



VISIONARY LEADERS IN PUBLIC HEALTHCARE RECOGNISED AT NHG AWARDS 2021

Illuminating our Future Together

27 August 2021

For Immediate Release

The National Healthcare Group (NHG) honoured 62 individuals and 21 teams across seven award categories at its annual NHG Awards today, in recognition of their outstanding contributions to patient care, clinical practice, training, education, and research in public healthcare. The awards were presented by NHG Chairman, Mr Tan Tee How during a virtual ceremony.

Said Mr Tan, “We pay tribute to all healthcare frontliners in our fight against COVID-19. Their efforts have paved Singapore’s transition into the “new normal”, living with COVID-19 as an endemic. Our NHG Awards recipients have collectively raised the standards of NHG’s healthcare delivery, and brought about positive outcomes for our patients and the community we serve. In the “new normal”, NHG will continue with its ‘River of Life’ transformation drive. This will support the Ministry of Health’s (MOH) adoption of the population health approach to improving the overall health of Singaporeans, enhancing patient outcomes, containing healthcare cost increases, and attaining staff satisfaction for their work.”

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 Leo Yee Sin**, Executive Director, National Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCID) and **Associate Professor Ong Thiew Chai**, Emeritus Consultant, Psychiatry, Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH).

Prof Leo was recognised for her exemplary contributions and pivotal role in Singapore’s successful management of various infectious disease outbreaks, such as the 2003 SARS crisis, and 2009 H1N1 influenza outbreak. Prof Leo spent more than one decade of her career on the treatment and care of HIV patients. She set up the first HIV Programme at the Communicable Disease Centre (CDC) in 1995, which provided comprehensive care to HIV patients at a time when community support and treatments were scarce. In 1997, Prof Leo established the Patient Care Centre (PCC) at the CDC, a safe, tranquil space for HIV patients that also served as a day care centre. As Executive Director of NCID, Prof Leo has been at the forefront of Singapore’s COVID-19 pandemic efforts to-date. She chairs the National COVID-19 Research Workgroup (RWG), which consists of members from NCID, Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), National University of Singapore (NUS), Duke-NUS Medical School, MOH, National Research Foundation, National University Hospital (NUH), Nanyang Technological University (NTU), National Medical Research Council (NMRC), DSO National Laboratories, Singapore Clinical Research Institute and NHG. The Workgroup’s research efforts to understand COVID-19 transmission in Singapore have since contributed immensely to the nation’s success in managing the pandemic. As a renowned Infectious Disease clinician, Prof Leo’s expert views and clinical experience have been widely

sought by numerous international medical and research institutions, including the World Health Organization (WHO). She was awarded the National Day Award – The Public Administration Medal (Silver) in 2020 for her outstanding contributions to the management of infectious disease outbreaks in Singapore.

A/Prof Ong was honoured for his pioneering work in psychiatry at various healthcare institutions in Singapore. He was a member of the team responsible for the planning and design of the Institute of Mental Health (IMH), whose task involved studying numerous psychiatric hospitals in both public and private correctional institutions in the United States of America, the United Kingdom and Hong Kong. A/Prof Ong played a key role in establishing the first Alcohol Treatment Centre at the former Woodbridge Hospital; the Trafalgar Home for patients with schizophrenia (Pelangi Home), the first of its kind in the world; and Mandalay Day Centre, Singapore's first day centre for psychiatric patients. A/Prof Ong founded and led TTSH's Psychological Medicine Department for 16 years (1986 – 2002). In 1992, he set up the unit of Psychological Medicine in Ward 13, the first unit of its kind in an acute hospital setting, with minimal resources. Today, the department is the second busiest Psychiatry Department in Singapore, after the IMH.

DISTINGUISHED SENIOR CLINICIAN AWARD

The Distinguished Senior Clinician Award recognises veteran doctors or surgeons for their contributions in clinical, education, and research practice.

Associate Prof Lee Cheng, JP, PPA(G), Clinical Director, Office of Population Health and Programme Director, National Addictions Management Service (NAMS) at IMH was acknowledged for his distinguished contributions towards improving the treatment and care of patients with mental health issues. He led the review of clinical processes in multiple programmes and services across IMH to enhance quality and timely care of patients, including NAMS, the Emergency Services (ES), and community mental health services. A/Prof Lee has worked closely with the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) and Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) to strengthen care for servicemen, especially recruits with adjustment disorder. A/Prof Lee has been the Chief CARE (Caring Action In Response to Emergencies) Officer for MOH since 2005, and holds other key appointments at mental health social service agencies.

Associate Professor Chua Sze Hon is a Senior Consultant at the National Skin Centre (NSC), and recognised for his innovative approach to the treatment of skin cancers and other skin conditions. Under his leadership, the Micrographic Surgery Unit was established, providing the surgical management of high risk non-melanoma skin cancers. A/Prof Chua also introduced the Visia photographic system to better track treatment outcomes in patients undergoing laser surgery. In addition, he spearheaded the establishment of the Mandalay Clinic Laser & Procedure Suites at NSC. A/Prof Chua is passionate about training the next generation of dermatologists. He has headed the Centre's Division of Medical Education since 2003, where he implemented evidenced-based structured teaching pedagogies to improve dermatology training outcomes.

NHG DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Distinguished Achievement Award recognises clinicians who have achieved remarkable careers and contributions to NHG's multi-faceted strategic aims in clinical, operational, educational, and research areas. It was presented to:

Associate Professor Thong Yu Hor Bernard, Senior Consultant, Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology, TTSH, has been actively involved in the development of shared care services both within NHG and in the community. A/Prof Thong supported the development of programmes in drug allergy, food allergy, anaphylaxis and allergen immunotherapy. He worked with SAF on a programme to evaluate pre-enlistees with suspected food allergy/anaphylaxis. During his tenure as Head of Department of Rheumatology, Allergy and

Immunology, TTSH, he initiated several interdisciplinary initiatives and developed subspecialty programmes for various rheumatic and allergic/immunologic diseases to enhance care for patients. This includes the National Healthcare Group Polyclinics (NHGP) Musculoskeletal Clinics in Woodlands and Ang Mo Kio Polyclinics for rheumatology patients, the guidelines on gout/ osteoporosis management in primary care settings, and formulary alignment between TTSH and NHGP pharmacies to facilitate right-siting and discharge of stable patients from the hospital's Specialist Outpatient Clinics (SOCs). He was awarded the World Allergy Organisation Presidential Recognition and Collaboration Award 2011.

Assistant Professor Alex Su Hsin Chuan, Clinical Director, Care Transformation Office and Chief, Recovery Care at IMH is focused on enhancing care for vulnerable psychiatric patients in IMH. Asst Prof Su, in partnership with Nursing and Allied Health specialists, initiated several major changes to improve the care of long-stay psychiatric patients, including categorising patients based on their diagnosis and care needs, and the introduction of new clinical care models. One of his main interests is rehabilitating patients to regain functioning and even work. He has also championed different safety taskforces to prevent falls, choking, assaults, and reduce the use of restraints on patients. A manual produced by the assault reduction taskforce has since been used to train new staff in effective ways to calm patients who display aggressive behaviour and to prevent assault incidents.

The complete list of the NHG Award Winners 2021 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 specialty 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 20,000 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. **(2 Winners)**
- 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. **(6 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. **(6 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. **(20 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. **(27 Winners)**
- 6. NHG Team Recognition Award** – recognises top-performing teams who have contributed significantly to the improvement of healthcare delivery processes. **(21 Teams)**
- 7. NHG Distinguished Contributor (DC) Award** – recognises non-NHG staff who have been instrumental in supporting NHG’s strategic objectives and made significant contributions to NHG in their personal capacity. **(2 Winners)**

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
团队赞誉奖	Team Recognition Award

List of Chinese Names (Top three award categories)

梁玉心教授	Professor Leo Yee Sin
王宙才副教授	Associate Professor Ong Thiew Chai
李清副教授	Associate Professor Lee Cheng
蔡思汉副教授	Associate Professor Chua Sze Hon
汤友豪副教授	Associate Professor Thong Yu Hor Bernard
苏心荃兼职助理教授	Assistant Professor Alex Su Hsin Chuan

FULL LIST OF WINNERS

Award Category	S/N	Winners	Institutions
Lee Foundation – NHG Lifetime Achievement (LA) Award	1	Professor Leo Yee Sin	NCID
	2	Associate Professor Ong Thiew Chai	TTSH
NHG Distinguished Senior Clinician Award (DSCA)	1	Associate Professor Lee Cheng, JP, PPA(G)	IMH
	2	Associate Professor Chua Sze Hon	NSC
	3	Associate Professor Kwek Tong Kiat	TTSH
	4	Associate Professor Tan Yu-Ling Jackie	TTSH
	5	Associate Professor James Alvin Low Yiew Hock	Khoo Teck Puat Hospital (KTPH)
	6	Associate Professor Mohan S/O Tiruchittampalam	Woodlands Health (WH)
NHG Distinguished Achievement (DA) Award	1	Associate Professor Thong Yu Hor Bernard	TTSH
	2	Associate Professor Chong Bee Kiang	TTSH
	3	Associate Professor Chong Yew Lam	TTSH
	4	Associate Professor Wong Mary @ Wong Fong Mun	TTSH
	5	Assistant Professor Alex Su Hsin Chuan	IMH
	6	Mrs Chew Kwee Tiang	NHGHQ
NHG Outstanding Citizenship (OC) Award	1	Ms Loh Shu Ching	TTSH
	2	Associate Professor Chew Ek Kwang Daniel	TTSH
	3	Dr Wee Seng Kwee	TTSH
	4	Ms Poh Bee Fong	TTSH
	5	Associate Professor Koh Yong Hwang Mervyn	TTSH
	6	Assistant Professor Shawn Vasoo Sushilan	NCID
	7	Dr Soon Mei Ling Margaret	NCID
	8	Ms Cheong Choy Fong	KTPH/ YH
	9	Associate Professor Pek Wee Yang	KTPH/ YH
	10	Associate Professor Francis Lee Chun Yue	KTPH/ YH
	11	Dr Chua Wei Chong	WH
	12	Ms Poh Chee Lien	WH
	13	Ms Ong Bee Cheng Samantha	IMH

	14	Ms Chen Yee Chui	NHGP
	15	Dr Simon Lee Bing Ming	NHGP
	16	Dr Kenneth Low Meng Tze	NHGP
	17	Dr Lim Chee Kong	NHGP
	18	Dr Colin Tan Yong Hui	NHGP
	19	Associate Professor Steven Thng Tien Guan	NSC
	20	Ms Ng Poh Ling Yvonne	NHGHQ
NHG Young Achiever (YA) Award	1	Ms Lynn Lee Xuan Lin	TTSH
	2	Dr How Kwang Yeong	TTSH
	3	Ms Ng Eng Boey	TTSH
	4	Ms Ang Nancy	TTSH
	5	Dr Quek Peng Lim	TTSH
	6	Ms Poh Liang Siang Suriani	TTSH
	7	Ms Zhuang Sijia Brenda	TTSH
	8	Dr Joshua Hii Shiun Jiin	KTPH/YH
	9	Ms Ng Huoy Ling	KTPH/YH
	10	Dr Jerry Goo Tiong Thye	KTPH/YH
	11	Ms Jolia Low Hui Yu	KTPH/YH
	12	Ms Giang Thuy Anh	KTPH/YH
	13	Ms Ng Siok Qi	KTPH/YH
	14	Mr Kendrick Nigel Co Tan	KTPH/YH
	15	Dr Lim Wen Phei	WH
	16	Ms Tan Hong Yun	WH
	17	Ms Koh Yueting	WH
	18	Dr Er Chaozer	WH
	19	Mr Tan Chee Shiong Edwin	IMH
	20	Ms Sharon Chen Mei Yan	NHGP
	21	Dr Tan Khai Wei	NHGP
	22	Dr Jonathan Chong Ern-Ji	NHGP
	23	Dr Liu Changwei	NHGP
	24	Mr Ryan Chua Rongyue	NSC
	25	Ms Janet Teng	NHGHQ
	26	Ms Mageshwari D/O Ramanathan Chettiar	NHGHQ
NHG Team Recognition Award (TRA)			
Gold	1	Comprehensive Tele-Consultation Services for Chronic Disease Care	NHGP
	2	Primary Tech-Enhanced Care (PTEC) Hypertension Home BP Telemonitoring Programme	NHGP
	3	COVID-19 Community Care Facilities (CCF) Team	WH
	4	Integrated Care of Obesity & Diabetes (ICOD)	YH
	5	Holistic Approach in Lowering and Tracking Chronic Kidney Disease (HALT-CKD)	NHGP
Silver	6	Caritas iCommunity@North - Integrated Team-based Care for Dementia	YH
	7	Empowering Patients Through Digital Innovation	NHGP

	8	Community Health Post (CHP) – Health Coach	TTSH
	9	Integrated Diabetes Care Programme (IDCP)	TTSH
	10	Project CONNECT	NHGHQ
	11	Project CARE – Care At the end of life for Residents in the homes for Elderly	TTSH
	12	Community Health Assessment Team (CHAT)	IMH
	13	NCID Clinical HIV Programme	NCID
Bronze	14	Complex Care Coordination Programme	TTSH
	15	Yishun Health Self-Managed Autonomous Regional Teams (SMART)	YH
	16	Enabling Collective Leadership in NHG	NHGHQ
	17	Care Closer to Home - Hougang Polyclinic's Collaboration with Nursing Homes for Video-consultation	NHGP
	18	Emergency Services (ES)	IMH
	19	The GAMUT of care in the acute Geriatric Assessment Unit	YH
	20	TTSH Coordinating Advisory Care Team (CoACT)	TTSH
	21	Caring for Frail and Vulnerable Patients Beyond Specialist Outpatient Clinic	NSC
NHG Distinguished Contributor (DC) Award	1	Mr Lau Chai Cheng	TTSH
	2	Mr Tan Wee Lee	KTPH/YH