

# THE GIVING TIMES

AN ANNUAL ROUNDUP OF DEVELOPMENT NEWS IN SINGHEALTH

## More than \$30.5 million raised at the inaugural SingHealth Duke-NUS Gala Dinner

Funds raised will fuel medical research and education initiatives to improve health and bring the best care to patients

The inaugural SingHealth Duke-NUS Gala Dinner 2015, the highlight of the year for SingHealth's fundraising calendar, closed on a high note with more than \$30.5 million raised for medical research and education. The dinner, held on 30 August at the Ritz-Carlton, Millenia Singapore, was attended by more than 700 guests, with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, as the Guest of Honour.

In her Welcome Address, Professor Ivy Ng, Group CEO, SingHealth, highlighted the need to focus on medical research, clinical care and teaching as the foundation for continued excellence in an Academic Medical Centre (AMC). Even as we enjoy a very high standard of medicine in Singapore, Professor Ng emphasised the need to keep finding ways to prevent and predict the onset of disease, customise treatment to the individual and lower the risk of complications and adverse reactions. "There are still so many unanswered questions and we will strive on, undeterred and with relentless vigour, to seek out these answers so that we can indeed improve the lives of our population and our patients," she said.

Professor Soo Khee Chee, Deputy Group CEO, (Research and Education), SingHealth and Senior Vice Dean (Clinical, Academic and Faculty Affairs), Duke-NUS, delivered the evening's Keynote Address. Citing several personal encounters with his patients' medical crises, he noted that after the crises have been resolved, patients and their families are often overcome by a very strong sense of mission to help others because they have benefitted from the medical assistance rendered and want to prevent others from going through the same harrowing experience. Medical crises such as the SARS outbreak, also epitomise the drama, pathos and the terrible sense of loss that takes



(From left to right): Dr June Goh and A/Prof Lee Shu Yen (Co-Chair and Chairperson of the Organising Committee), Prof Ivy Ng (Group CEO, SingHealth), Mr Peter Seah (Chairman, SingHealth), DPM Tharman, Mr Kai Nargolwala (Chairman, Duke-NUS), Prof Tan Ser Kiat (Chairman, SingHealth Foundation) and Prof Soo Khee Chee (Dy Group CEO, SingHealth and Senior Vice Dean (Clinical, Academic and Faculty Affairs), Duke-NUS)

place. Yet, it is through such crises that the tremendous courage, tenacity, strong sense of mission and the vision to do good shine through.

**“When we ask you to be partners with us, you are partnering people of great courage, people who have given in and of their lives to the cause. This is a terribly worthy cause for all of you to think about supporting.”**

- Professor Soo Khee Chee

Professor Soo emphasised that while the Government is a key partner for healthcare transformation, everyone in the audience is a partner because of their support. He said, "Many of you will or have gone through a medical crisis at some point. When this happens, it is very important to know that

you have access to a physician (and medical team) that knows what he is doing – like the physicians in SingHealth." Professor Soo added that everyone can be a philanthropist. Some may have the resources to support the cause financially; others have the skills and the network to connect to those who can lend support. Most of all, he told the audience as he concluded his speech, "You have good will, and that is what we need of all of you tonight."

Themed 'A Symphony of Stars', the Gala Dinner brought together clinicians, researchers, educators and donors who share a strong conviction to improve health outcomes and quality of life for patients and the community. DPM Tharman witnessed cheque presentations from three major donors (see below, pages 2 and 3) to various Academic Clinical Programmes (ACPs), which are platforms for collaboration across different institutions. The presentation of the final cheque for the \$30.5 million raised



Leaders of SingHealth and Duke-NUS cutting the cake to celebrate 10 successful years of Academic Medicine partnership



Mr Peter Seah, (Chairman, SingHealth) proposing a toast to more successful years ahead in pursuing Academic Medicine

(excluding funds raised from the evening's auction) marked the climax for the evening. The funds were raised over one and a half years across institutions in the SingHealth Duke-NUS AMC, starting from April 2014. The silent auction, which took place throughout the Dinner, raised a further \$111,950.

The Gala Dinner was also celebration of a decade of successful Academic Medicine partnership between SingHealth and Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School. To commemorate this significant milestone, DPM Tharman joined the leaders of both organisations in a cake cutting ceremony.

The next SingHealth Duke-NUS Gala Dinner will be held in 2017.

## \$8.2 million needed to advance care for childhood brain and solid cancers

Brain and solid tumours constitute half of all childhood cancers seen in children, and are the second most common type group of cancers among children in Singapore today. Despite advances in the treatment of paediatric cancers, outcomes for most childhood solid tumours remain inferior to blood cancers. Unlike blood cancers, brain and solid tumours are more heterogeneous and complicated thus resulting in higher mortality rates. For children who survive after treatment, their quality of life is compromised and they often face problems integrating back to school and society.

To advance the care for childhood brain and solid tumours, KK Women's and Children's Hospital (KKH), Viva Foundation for Children

with Cancer (VIVA), and world-renown St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, USA, have agreed to establish the VIVA-KKH Paediatric Brain and Solid Tumour Programme. Spearheaded by KKH, this clinical and research programme will be a phased three-year pilot project and will leverage on KKH's strengths and networks in treating paediatric



Mdm Kay Kuok (fourth from left), with clinicians and guests at the Gala Dinner

A cheque of \$4.2 million was presented by Mdm Kay Kuok, Vice Chairman, Viva Foundation for Children with Cancer. VIVA Foundation will be helping to raise a further \$4 million to this cause

brain and solid tumours. St. Jude will lend its knowledge and expertise, while VIVA is helping to raise funds to make the programme possible. Thus far, VIVA has already helped to raise \$4.2 million for this programme through donations made to VIVA. It is now looking to find other like-minded partners and contributors for the remaining \$4 million to be raised.

The Programme will focus on three key areas:

- 1) Improving clinical care for childhood brain and solid cancers
- 2) Bench to bedside translational clinical research for childhood brain and solid cancers
- 3) Prevention, control and population-based science

This collaboration will elevate the level of clinical care, translational research and population science for childhood brain and solid tumours in Singapore. By integrating current expertise in Singapore and beyond into focused programmatic efforts, it will advance treatments and care to benefit many more children in the future.



3) Prevention, control and population-based science



Prof Ivy Ng (centre) with the Gala Dinner Organising Committee Chairperson A/Prof Lee Shu Yen (right) and Co-chair Dr June Goh (left)



DPM Tharman and Mrs Shanmugaratnam (centre, seated) with some of the members of SingHealth Board and Duke-NUS Governing Board



DPM Tharman, the Guest of Honour, and Mrs Shanmugaratnam as they enter the Grand Ballroom

# A Symphony of Stars

SingHealth Duke-NUS Gala Dinner 2015

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Everyone was a star at the inaugural SingHealth Duke-NUS Gala Dinner 2015. It was an evening filled with cosy conversations, heartfelt appreciation and special celebrations as clinicians and donors came together to advance medical research and education. Here are some highlights of the starry, starry night!

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Justice Chao Hick Tin (centre) with Ms Lim N and Mrs Yu-Foo Yee Shoon



Prof Ivy Ng giving her Welcome Address



(from left) Prof Soo Khee Chee, Prof Ivy Ng and Mr Peter Seah greeting Dr Tan Cheng Bock (second from right) and Mrs Tan Cheng Bock



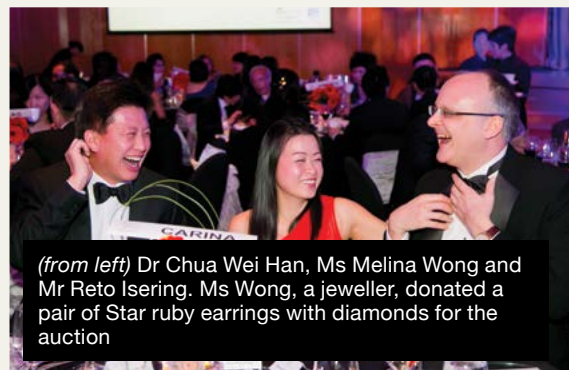
Mrs Teo Poh Yim, Board Member, SingHealth Foundation (left) and Mr and Mrs Kwee Liang Seen (right) arriving at the Ritz-Carlton, Millenia Singapore



(from left) Dr Andrew Chin, A/Prof Abhilash Balakrishnan, Dr Ruban Poopalalingam and Dr Barrie Tan



(from left) Mr William Ong, Ms Goh Chiat Jin, Ms Helina Chan and friend



(from left) Dr Chua Wei Han, Ms Melina Wong and Mr Reto Isering. Ms Wong, a jeweller, donated a pair of Star ruby earrings with diamonds for the auction



A/Prof Toh Han Chong, Deputy Director, National Cancer Centre co-hosting the dinner with Nikki

## Two million-dollar gifts to boost lymphoma research

The Oncology ACP received two \$1 million gifts to advance lymphoma research. The first is from the family of the late Dr Ling Chaw Ming, who was an orthopaedic surgeon with the National University of Singapore (NUS), which was located at the Singapore General Hospital from 1967 to 1976. Dr Ling was diagnosed with brain lymphoma last year and succumbed to pneumonia after two months of treatment.

The gift, which was made in his memory and as a gesture of appreciation for the care he received at the National Cancer Centre Singapore (NCCS), will go towards

establishing the Dr Ling Chaw Ming Lymphoma Research Endowment Fund. It supports the C M Ling Lymphoma Genomic Translational Research Programme, focused on understanding the genomics of lymphoma including the T-Cell and NK-Cell lymphomas which are more prevalent in Asians.

The other gift is fronted by the New Century Foundation. The anonymous donor was diagnosed with lymphoma a few years ago and has since recovered. The gift, which was made in celebration of new life will support lymphoma translational research. The Foundation has made several significant donations previously. This latest

**“ We hope the donation could in a small way spur the doctors and scientists in NCCS towards research on lymphoma as Chaw Ming had always valued the role of medical research towards the advancement of medicine. ”**

- Dr Chen Ai Ju, wife of the late Dr Ling Chaw Ming

\$1 million gift has allowed NCCS to take the lead in the International Cancer Genomics Consortium on blood cancers.



DPM Tharman and Prof Ivy Ng thanking Dr Chen Ai Ju on stage for the gift



...olin Low, President and CEO, Singapore Investment Development Corporation (seated, ... and from right) and guests at his table



(from left) Dr Boenjamin Setiawan, Mrs Poppy Setiawan and Dr Roy Soetikno



(from left) Mr Ali Hussain, Mrs Sukaina Ali Hussain, Ms Cindy Lau and Mr Victor Koh



...d Mrs Chao Hick Tin (second ... Mein Chee, A/Prof Yu Lee Wu



Mr Peter Seah, Chairman, SingHealth (left), presenting DPM Tharman (right) with a token of appreciation



Dr Chua Yang (left) with the calligraphy piece she donated for the auction. With her is Prof (Adj) George Yeo Seow Heong, Chief of Obstetric; Head and Senior Consultant, Maternal Fetal Medicine & Obstetric Ultrasound and Prenatal Diagnosis Unit



Mr Tony Chew, Board Member, SingHealth (right) with Mr Han Fook Kwang (left) and Mr Lee Kim Shin (centre), members of the Duke-NUS Governing Board



... Address



In line with the theme 'A Symphony of Stars', the 15-piece orchestra from the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music entertained guests with a classical piece from WA Mozart



(from left) Ms Imelda Tanoto, Mrs Tinh Tanoto and Mr Sukanto Tanoto



... Director and Senior ... Singapore (right) ... Muller



Prof Soo addressing guests on why philanthropy can shape the future of medicine during his Keynote Address



Prof Ivy Ng, Group CEO, SingHealth, welcomes DPM Tharman Shanmugaratnam and Mrs Shanmugaratnam



Artists, Mr Yew Kwang Min, Mdm Lau Kim Yet, Mr Tan Lee Song and Mr Jimmy Poh (from left to right), donated artwork for the evening's auction

## Children's Cancer Foundation contributes \$2.5 million to new Professorship in Paediatric Oncology

The Tan Cheng Lim-CCF Professorship in Paediatric Oncology under the Paediatrics ACP has been established with a \$2.5 million contribution from the Children's Cancer Foundation (CCF). Named in honour of one of Singapore's pioneers in paediatric oncology, Emeritus Consultant Professor Tan Cheng Lim, this Professorship recognises his distinguished 50-year career in shaping the practice and landscape of paediatric medicine in Singapore and the region. Professor Tan is one of the longest serving paediatrician in public healthcare.

This endowed Professorship will provide an excellent platform for collaboration with international centres of excellence to further the frontiers of clinical research in paediatric oncology, and pave the way for a future that

is free of childhood cancer in Singapore. On the impact of the pledge, Associate Professor Ng Kee Chong, Academic Chair of the Paediatrics ACP

**“CCF is a champion for children suffering from cancers. This partnership with the Paediatrics ACP will enhance the medical well-being of our children as they stand to benefit from the clinical research aimed at improving diagnosis, treatment and cure of childhood cancer.”**

- Mr Ho Cheng Huat, Chairperson, CCF

Dr Chong Tsung Wen (Chairman, Medical Alliances, CCF, second from left), presenting the cheque to Prof Ivy Ng (Group CEO, SingHealth, left), DPM Tharman (centre), A/Prof Ng Kee Chong (second from right) and Prof Soo Khee Chee (right)



said, "At KKH, we see more than 100 cases of paediatric cancers each year. We are very grateful to CCF for this contribution as this Professorship will enable us to pursue advancements in paediatric oncology. Eventually, the outcomes of advancing research and education in this area will undoubtedly touch the lives of many and bring much hope to our young patients and their families."

# Partner Us to Transform Tomorrow's Medicine

With the advent of genomic and personalised medicine, we are standing at the cusp of Medicine's next big revolution. We urge you to consider accelerating the positive impact on tomorrow's healthcare with your philanthropic investment today by supporting the different medical research and education causes across these different clinical specialties.

## Medicine ACP

### Rheumatology Research

Over 600,000 people in Singapore have a Rheumatological disease. There are more than 30 Rheumatological diseases, many of which are complex autoimmune conditions, affecting major organs and cause serious, life-threatening complications. The five focus areas of Rheumatology research are: Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, Systemic Sclerosis, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Osteoarthritis and Spondyloarthritis. The goals include looking into using biomarkers to identify those at risk of progressive disease and complications, improving treatment outcomes and conducting clinical trials of new medications and treatment options.

### Seah Cheng Siang Clinician Award

The late Prof Seah Cheng Siang, a luminary of SGH's leadership, was dedicated to the delivery of holistic patient care and the passing on of astute and compassionate bedside clinical practice to the young clinicians. In the spirit of honouring his legacy, this award aims to recognise exemplary performance of mid-career clinicians who have remained true to the practice of clinical medicine, holistically and compassionately. The award will also recognise the commitment of imparting knowledge to the next generation of doctors in the delivery of best patient care to patients as exemplified by the late Prof Seah.

For more information, please contact 6326 6378/ 6321 3792 or email [giftstosgh@sgh.com.sg](mailto:giftstosgh@sgh.com.sg)

## Ophthalmology ACP

As Singapore and the rest of Asia grapple with the challenges of an ageing population, age-related eye diseases will become a major healthcare concern. Singapore further has one of the highest rates of myopia in the world - a condition which can lead to blindness in one's later years. Conditions such as corneal disorders and ocular surface diseases account for 12 million cases of blindness around the world. Globally, an estimated 39 million people are blind today, yet four out of five don't have to be.

Vision loss robs people of their independence, mobility and quality of life. SNEC/ SERI's Vision Fund is a bold and transformational effort to leverage on philanthropic investments to enable holistic augmentation of ophthalmology care delivery. By harnessing the synergies of clinical services, strengthened by research and education, the goal is to save sight and transform the lives of our patients through innovative, cost-effective impactful eye care therapeutics, preventive and treatment strategies.

For more information on the Vision Fund, please contact 6576 7297 or email [isharethevision@sneec.com.sg](mailto:isharethevision@sneec.com.sg)

## Oral Health ACP

### New Methods of Jaw Reconstruction after Tumour Resection

Over 450,000 new cases of oral cancer are diagnosed globally each year. The current treatment involves removing part of the jaw and using a bone harvested from another part of the patient's body to fill the defect. This research focuses on two new methods of jaw reconstruction - modular endoprosthesis (metallic prosthesis) and bone tissue engineering - which potentially reduces the need for long surgical procedures and recovery period. These methods will significantly improve the quality of life for affected patients.

### Population Health and Health Services Research

This research seeks to look into data collection and analysis on a national scale to uncover links between oral diseases and medical conditions. Focus areas include identifying common risk factors between oral diseases and chronic diseases, determining the impact of oral diseases on psychosocial development and quality of life as well as the study of oral and craniofacial manifestations of systemic diseases.

For more information, please contact 6324 8929 or email [caroline.chia.l.i@ndcs.com.sg](mailto:caroline.chia.l.i@ndcs.com.sg)

## Neuroscience ACP

### NUS-NNI Pilot Collaborative Grant Programme

Research in neuroscience aims to achieve better understanding of basic physiological and disease mechanisms, discover new medical and surgical therapies in these core areas:

- Movement Disorders and related Neurodegenerative diseases
- Alzheimer's disease and related Dementias
- Stroke
- Neuro-Oncology
- Biosensors and advanced technological medical devices

The Programme will facilitate cross-institutional partnership in neuroscience research by pairing clinicians and scientists from the National University of Singapore (NUS) and National Neuroscience Institute (NNI) to work on research projects that will ultimately benefit neurological patients.

For more information, please contact 6357 7516 or email [cindy\\_sm\\_lau@nni.com.sg](mailto:cindy_sm_lau@nni.com.sg)

## Oncology ACP

In Singapore, on average, 15,000 new people are diagnosed with cancer every year. The focus is on researching into cancers that are common among Asians, including breast cancer, head and neck cancer, nasopharyngeal cancer, lymphoma and gastro-intestinal tract cancers. Philanthropic research grants enable scientists who have unique hypotheses for cancer prevention to uncover answers in both basic cancer biology research and clinical translational research. Grant awards in Fellowships and Professorships enable outstanding individuals to pursue cutting edge research in Oncology. Philanthropic gifts also support programmes to be developed for continuous upgrading of skills for doctors, nurses and allied health professionals in this specialty.

For more information, please contact 6236 9440 or email [donate@nccs.com.sg](mailto:donate@nccs.com.sg)

## Cardiovascular Sciences ACP

Cardiovascular disease (heart disease and stroke) is the underlying cause of more than 30% of deaths in Singapore.

### SingHEART

A comprehensive and longitudinal study of Singapore residents with and without cardiovascular diseases to develop a risk assessment tool. The aim is to understand how cardiac disease develops and progresses in healthy Singaporeans, the risk factors (genetic and acquired) and how individuals respond to treatment and why different individuals respond differently. Potentially, new diagnostic tools, more precise and personalised treatment can be developed.

### Understanding Cardiac Ageing in Asians

This is an unprecedented study of participants who have aged healthily without systemic disease or established risk factors of cardiovascular disease. The aim is to understand the key ageing processes in the heart to enable targeted treatments to be developed and used in middle age to prevent cardiac ageing.

For more information, please contact 6704 2384 or email [development@nhcs.com.sg](mailto:development@nhcs.com.sg)

## Paediatrics ACP

### Understanding the Genetics of Autism

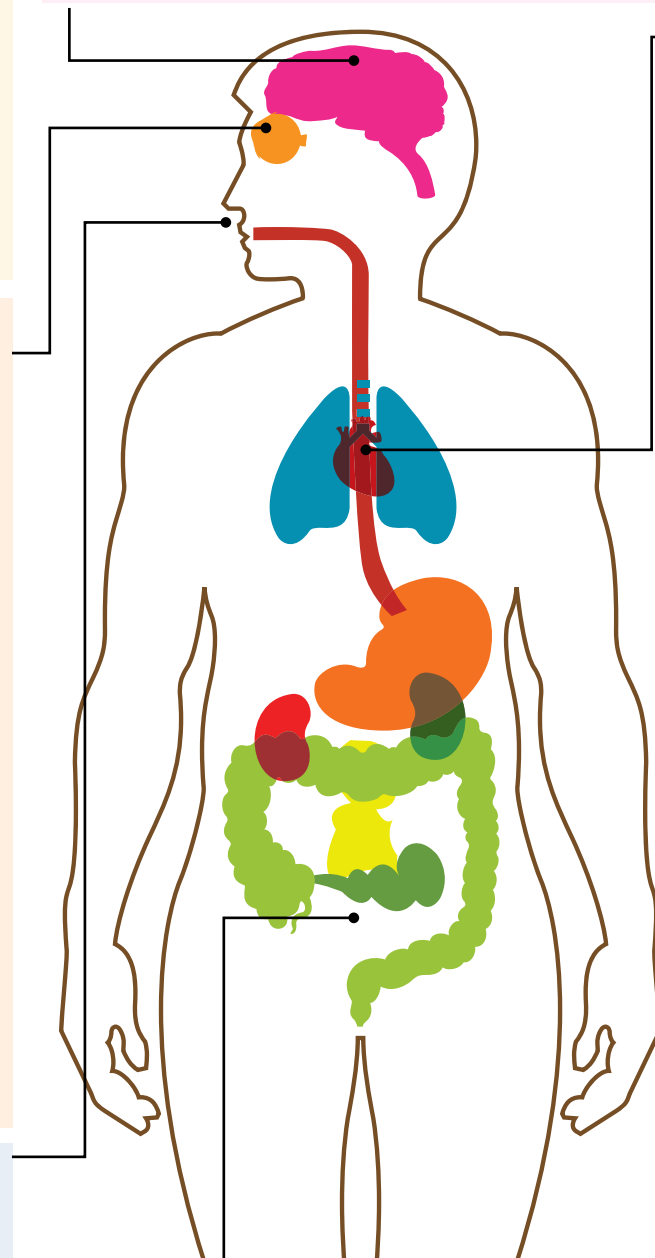
Autism affects more than 1% of children. More than 280 new cases are diagnosed in Singapore every year. Diverse genetic causes of autism inhibit preventive strategies like targeted therapies and prenatal genetics testing from being carried out. This research seeks to uncover the genetic causes of autism and similar genetic disorders in local patients using new genomic technologies. It may unravel potential treatable targets and will help guide families in future pregnancies.

### Predicting Diabetes-Associated Complications

In 2013, about 79,100 children globally developed Type 1 Diabetes (T1D), a life-long, chronic condition that could lead to blindness and kidney failure. The current treatment of multiple daily insulin injections poses a huge challenge as getting the exact dose for good diabetes control is extremely difficult. This research involves detailed screening of children for development of diabetic retinopathy and nephropathy and aims to improve identification of patients at high risk of these complications to facilitate early intervention.

For more information, please contact 6394 8180 or email [development@kkh.com.sg](mailto:development@kkh.com.sg)

Other ACPs in the SingHealth Duke-NUS AMC include: Anaesthesiology ACP, Family Medicine ACP, Pathology ACP, Radiological Sciences ACP and Surgery ACP. If you wish to find out about opportunities for support in these ACPs, please email: [giving@singhealth.com.sg](mailto:giving@singhealth.com.sg).



## Obstetrics & Gynaecology ACP

In Singapore, 20% of pregnant women develop complications due to premature delivery and reduced fetal growth. At the moment, there are no reliable predictive tests that will enable doctors to take preventive measures. These complications can cause disease or death in babies and increase their risk of developing cardiovascular and metabolic diseases later in life.

Pregnancy Research to Improve Mother and Child Outcomes (PRIMO) is a multi-pronged, longitudinal approach to develop new ways to prevent or intervene in cases where complications arise. In the future, pregnant women could be routinely screened as part of pre-natal care and stratified according to their risk for complications early in the pregnancy.

For more information, please contact 6394 5019 or email [development@kkh.com.sg](mailto:development@kkh.com.sg)