



OUTSTANDING HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS RECOGNISED AT NHG AWARDS 2019

*Pioneer of Geriatric Medicine in Singapore Receives
Lifetime Achievement Award*

24 May 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The National Healthcare Group (NHG) honoured 41 individuals and 13 teams across seven award categories at its annual NHG Awards today, in recognition of their exemplary contributions to public healthcare in Singapore. The awards were presented by Guest-of-Honour and NHG Chairman, Madam Kay Kuok at a ceremony held at the Khoo Teck Puat Hospital (KTPH) Auditorium.

Said Madam Kuok, “NHG continues to commit resources and efforts to develop and recognise its staff. Our NHG Award recipients today exemplify People-centredness, Integrity, Compassion, and Stewardship in their meaningful work, in their collaboration, and in their conduct with colleagues and partners in the community.”

LEE FOUNDATION – NHG LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Lee Foundation-NHG Lifetime Achievement Award acknowledges clinicians who have contributed significantly to elevate the quality of public healthcare and the lives of Singaporeans.

This year’s top award was presented to **Professor Pang Weng Sun**, Deputy Group Chief Executive Officer (Population Health), NHG, for his pioneering work in Geriatric Medicine and Palliative Care. Since the 1990s, Prof Pang has played a paramount role in building capacity for Geriatric Medicine in Singapore, such as by setting up the Society for Geriatric Medicine and developing the curriculum for the two fields in postgraduate medical education. Currently a Senior Consultant in the Department of Geriatric Medicine at KTPH and Yishun Community Hospital (YCH), Prof Pang continues to work closely with the Ministry of Health (MOH) in population health and eldercare-related committees, and on Advance Care Planning (ACP) in Singapore. He was also instrumental in developing Palliative Care services in Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH). As Vice-Dean (Clinical Affairs) in the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCmedicine), Prof Pang is well-respected as a leader, and in NHG, he is valued for his “heart” in teaching, mentoring, and moulding future healthcare leaders. Prof Pang’s role to groom doctors goes beyond educating them, to giving counsel on building relationships of care and trust with patients and the community. For his lifelong dedication and contribution to public healthcare, he was bestowed the National Outstanding Clinician Educator at the National Medical Excellence Awards (NMEA) 2016, and the National Day Long Service Award 2018.

NHG DISTINGUISHED SENIOR CLINICIAN AWARD (DSCA)

The Distinguished Senior Clinician Award recognises veteran doctors or surgeons for their contributions in clinical, education and research practice. The three winners of this award were:

Dr Wong En Shen, Daniel a Senior Consultant in Diagnostic Radiology at TTSH is one of the pioneers of Vascular and Interventional Radiology (VIR). Dr Wong has built up a team of interventionists, which performs about 8,000 interventions across various specialties per year. As the Programme Director of the NHG Diagnostic Radiology Residency Programme, he is a passionate educator who has mentored successive generations of diagnostic radiologists for over 20 years. Dr Wong was awarded the NHG Teaching Excellence Award in 2014.

Associate Professor Chin Thaim Wai is a Senior Consultant in Orthopaedics at KTPH, and is internationally renowned as a specialist in joint reconstructive surgeries. He has handled numerous complex conditions, especially in the areas of hip replacement surgery, trauma and sports procedures. A/Prof Chin's clinical services extend beyond the hospital – he is a member of the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) Work Injury Compensation Medical Board. Furthermore, he has participated in humanitarian aid, being the Medical Team Lead for Relief Mission to Yogyakarta in 2006.

Associate Professor Alan Ng Wei Keong is a respected and long-serving physician in Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine in Singapore. Currently a Senior Consultant at TTSH, A/Prof Ng established the interventional bronchoscopy services for the hospital. His contributions to healthcare delivery and innovation have also been recognised. For example, the Medical Ambulatory Centre (MAC), of which he is the Clinical Director, was presented three awards in 2016: the Asian Hospital Management Excellence Award, National Healthcare Innovation and Productivity Award (Excellence Champion Award) and the NHG Team Recognition Award.

NHG DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Distinguished Achievement Award was presented to four clinicians, in recognition of their remarkable careers and contributions to NHG's multi-faceted strategic aims in clinical, operational, educational and research areas. The winners were:

Professor Lim Tock Han is the Deputy Group Chief Executive Officer (Education and Research) at NHG and a Senior Consultant at the Department of Ophthalmology, TTSH. He was the Medical Director, NHG Eye Institute and previously Head, Department of Ophthalmology, TTSH. In 2008, he became the founding President of the College of Ophthalmologists, Academy of Medicine, Singapore. Prof Lim sits on several Singapore national committees, and is the chair of the Residency Advisory Committee (RAC), and Optometry and Optician Board (OOB), Ministry of Health, Singapore. He also chairs the research committee of NHG and sits on the steering committees of Skin Research Institute of Singapore (SRIS) and Rehabilitation Research Institute of Singapore (RRIS). Prof Lim's other contributions have enabled efficient treatment, and brought specialised and cost-effective eye care to the community. These include one of the region's first Cytomegalovirus Retinitis (CMVR) Tele-ophthalmology Screening Services in 2002, Mobile Diabetic Retinal Photography (MDRP) in 2004, and the Fundus Imaging Reading Centre (FIRC) in 2007.

Associate Professor Tan Thai Lian is a Senior Consultant and Assistant Chairman Medical Board (Special Projects) at TTSH. He was recently appointed Deputy Chairman Medical Board at Woodlands Health Campus (WHC). Passionate about community care, A/Prof Tan was one of the key persons who conceptualised and helped establish the Division of Integrative and Community Care in TTSH in 2008. It was the first such division dedicated to integrating care beyond hospital walls. As Clinical Director of Ren Ci Hospital from 2009 to 2013, A/Prof Tan advocated seamless transition between hospital and home for patients. Under his leadership and guidance, unplanned admissions from Ren Ci Hospital to TTSH reduced by up to 50 per cent.

Senior Consultant **Associate Professor Lim Su Chi** has actively been involved in translational and clinical research as the Clinical Director of Clinical Research Unit, Yishun Health, since 2003. He established two long-term prospective diabetes cohorts, comprising over 6,000 participants, to serve as a resource for research projects that gained both local and international recognition. His team also works to identify individuals with young-onset diabetes due to a single gene mutation (known as monogenic diabetes) and advance our understanding of the distribution and determinants of diabetic kidney disease in Singapore.

Associate Professor John Arputhan Abisheganaden is a Senior Consultant at TTSH. As Head of the TTSH Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine department, and Clinical Director of the Case Management Unit, he introduced five new services in the department, and spearheaded TTSH's Transitional Care re-Organisation (TCO). TCO facilitates patients' timely and safe transition from hospital to home. He consistently provides a high quality of care delivery, and has received service champion awards, a quality pillar award, and the Chief Executive Officer's Quality Service Award at TTSH. An expert in asthma, sleep-related breathing disorders and respiratory disease management, A/Prof Abisheganaden is a regular speaker at regional conferences, and an Adjunct Associate Professor in LKCMedicine.

NHG TEAM RECOGNITION AWARD

Thirteen teams were commended for their exemplary achievements, including the Gold winners as follows:

Improving Transfer Process from TTSH to Central Community Hospitals

Led by Ms Hayley Chau

Deputy Director, Operations (Community)

TTSH

To spearhead care integration efforts and improve Acute Hospital (AH) to Community Hospital (CH) transfer experiences, TTSH collaborated with Ren Ci Hospital and Ang Mo Kio Thye Hua Kwan Hospital (AMK-THKH) in the Central region to value-stream map and enhance communication links. This helped streamlined processes for greater efficiency and higher manpower productivity via centralised platforms: Integrated Clinical Care Model, enabled by joint clinical governance and shared Electronic Medical Records (EMR), and a seamless transfer process with fewer administrative steps. Patients now access earlier appropriate care and rehabilitation that bridges their return to the community.

Excellence through Collaboration – KTPH Multidisciplinary Trauma Team

Led by Dr Jerry Goo Tiong Thye, Consultant

Dr Sanjay Anilkumar Patel, Head of Department, Senior Consultant

KTPH

Based on the National Trauma Registry data, KTPH has the second highest volume of Tier 1 trauma cases (severely to critically injured patients with Injury Severity Score (ISS) > 15) in 2017 among all tertiary institutions in Singapore. Despite this, KTPH's multidisciplinary trauma team has achieved excellent Tier 1 trauma results with case fatality rate (CFR) of 9.1 per cent in 2017 – the lowest among acute hospitals in Singapore – as a result of good teamwork and communication as well as new initiatives put in place. One of the initiatives to improve survival rates is the Critical Haemorrhage to Operating Room Protocol (CHOP) for patients with massive bleeding. The team also conducts regular inter-professional trauma simulation training and in-house trauma nursing courses three times a year.

A complete list of the NHG Award Winners 2019 can be found in Annex A.

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About National Healthcare Group

The National Healthcare Group (NHG) is a leader in public healthcare in Singapore, recognised at home and abroad for the quality of its medical expertise and facilities. Care is provided through an integrated network of six primary care polyclinics, acute care and tertiary hospitals, national speciality centres and business divisions. Together they bring a rich legacy of medical expertise to our philosophy of integrated patient-centred care.

NHG's vision is '*Adding Years of Healthy Life*'. This vision goes beyond merely healing the sick to the more difficult and infinitely more rewarding task of preventing illness and preserving health and quality of life. With some 18,000 staff, NHG aims to provide care that is patient-centric, accessible, seamless, comprehensive, appropriate and cost-effective.

As the Regional Health System (RHS) for Central Singapore, it is vital for NHG to partner and collaborate with stakeholders, community advisors, and voluntary welfare organisations. Together with our patients, their families and caregivers, we aim to deliver integrated healthcare services and programmes that help in *Adding Years of Healthy Life* to all concerned. More information is available at www.nhg.com.sg.

About the NHG Awards

The annual National Healthcare Group (NHG) Awards started in 2001 with the inaugural Lee Foundation-NHG Lifetime Achievement Award. New categories for NHG Distinguished Contributor Award and NHG Outstanding Citizenship Award were added in 2005, with a third category for NHG Distinguished Achievement Award included in 2007. Collectively known as the NHG Awards, it recognises the dedicated healthcare professionals across NHG who go the extra mile.

ANNEX A

Awards in six individual categories and one team category were given out this year.

NHG AWARD CATEGORIES

- 1. Lee Foundation – NHG Lifetime Achievement Award** – recognises NHG medical doctors and dental clinicians who have made significant and impactful achievements throughout their medical career, particularly in elevating the quality of public healthcare services for the benefit of the Singapore community. **(1 Winner)**
- 2. NHG Distinguished Senior Clinician Award** – recognises leading experts who have made distinguished contributions to the medical/dental professions, the Singapore public healthcare sector and the international community, in the areas of clinical service, education, and research. **(3 Winners)**
- 3. NHG Distinguished Achievement Award** – recognises NHG staff who have achieved remarkable careers and contributed to NHG’s multi-faceted strategic objectives in the clinical, operational, educational, or research arenas. **(4 Winners)**
- 4. NHG Outstanding Citizenship Award** – recognises NHG staff who have made immense contributions to NHG’s strategic objectives and taken on additional responsibilities outside of their own portfolios. **(10 Winners)**
- 5. NHG Young Achiever Award** – recognises the future leaders of NHG who have made significant contributions beyond their daily job functions to positively impact the organisation. **(16 Winners)**
- 6. NHG Education Leaders Award** – recognises NHG staff who assume leadership roles in multiple venues related to education and demonstrate emotional competence to build trust and lead people from different professions and backgrounds for educational excellence. **(7 Winners)**
- 7. NHG Team Recognition Award** – recognises top-performing teams who have contributed significantly to the improvement of healthcare delivery processes. **(13 Teams)**

List of Chinese Translations

国立健保集团	National Healthcare Group (NHG)
国立健保集团杰出奖	NHG Awards
李氏基金终身成就奖	Lee-Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award
杰出高级临床医师奖	Distinguished Senior Clinician Award
杰出成就奖	Distinguished Achievement Award
卓越公民奖	Outstanding Citizenship Award
青年成就奖	Young Achiever Award
教育领袖奖	Education Leaders Award
团队赞誉奖	Team Recognition Award

List of Chinese Names (Top three award categories)

彭荣新教授	Professor Pang Weng Sun
黄伟强副教授	Associate Professor Alan Ng Wei Keong
王恩深医生	Dr Wong En Shen, Daniel
陳添威副教授	Associate Professor Chin Thaim Wai
林卓汉教授	Professor Lim Tock Han
陳筛廉副教授	Associate Professor Tan Thai Lian
林舒奇副教授	Associate Professor Lim Su Chi

FULL LIST OF WINNERS

Award Category	No.	Winners	Institutions
Lee Foundation – NHG Lifetime Achievement (LA) Award	1	Professor Pang Weng Sun	NHGHQ
NHG Distinguished Senior Clinician Award (DSCA)	1	Associate Professor Alan Ng Wei Keong	TTSH
	2	Dr Wong En Shen Daniel	TTSH
	3	Associate Professor Chin Thaim Wai	KTPH
NHG Distinguished Achievement (DA) Award	1	Professor Lim Tock Han	NHGHQ
	2	Associate Professor Tan Thai Lian	TTSH
	3	Associate Professor Lim Su Chi	KTPH
	4	Associate Professor John Arputhan Abisheganaden	TTSH
NHG Outstanding Citizenship (OC) Award	1	Ms Ting Mei See	Institute of Mental Health (IMH)
	2	Associate Professor Swapna Kamal Verma	IMH
	3	Ms Low Beng Hoi	KTPH
	4	Dr Wong Sweet Fun	KTPH
	5	Mr David Kok Hwa Chieh	NHGP
	6	Dr Wee Wei Keong	NHGP
	7	Ms Lim Bee Khim Brenda	NSC
	8	Ms Eunice Toh	TTSH
	9	Dr Chow Li Ping Angela	TTSH
	10	Ms Pua Lay Hoon	WHC
NHG Education Leader Award (ELA)	1	Associate Professor Clare Yeo Kwang Ngee	IMH
	2	Associate Professor Yip Chee Chew	KTPH
	3	Ms Lee Yoke Kee	KTPH
	4	Associate Professor Wong Teck Yee	TTSH
	5	Dr Llewellyn Lee Kuang Ming	TTSH
	6	Associate Professor Michelle Jong	TTSH
	7	Ms Tan Keng Teng	TTSH
NHG Young Achiever Award (YA)	1	Ms Teo Ginnyueh	IMH
	2	Ms Li Ziqiang	IMH

	3	Dr Geraldine Cheong Pei Chin	KTPH
	4	Ms Sharon Toh Fong Mei	KTPH
	5	Ms Phyllis Tan Xiuzhuang	KTPH
	6	Ms Debbie Do Nguyen Ngoc Thuy	KTPH
	7	Ms Ong Soo Im	NHG Ph
	8	Dr Lim Ziliang	NHGP
	9	Dr Serene Zhang Ruping	NHGP
	10	Mr Seto Benjamin	TTSH
	11	Dr Neo Han Yee	TTSH
	12	Ms Lee Sin Yi	TTSH
	13	Ms Hnin Nwe Oo	TTSH
	14	Ms Chong Yi San	TTSH
	15	Ms Teo Kaiting	TTSH
	16	Ms Wong Xiu Qing Clara	TTSH
NHG Team Recognition Award (TRA)			
Gold	1	Improving Transfer Process from TTSH to Central Community Hospitals (AMK-THKH and Ren Ci Hospital)	TTSH
	2	Excellence Through Collaboration – KTPH Multidisciplinary Trauma Team	KTPH
	3	Frequent Readmitters Programme	TTSH
Silver	4	Less is for More : Lean Cataract Surgery Care Path	KTPH
	5	Slow Stream Rehabilitation Program (Psychiatric)	IMH
	6	An Integrated Dermatology Service for Long-stay Patients in Institute of Mental Health (IMH)	IMH
	7	NHG Polyclinics Chronic Care Plan (NHGP CCP)	NHGP
	8	Medication Clinic	NHGP
Bronze	9	Campus Flow and Care Integration Team	KTPH
	10	Lighter Life - Tiered Weight Management For Patients With Chronic Diseases	NHGP
	11	The Hut Team	IMH
	12	ACP Pilot in Primary Care	NHGP
	13	Early Supported Discharge (ESD) Home Rehabilitation Programme	TTSH