP FOR RESEARCH OF BEST PRACTICES IN ESTABLISHED & RENOWNED CENTRES TO IMPROVE VASCULAR CARE DELIVERY IN SINGAPORE BY ASSOC PROF CHONG TZE TEC

The Alex Chao Research Faculty Fund was established under the Surgery Academic Clinical Programme (ACP) to support the promotion, development and provision of research work related to vascular disease in Singapore. It honoured Dr Alex Chao for his contributions to the field of vascular surgery in Singapore.

Dr Alex Chao joined SGH as a Consultant Vascular Surgeon in January 2003. He was a mentor to both undergraduate and postgraduate medical students and doctors. He was also actively involved in writing, researching, publishing and presenting over 60 scientific papers and book chapters. He was a martyr for the fight against Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and passed away on 22 April 2003 after getting infected with the illness.

From 20-30 July 2022, Assoc Prof Chong Tze Tec, Head and Senior Consultant of Vascular Surgery, together with Assoc Prof Tan Chieh Suai, Head and Senior Consultant of Renal Medicine, visited Kaikoukai Meiko Kyoritsu Clinic (Japan), Massachusetts General Hospital (USA) and Brigham & Women's Hospital (USA) on a research study trip focusing on renal dialysis access care. This research study trip was possible with the Alex Chao Research Faculty Fund.

During this trip, they met with overseas key opinion leaders in the vascular surgery field to research on the best practices in established and renowned centres for the purpose of improving vascular care delivery in Singapore. With the knowledge gained, the team is looking into setting up an Endovascular AV Fistula (EndoAVF) programme, which would be a first in SingHealth, and a

multi-disciplinary Diabetic Foot Ulcer (DFU) clinic to improve the care of these patients. In the next two years, these plans will allow the tracking of baseline as well as proposed improvements to service, as the trip provided an essential point of assessment and understanding of various trends and techniques conducted overseas. These would encourage the potential for a departmental review and spur improvement projects to be carried out.

The Vascular Surgery department hopes to continue to honour and support Dr Alex Chao's vision to serve the people of Singapore and the region. This research study trip would be a stepping stone for future and consistent collaborative efforts in education and research of best practices in this field.



Ultrasound Guided Cannulation demonstration in Kaikoukai Meiko Kyoritsu Clinic (Japan).



AV Graft Creation Kit in Kaikoukai Meiko Kyoritsu Clinic (Japan).



Ambulatory Dialysis Ward in Kaikoukai Meiko Kyoritsu Clinic (Japan).



A/Prof Chong Tze Tec, A/Prof Tan Chieh Suai & Dr Sato in Japan.