

WHO'S WHO IN SURGERY ACP

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REACH OUT TO OUR RESEARCH PROGRAMS

• **BIOMECHANICS LAB (BML)**
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• **DEVICE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (DDO)**
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• **CLINICIAN SCIENTIST DEVELOPMENT (CSD)**
• SEED GRANT, COURSE SPONSORSHIP

• **COLLABORATIONS WITH INSTITUTES OF HIGHER
LEARNING (IHL)**

• **SURGEON-SCIENTIST START-UP GRANT (S4G)**

• **CLINICAL AND RESEARCH DATABASE REGISTRY
(CARAR)**

• **RESEARCH MENTORSHIP**
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OUR DEPARTMENTS

AS OF SEPTEMBER 2014

KKH
Breast Department • Cardiothoracic Surgery Service • Colorectal Service • Department of Orthopaedic Surgery • Department of Otolaryngology • Department of Paediatric Anaesthesia
• Department of Paediatric Surgery • Department of Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery • Dental Service

SGH
Department of Anaesthesiology • Department of Colorectal Surgery • Department of General Surgery • Department of Hand Surgery • Department of Hepatopancreato Biliary/
Transplant Surgery • Department of Orthopaedic Surgery • Department of Otolaryngology • Department of Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery • Department of Upper GI and
Bariatric Surgery • Department of Urology • Department of Vascular Surgery



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SURGERY ACP LEADERS

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SurgeOn

Surgery ACP Newsletter

ISSUE 01 | JUL-SEPT 2014



JAN 2014
MEDICAL ILLUSTRATION
WORKSHOP

OCT 2014
"MEET YOUR MENTORS"
SESSION (YLL STUDENTS)

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SURGERY
Academic Clinical Program

Singapore General Hospital | KK Women's and Children's Hospital

Partners in Academic Medicine

SingHealth | DUKE-NUS

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WHO'S WHO
IN SURGERY ACP

FROM THE DESK OF SURGERY ACP LEADERS



Dear friends,

Thank you for being part of Surgery ACP.

The planning for Surgery ACP started in 2011 and was approved in-principal in March 2012. Fine-tuning of the proposals and preparations took another year before all the initiatives were officially approved by SingHealth and Duke-NUS leadership in February 2013. As they say, "great things take time to create"!

It has been a hectic journey thus far and we now have more than a full year of activities completed. As you know, we have been keeping you informed of these through emails, and it is now timely for us to launch a quarterly newsletter, SurgeOn, to bring you up to speed with the happenings in Surgery ACP and new initiatives that are relevant to you, our faculty.

GOVERNANCE & STRUCTURE

As you are aware, Surgery ACP brings together departments from the Division of Surgery, SGH and the Division of Surgery, KKH. The leadership structure comprises a Chair (concurrent Chair, Division of Surgery, SGH), a Deputy Chair (concurrent Chair, Division of Surgery, KKH) and Vice-Chairs and Deputy Vice-Chairs in Clinical Innovation, Research and Education. In addition, the ACP key appointment holders include Directors appointed to champion and spearhead various areas of our tripartite mission (see attached ACP Who's Who). The Departmental HODs form an important leadership element of the ACP through which the faculty members report to and for which the ACP Vice Chairs and Directors support in the departmental tripartite mission.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Apart from your own Departmental and Divisional administrative support, Surgery ACP has Dr Lim Chee Tiong, AD (Head of Academic Affairs), Ms Low Ngor Heng, Manager (Education), and Mr Eugene Quek, AM (Research) who will provide the necessary administrative and management bandwidth to support the ACP mission. Chee Tiong is an Engineer PhD by background and has been involved in MedTech research at A*STAR as well as Johnson & Johnson before joining us. Ngor Heng was previously VP (Academic Affairs) at PSB and Eugene has been involved in research before moving on to administration with NMRC and IPOS (Intellectual Property Office of Singapore). This management team is further supported by five other administrative staff.

EDUCATION

The Education Council's primary aim is to facilitate and enhance the education programmes for all surgical disciplines under Surgery ACP. The current focus is on three main areas:

- 1 Consolidation, development and growth of skills training as a key component of surgery in support of surgical residency and post-graduate advanced surgical training. This will be achieved through the SingHealth-Duke-NUS Surgical Skills & Simulation Centre (SSSC) run through Surgery ACP.
- 2 Developing a common SingHealth curriculum, as well as teaching tools and aids for medical students for both YLL and Duke-NUS medical schools to provide the necessary skill training programmes for students in preparation for internship and residency.
- 3 Promote active participation of faculty development programmes from AM·EI (Education Institute), CRAFD (Centre for Resident and Faculty Development) and SingHealth Academy to enhance teaching capabilities of our faculty.

RESEARCH

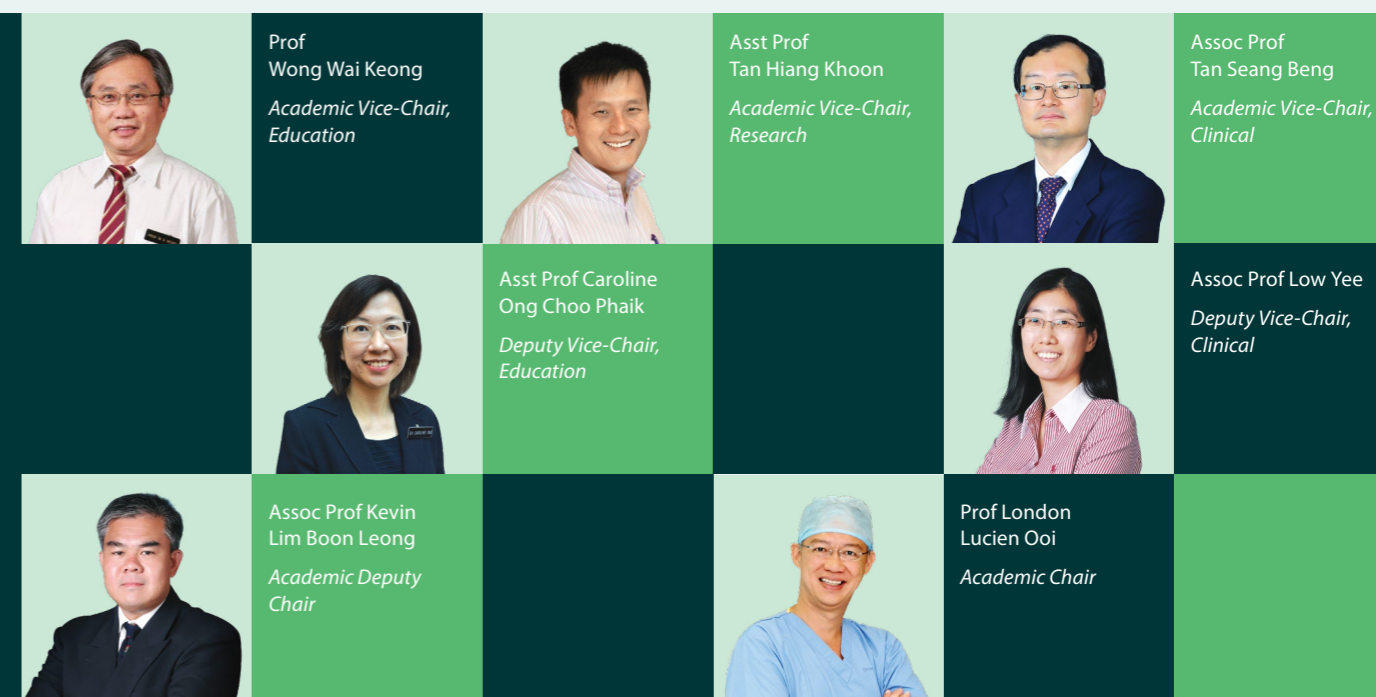
The Research Council in Surgery ACP exists as an enabler to enhance, facilitate and engender vibrant research that is clinically and surgically relevant. A three-pronged approach will be adopted:

- 1 **Longitudinal approach to enable research throughout a surgeon's career**
The Student and Resident Research Mentorship Office aims to encourage surgical research amongst medical students and residents by a systematic and structured engagement of students and residents with the surgical faculty. The Clinician Scientist Development Office serves to identify and empower surgeons who have chosen the path of surgeon scientists. This office, amongst other duties, will administer a quarter of a million of seed funding per year to worthy research projects from our faculty members.

The role of these two offices will ensure that we have a pipeline of surgeons (or aspiring surgeons) who are actively engaged in research activities and ultimately help meet our research KPI to increase the number of research publications and clinician scientists.
- 2 **Thematic focus on surgically relevant research**
Surgery ACP has identified Biomechanics Research and Device Development as our key research focus. These two independent yet complementary research initiatives are surgically relevant and will align Surgery ACP to our government's effort to encourage Medical Bioengineering Research. A Biomechanics Laboratory and a Device Development Office has been set up in the new Academia building.
- 3 **Broad based enhancement of research infra-structure**
The office of Outcomes Research and Database Registry will empower all the above research initiatives by maintaining clinical database and providing statistical support. This will naturally require the support and buy-in from the HODs and end users. Last but not least, the Research Office helmed by Chee Tiong and Eugene will also serve as a valuable resource for our faculty members by identifying and funding any infra-structural enhancement initiatives that will enable our faculty members to conduct impactful research while fulfilling their heavy clinical duties.

GOING FORWARD

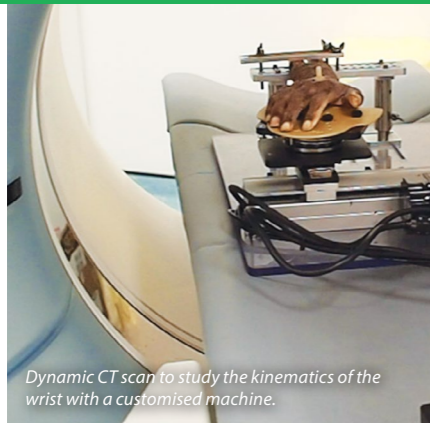
This will be another interesting year as we gear up the activities in Surgery ACP, having spent the last year ironing out funding and programmes. We look forward to your continued engagement and support as faculty of Surgery ACP. Success is defined as having made a difference. Together, we can make the difference and always be *A Consistent Cut Above*.



RESEARCH PROGRAMS

1 BIOMECHANICS LAB (BML)

Led by Assoc Prof Vincent Tay



Dynamic CT scan to study the kinematics of the wrist with a customised machine.

- To facilitate and support biomechanics research
- Example of a commonly used equipment is Instron dynamic mechanical tester-ElectroPulse E1000 for dynamic cyclic fatigue, tensile and/or compression test
- Customisation of equipment for research projects like the custom-made friction Jig to test friction in tendon repairs and study the properties of simple "figure-of-eight" suture flexor tendon repairs in Zone II

THIS PROGRAM HAS SUPPORTED THE FOLLOWING CLINICIANS:

- Dr Eric Liu Xuan, MOHH
- Dr Lee Chuan Shing, Department of Hand Surgery, SGH
- Dr Ruth Tan En Si, MOHH
- Dr Tang Man Hon, Department of Hand Surgery, SGH
- Robyn Hay Aik Siew, Medical Student, Duke-NUS

2 DEVICE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (DDO)

Led by Asst Prof Henry Ho

- Discover and understand clinical needs
- Evaluate research ideas with clinicians for feasibility and marketability
- Facilitate
 - Technology matching and collaboration
 - Advice and facilitate grant submission by identifying and applying for suitable grants
 - Advise on IP protection by working with SingHealth legal and SHIP

Clinical Needs	58
Technology Match	2
Grant success	1 (SMART grant)



3D printed prototypes for testing and evaluation.



DDO workshop on bio design process.

CLINICIANS DDO HAVE BEEN WORKING CLOSELY WITH:

Name	Institute	Department
Dr Tan Bien Keem	SGH	Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery
Dr Christopher Chui	SGH	Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery
Dr James Mok	SGH	Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery
Dr Savitha Ramachandran	SGH	Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery
Dr Josephine Tan Swee Kim	KKH	Paediatric Anesthesia
Dr Bong Choon Looi	KKH	Paediatric Anesthesia
Dr Tan Hiang Khoon	SGH	Head & Neck Surgery
Dr Tan Ngian Chye	SGH	Head & Neck Surgery
Dr Gopal Iyer	SGH	Head & Neck Surgery
Dr Chew Min Hoe	SGH	Colorectal Surgery
Dr Tan Wah Siew	SGH	Colorectal Surgery

STUDENTS DDO HAVE BEEN WORKING CLOSELY WITH:

- Nguyen Thien Khanh, Duke-NUS
- Andrew Chou, Duke-NUS

3 CLINICIAN SCIENTIST DEVELOPMENT (CSD)

Led by Asst Prof N.Gopalakrishna Iyer

I. SEED GRANT

- Provide seed funding for budding surgeon-scientists to kick-start their research in preparation for future external grant

- The following faculties are awarded the Surgery ACP Seed Grant in 2013:
 - Dr Ng Shu Li
 - Dr Chen Yong
 - Dr Tay Ci An Gerald
 - Assoc Prof Tay Shian Chao Vincent
 - Dr Adrian Ooi

II. COURSE SPONSORSHIP

- Funding for tuition fees for candidates interested in formal research degrees (eg MCI, MSc, MPhil programs)

- Courses considered:
 - Local or overseas
 - Master Degree and above
 - Related to medicine, research and biostatistics

Application for Seed Grant and Course Sponsorship is open in August every year.

4 RESEARCH MENTORSHIP

Led by Asst Prof Ong Kong Wee



Meet your mentor session for medical students.

- Link up clinicians and reserchers as mentors to students who are keen on research, based on their interests and strengths

- Through this initiative, we have 19 medical students paired up with the following mentors from SGH, KKH and NCC on top of existing mentorship projects.
 - Dr Brian Goh
 - Dr Caroline Ong
 - Dr Chew Min Hoe
 - Dr Winson
 - Dr Chong Tze Tec
 - Dr Tan Chieh Suai
 - Dr Shireen Anne Nah
 - Dr Tan Hiang Khoon

5 COLLABORATIONS WITH INSTITUTES OF HIGHER LEARNING

- To link up clinicians with clinical research ideas or needs from the polytechnics and universities. (SUTD, NUS, NTU etc.)
- Currently, there are seven on-going collaborations initiated and supported by Surgery ACP in 2013 and this is in addition to existing collaborations. These collaborations involve the following clinicians:

Name	Department	Collaborating Institutes
Dr Sophia Chew	Anaesthesia/SGH	Engineer Design & Innovation Centre (EDIC) (NUS)
Dr Kong Chee Fai	Anaesthesia/SGH	EDIC (NUS)
Dr Kang Mei Ling	Infectious Diseases/SGH	Nanyang Polytechnic
Dr Savitha	Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery/SGH	Nanyang Polytechnic
Ashvin Raju	YLL Med student	Nanyang Technological University
Lee Pei Yueng	Podiatry/SGH	Singapore University of Technology and Design
Alvin Chua	Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery/SGH	Singapore Polytechnic

6 SURGEON-SCIENTIST START-UP GRANT (S4G)

Led by Asst Prof N.Gopalakrishna Iyer

- Strategically attract and recruit scientifically well-qualified residents into surgical-related specialties in Surgery ACP

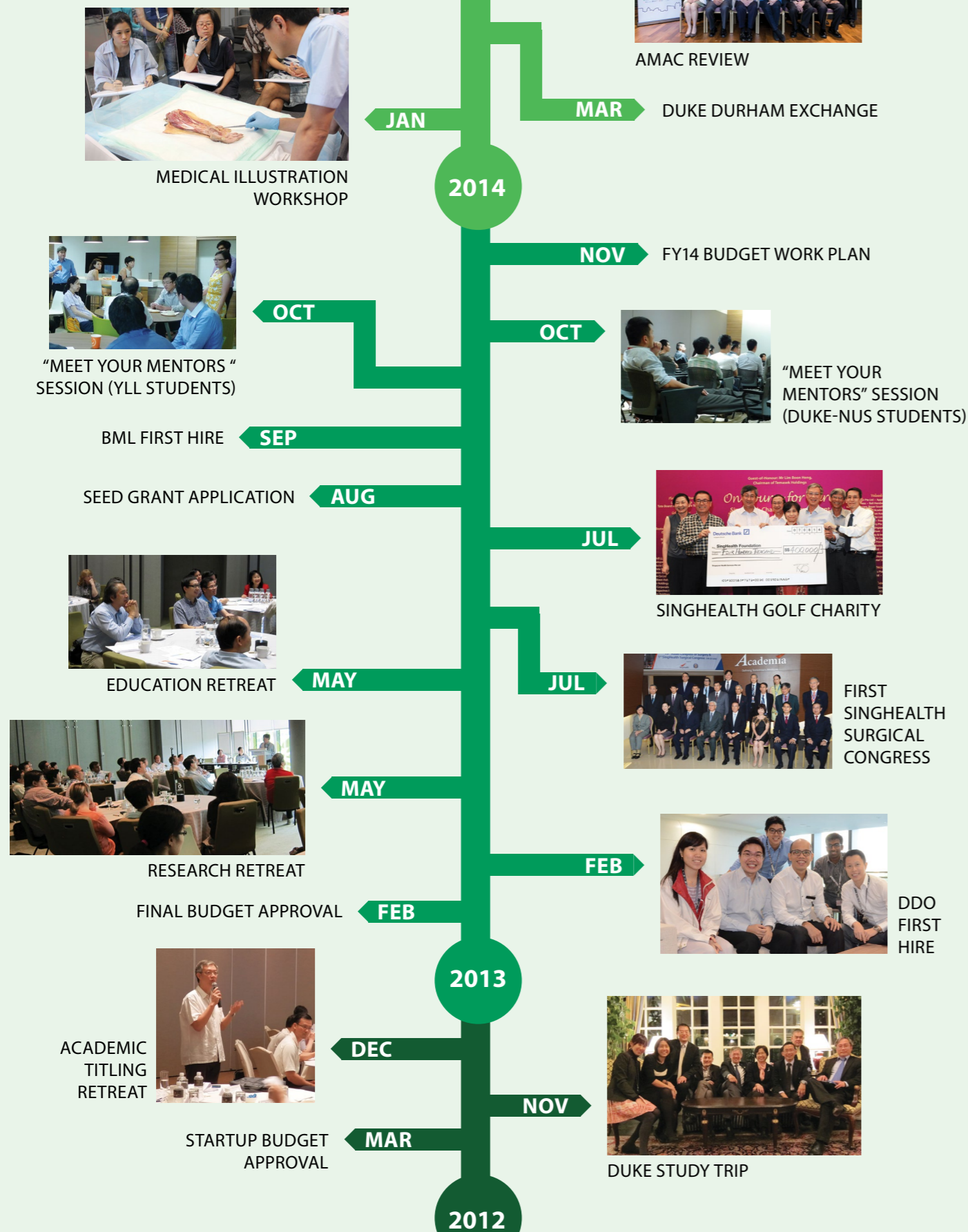
7 CLINICAL AND RESEARCH DATABASE REGISTRY (CARAR)

Led by Asst Prof Chew Min Hoe

- Provide manpower support to create, maintain and utilise new and existing database



CHARTING OUR JOURNEY 2012-2014



CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS 2013-2014

NMRC Research Training Fellowship Award



Amos Loh Hong Pheng, KKH
Carried out Research at St Jude Children's Research Hospital in the Department of Developmental Neurobiology & Department of Surgery from July 2013 to June 2014.



Tan Ek Khoon, SGH
Carried out Research at Institute of Translational Research, Ochsner Clinic Foundation from September 2013 to June 2014.



Tay Kae Jack, SGH
To carry out Research at Duke University Medical Centre, USA in the Department of Urology from January 2015 to June 2015 and from July 2016 to December 2016.

Division of Surgery STaR Award



Gerald Tay Ci An, SGH
Successfully conducted research and published a paper, "Squamous cell carcinoma of the ear arising in patients after radiotherapy for nasopharyngeal carcinoma" in European Archives of Oto-Rhino-Laryngology.



Shariq Ali Khan, SGH
Successfully conducted research and published a paper, "Effect of anaesthetic technique on mortality following major lower extremity amputation: a propensity score-matched observational study" in Anaesthesia.

NHG Outstanding Education Partners Award



Ruban A/L Poopalalingam, SGH
This award is for non-NHG Faculty (doctors) who have contributed to NHG education initiative.

NMRC CSA



N. Gopalakrishna Iyer, NCC
Conducting research titled "Genetic Determinants of Carcinoma of the tongue in the young: validation of targets using cell line models" from April 2013 to March 2016.

ACADEMIC TITLING

Through the SingHealth and Duke-NUS partnership, academic titling is put in place to recognise clinicians' contributions in teaching, research and care innovation. During the titling review exercise in Dec 2012, Surgery ACP reviewed a total of 218 clinicians. In Feb 2013, a list of 125 clinicians, nominated by HODs, Vice Chair (Education/Research/Clinical) and Academic Chair, was submitted to Duke-NUS for new appointment and promotion considerations. Through this exercise, we have 71 successful outcomes, out of which, five were promotions to Adjunct Associate Professor.

Congratulations to Our Newly Promoted Adjunct Associate Professors



Adj Assoc Prof Cheow Peng Chung



Adj Assoc Prof Rikhranj Singh



Adj Assoc Prof Low Yee



Adj Assoc Prof Lim Boon Leong Kevin



Adj Assoc Prof Tay Shian Chao Vincent