



## PIONEERS AND LEADERS IN PUBLIC HEALTHCARE HONOURED AT NHG AWARDS 2022

18 October 2022

For Immediate Release

The National Healthcare Group (NHG) honoured 118 individuals and 46 teams across 11 award categories at its annual NHG Awards today. As part of developing and recognising the next generation of healthcare leaders, a new award named the “NHG Leader Development Award (NLDA)” was presented at this year’s ceremony. The 23 NLDA recipients, including clinical, nursing, allied health and administrative staff, will receive \$1 million in funding for the financial year to pursue advance and executive management programmes. The Awards were presented to recipients by Mr Tan Tee How, Chairman of NHG, during the awards ceremony, held at the Ng Teng Fong Centre for Healthcare Innovation (CHI).

Said Mr Tan, “Given Singapore’s ageing population, the rising prevalence of chronic diseases, and the need to curtail healthcare costs, the Ministry of Health (MOH) has embarked on *Healthier SG*. It is a population health strategy that fits well with our *River of Life* transformation drive. It focuses on preventive care and the empowerment of individuals to take charge of their own well-being and health. This shift from illness-based hospital care to individual-community-led preventive health requires new and different capabilities. NHG is committed to investing in our staff, and ensuring that they have global leadership skills and knowledge to better meet long-term needs and future challenges.”

### **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 **Dr William Chan**, Emeritus Consultant, Rehabilitation Medicine, Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH), for his exemplary contributions to rehabilitation therapy locally and overseas, and to **Associate Professor Ponnudurai Kuperan**, Emeritus Consultant, Haematology, TTSH, for his thought leadership in the fields of Laboratory Medicine and Haematology.

**Dr William Chan** was honoured for his pivotal role in developing rehabilitation care in Singapore over the past three decades. As the founding Programme Director for the Rehabilitation Medicine Residency Programme at TTSH, he initiated training collaborations with the National University Hospital System (NUHS) and SingHealth. At TTSH, Dr Chan served as Chairman of the Clinical Practice Improvement Programme (CPIP) Faculty, and is the lead for the Inpatient Spinal Rehabilitation Programme, supervising and teaching junior doctors. He has pioneered rehabilitation medicine collaborations with community partners, including the Singapore National Stroke Association and Serving People with Disabilities (SPD). Dr Chan is a champion for disabled sports and active health promotion.

**A/Prof Ponnudurai Kuperan** served as the Head of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at TTSH from 1997 to 2005. At the national level, A/Prof Kuperan was the Chairman of the

Research Advisory Committee at the Health Sciences Authority (HSA) from 2020 to 2022. He was also Chairman of the Data Safety Monitoring Board for National Study on Platelet Transfusion and Dengue Infection (2016 – 2021), and is a member of MOH's Clinical Laboratory Workgroup to improve hospital laboratory services in Singapore. An outstanding educator, A/Prof Kuperan was awarded the Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence at the National University of Singapore (NUS) in 2018/2019.

### **DISTINGUISHED SENIOR CLINICIAN AWARD**

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

**Associate Professor Tan Thai Lian**, Deputy Chairman Medical Board, Woodlands Health (WH), has been instrumental in strengthening geriatric care models, especially for frail and complex patients. A/Prof Tan was recognised for his leadership as the Head of Department, Geriatric Medicine, Chairman at the Division of Medicine, subsequently as Assistant Chairman Medical Board at TTSH, and his present role at WH. He helped shape the development of geriatrics in Singapore through the chairing of workgroups such as the Framework for Inpatient Care of the Frail Elderly (FIFE) and the National Geriatric Services Taskforce. He is the current Chair of the Chapter of Geriatricians and the Geriatric Resident Advisory Committee.

**Associate Professor Sim Kang**, Assistant Chairman Medical Board (Education), Institute of Mental Health (IMH), was Deputy Chief of the Department of General Psychiatry at IMH from 2010 to 2015, where he was involved in the setting up of the High Dependency Psychiatric Care Unit, and the right siting of chronically ill patients within the hospital to undergo psychiatric rehabilitation. As the programme director of the National Psychiatry Residency Programme, A/Prof Sim oversees the training pipeline of psychiatrists in Singapore. He has also contributed to the undergraduate and graduate training of clinicians, nurses and allied health professionals in psychiatry. He is the chief editor of a local psychiatry textbook and has published over 300 research papers in local and international journals.

**Associate Professor John Abisheganaden**, Senior Consultant, Head of Department, Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, TTSH, led initiatives that have elevated healthcare services in the community. These initiatives included the MOH Hospital-to-Home (H2H) Programme, TTSH's Community Right Siting Programme (CRiSP) and TTSH's case management unit. A/Prof Abisheganaden is also part of TTSH's Complex Care Workgroup which aims to improve the care and coordination of patients with multiple Specialist Outpatient (SOC) appointments. He is the co-chair of The Academic Respiratory Initiative for Pulmonary Health (TARIPH), a research network spearheaded by the Nanyang Technological University's Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCMedicine).

### **NHG DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

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

**Professor David Lye**, Director, Infectious Diseases Research and Training Office, National Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCID), who coordinated the national COVID-19 research, and was the deputy chair of the COVID-19 Research Workgroup set up in January 2020. Prof Lye also headed the Singapore Infectious Diseases Clinical Research Network (SCRN) from 2014 to 2020. During the pandemic, he was appointed to Economic Development Board (EDB)'s COVID-19 Therapeutics and Vaccines Expert Panel (TxVax) in 2020, where he provided recommendations to the Singapore Government on the COVID-19 vaccination strategy. He is the Chair of the National Antimicrobial Stewardship Expert Panel and the Vice President for Action for AIDS Singapore.

**Associate Professor Tan Hui Ling**, Assistant Chairman Medical Board, Clinical Quality and Audit, and Senior Consultant, Anaesthesiology, Intensive Care and Pain Medicine, TTSH, spearheaded the hospital's training and capability building in the management of brain death. As the Neurological ICU director and chair of the TTSH Brain Death and Organ Donation Taskforce from 2010 to 2018, she led the process improvement for successful multi-disciplinary team management of potential brain dead donors and donor family support. A/Prof Tan was the Chair of the Singapore Hospice Council Quality Improvement Programme from 2017 to 2020, which led to the establishment of the National Palliative Care Standards that set the stage for continuous improvement in palliative care in Singapore.

### **NHG TEAM RECOGNITION AWARD (COVID-19)**

Ten teams were commended for their contributions in the fight against COVID-19. Eighteen teams received consolation awards.

### **COVID-19 Therapeutic Workgroup**

*Led by Dr Shawn Vasoo*

*Clinical Director, NCID*

Established at the early phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, the workgroup is instrumental in standardising care to enable optimal outcomes for COVID-19 patients, according to the best available evidence. The workgroup is chaired by Dr Shawn Vasoo, Clinical Director at NCID, with representation across all three healthcare clusters, the Chapter of Infectious Disease Physicians (Academy of Medicine, Singapore) and HSA. In August 2022, the workgroup published the 10th version of Treatment Guidelines for COVID-19, a critical resource for local physicians treating COVID-19 patients. Members of the workgroup were also involved in starting Singapore's first and only COVID-19 convalescent plasma treatment programme.

### **NHG Pharmacy-ALPS Medication Delivery Service**

*Led by Ms Tan Lay Khim*

*Deputy Director, Clinic Operations, NHG Pharmacy*

When the demand for medication delivery surged during the COVID-19 pandemic, the NHG Pharmacy-ALPS Medication Delivery Service, comprising members from NHG Pharmacy (NHGPh) and the ALPS Strategic Planning Team, ramped up the medication delivery capacity, and improved operational efficiency and medication safety. Within six months, the team increased NHGPh's delivery service from the pre-COVID-19 capacity of 400 deliveries per month to 900 deliveries per day. The team also supported medication deliveries for the Home Recovery Programme (HRP), the supply of chronic medication supplies to migrant workers, and in COVID-19 vaccination drives. To-date the team has fulfilled some 250,000 medication deliveries.

### **NHG TEAM RECOGNITION AWARD**

Thirteen teams were commended for their exemplary achievements, including three Gold winners.

### **Up-skilling Optometrists To Meet The Needs of An Ageing Population**

*Led by Dr Vivien Yip Cherng Hui*

*Consultant, TTSH*

The Community Eye Clinics (CEC) at Hougang Polyclinic was established in July 2018, at Geylang Polyclinic in July 2019, and at Ang Mo Kio Specialist Centre in January 2020 to provide residents with accessible eye care and management of chronic eye conditions. Traditionally, hospital-based optometrists perform refraction, contact lens fitting and other diagnostic eye tests in the tertiary eye clinics. CEC optometrists are now up-skilled to provide primary eye care which involves history taking, examination, diagnosis, management and interpretation of diagnostic eye tests. New referrals from polyclinics as well as patients with stable eye conditions can be monitored at a CEC as optometrists are able to right site patients depending on the severity of their condition. This helps to relieve the capacity at hospital

specialist outpatient eye clinics for complex cases. As of February 2022, 14,306 patients have benefitted from the three CECs and achieved 98 per cent and above satisfaction rate.

The complete list of the NHG Award Winners 2022 can be found in Annex A.

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**About the 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 seven 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 22,000 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-North 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](http://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 eleven categories 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. **(5 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. **(2 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. **(11 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. **(19 Winners)**
6. **NHG Team Recognition Award** – recognises top-performing teams who have contributed significantly to the improvement of healthcare delivery processes. **(13 Teams)**
7. **NHG Team Recognition Award (TRA) COVID-19** – recognises exemplary teams for their contributions to the fight against COVID-19. **(10 Winners, 18 Consolation)**
8. **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. **(1 Winner)**
9. **NHG Leader Development Awards (NLDA)** – awarded to NHG staff to pursue advanced and executive management programmes that will help to develop their leadership in healthcare. **(23 Awardees)**
10. **Health Manpower Development Plan (HMDP) Awards** – aims to develop healthcare professionals to take on higher and specific roles to meet the strategic manpower needs of NHG. **(49 Awardees, 5 Teams)**
11. **Hamidah Book Prize Award** – recognises the academic achievements of our NHG students in pursuing the Diploma in Nursing. **(6 Awardees)**

### 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)

陳煒廉	Dr William Chan
陈筛廉副教授	Associate Professor Tan Thai Lian
沈刚副教授	Associate Professor Sim Kang
赖建文教授	Professor David Lye
陈慧伶副教授	Associate Professor Tan Hui Ling

## FULL LIST OF WINNERS

<b>Award Category</b>	<b>S/N</b>	<b>Winners</b>	<b>Institutions</b>
<b>Lee Foundation – NHG Lifetime Achievement (LA) Award</b>	1	Dr Chan Wai Lim William	TTSH & Central Health
	2	Associate Professor Ponnudurai Kuperan	TTSH & Central Health
<b>NHG Distinguished Senior Clinician Award (DSCA)</b>	1	Associate Professor John Abisheganaden	TTSH & Central Health
	2	Dr Lim Tiek Whai	WH
	3	Associate Professor Tan Thai Lian	WH
	4	Associate Professor Sim Kang	IMH
	5	Associate Professor Leow Yung Hian	National Skin Centre (NSC)
<b>NHG Distinguished Achievement (DA) Award</b>	1	Associate Professor Tan Hui Ling	TTSH & Central Health
	2	Professor David Lye	NCID
<b>NHG Outstanding Citizenship (OC) Award</b>	1	Assistant Professor Chan Peng Chew Mark	TTSH & Central Health
	2	Assistant Professor Wong Ming Hai Eric	TTSH & Central Health
	3	Ms Yeo Sai Ching Doreen	TTSH & Central Health
	4	Mdm Chua Gek Choo	Khoo Teck Puat Hospital (KTPH) & Yishun Health
	5	Dr Teoh Chin Sim	KTPH & Yishun Health
	6	Ms Chew Mei Mei, Melissa	WH
	7	Ms Yong Pei Chean	WH
	8	Ms Ng Bee Lan	IMH
	9	Dr Donna Tan Mui Ling	National Healthcare Group Polyclinics (NHGP) & Primary Care
	10	Associate Professor Tang Wern Ee	NHGP & Primary Care
	11	Ms Lim Soh Har	National Healthcare Group Diagnostics (NHGD)
<b>NHG Young Achiever (YA) Award</b>	1	Ms Chua Pei Xuan	TTSH & Central Health
	2	Ms Caren Mok Kar Yen	TTSH & Central Health
	3	Ms Tan Jia-En Candice	TTSH & Central Health

	4	Assistant Professor Wong Chen Seong	TTSH & Central Health
	5	Ms Leong Su Min, Bernice	KTPH & Yishun Health
	6	Dr Liaw Chen Mei	KTPH & Yishun Health
	7	Mr Muhammad Jazimin Bin Haron	KTPH & Yishun Health
	8	Ms Yap Hui Xian Yvonne	KTPH & Yishun Health
	9	Dr Yeo Yi Wen Matthew	KTPH & Yishun Health
	10	Ms Koh Seow Ken	WH
	11	Dr Ng Shu Li	WH
	12	Ms Wang Yang	WH
	13	Ms Lee Yi Ping	IMH
	14	Mr Warric Ng	IMH
	15	Dr Melissa Guay Peiru	NHGP & Primary Care
	16	Mr Li Kaihui Benny	NSC
	17	Dr Benson Yeo Koon Wee	NSC
	18	Mr Chong Chun Meng	NHGD
	19	Ms Tan Poh Ching	National Healthcare Group Pharmacy (NHG Ph)
<b>NHG Team Recognition Award (TRA)</b>			
<b>Gold</b>	1	Community Eye Clinic (CEC)	TTSH & Central Health
	2	IMH North Community Mental Health Team (Yishun teamlet) and YH Self-Managed Autonomous Regional Teams (SMART)	IMH
	3	NHGP RELATE	NHGP & Primary Care
<b>Silver</b>	4	Building a Community of Carers through CHArge Up! Learning Programme	TTSH & Central Health
	5	Central Health Home Care Partnerships and Engagement Team (HoPE@Central)	TTSH & Central Health
	6	Ageing-in-Place Medical Home Team	TTSH & Central Health
	7	CareBot @ NHGP - A Virtual Customer Support Associate	NHGP & Primary Care
	8	Transforming Patient Check-In and Check-Out Experiences Through IT Innovation	NHGP & Primary Care
<b>Bronze</b>	9	NHG One Care Plan for Oncology	TTSH & Central Health
	10	Integrated Palliative Care Team	KTPH & Yishun Health



	11	Patient Care Officer (PCO) Team – A New Healthcare Professional Born in a Time of Opportunities	KTPH & Yishun Health
	12	NHGP Self Registration Kiosk (SRK) + Project	NHGP & Primary Care
	13	NHGD Bone Mineral Density (BMD) Service Resumption in the Community	NHGD
<b>COVID-19 Category</b>	14	High Profile Team - Facilities Engineering and Nursing, Guardians of Tan Tock Seng Hospital	TTSH & Central Health
	15	Wards 7&11 Eveready: Conversion of BAU Wards to Manage COVID-19 Patient	TTSH & Central Health
	16	Centralised Swab Ops Team	KTPH & Yishun Health
	17	Guards of YCH	KTPH & Yishun Health
	18	WH COVID-19 Treatment Facility (CTF) at Tampines Nursing Home	WH
	19	IMH Infection Control Unit	IMH
	20	NHGP COVID-19 Vaccination Operation Rollout	NHGP & Primary Care
	21	COVID-19 Therapeutic Workgroup	NCID
	22	NCID Infection Prevention & Control Outreach	NCID
	23	NHG Pharmacy - ALPS Medication Delivery Services	NHG Ph
<b>NHG Distinguished Contributor (DC) Award</b>	1	Mr Yong Kwon Seng	IMH