



## **NHG LAUNCHES SPECIAL AWARD TO HONOUR EDUCATORS WHO WENT THE EXTRA MILE DURING COVID-19**

*Innovative educators recognised at NHG Teachers' Day Awards 2020*

**2 September 2020**

***For Immediate Release***

The National Healthcare Group (NHG) recognised 253 healthcare educators at its annual Teachers' Day Awards ceremony held today. The virtual event, organised in line with COVID-19 safe distancing measures, honoured healthcare professionals from medical, nursing, Allied Health and pharmacy for their contributions in nurturing and mentoring students and junior staff. Awards were presented across 11 categories, including a new *Special Commendation Award*, which acknowledges NHG faculty and educators who went the extra mile to teach and support students and colleagues during the COVID-19 crisis.

NHG has 3,597 dedicated healthcare teachers across various disciplines to-date.

*(Please refer to the Annex for the complete list of award categories)*

### **SPECIAL COMMENDATION AWARD**

Highlighted below are some winners:

When COVID-19 hit Singapore, **Adjunct Associate Professor Yip Chee Chew, Education Director, and Senior Consultant, Khoo Teck Puat Hospital (KTPH)**, was quick to urge educators to explore innovative pedagogical methods to address training and curriculum disruptions. A/Prof Yip, who is also Head of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at KTPH, piloted *Distance Augmented Real-time Training (DART)*, a video-based programme that walks students through procedures in real-time. This enabled medical students going through ophthalmology rotations to continue with clinic-based modules remotely.

**Dr Puah Ser Hon, Programme Director, NHG Respiratory Medicine Residency Programme and Consultant, Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH)**, has been at the forefront of COVID-19 training and research. Through simulation programmes, he equipped Intensive Care Unit (ICU) doctors to improve management of the outbreak ICU wards. Dr Puah ensured the well-being of the medical Residents during this challenging period, making sure they were supported on all fronts. Dr Puah has also shared his expertise and research in COVID-19 with the local and global medical community.

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, **Dr Wong Mei Yin, Principal Psychologist, National Healthcare Group Polyclinics (NHGP)**, helped restructure NHGP's clinical supervision workflows for psychologists, ensuring smooth delivery of tele-psychology consultations to enhance patient care. She also redesigned trainings so they could be delivered online, through videos, to medical students and Allied Health professionals. Working in collaboration with NHGP's key departments, Dr Wong strengthened NHGP's staff mental wellness and peer supporter programme, empowering staff to take active steps to self-manage and monitor their own mental and physical health during the COVID-19 period.

## **NHG EDUCATION LEADERS AWARD**

The ***NHG Education Leaders Award*** recognises NHG staff who have demonstrated excellence in strategic leadership and education across multidisciplinary healthcare professions.

**Associate Professor Steven Thng, Clinical Director, NHG Translational Research Office, and Senior Consultant, National Skin Centre (NSC)**, is a leader who has pioneered systems change in dermatology education for more than a decade, harnessing new digital technologies to facilitate learning and development. A/Prof Thng spearheads NHG's efforts to build a robust interdisciplinary clinician-scientist pipeline and drive value-based care in the community. One such initiative is the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between NHG and the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore)'s Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCMedicine) to drive bench-to-bedside research and improve health outcomes in six key areas — ageing/rehabilitation, dermatology, infectious diseases, mental health, metabolic-vascular diseases, and population health.

**Associate Professor Mohan S/O Tiruchittampalam, Deputy Chairman Medical Board and Senior Consultant, Woodlands Health Campus (WHC)**, currently chairs the Ministry of Health's (MOH) Emergency Medicine Residency Advisory Committee and WHC's *Transforming Acute Care Ecosystem* (TACE) Committee. Under his leadership, TACE introduced a holistic care ecosystem in the north of Singapore, directing patients with common ailments and non-life threatening urgent care needs to General Practitioner (GP) clinics in the GPFIRST network and the newly launched Kampung Admiralty's Urgent Care Centre (UCC). A/Prof Tiruchittampalam is recognised in his various appointments for formulating training standards and curriculum, and for integrating coaching and mentorship into clinical practice.

As the **NHG Designated Institutional Official (DIO)**, **Dr Faith Chia, Senior Consultant, TTSH**, is responsible for facilitating coordination across multiple stakeholders to provide a conducive, effective growth environment for medical Residents under her care. This includes creating opportunities for Residents to be engaged in work-based learning while safeguarding their psychological safety and wellness during their residency. Dr Chia pioneered Singapore's first *Medicine in the Community* elective, which documents Residents' learnings and experiences in managing healthcare issues outside the hospital.

**Ms Suhana Bte Salim, Principal Physiotherapist, TTSH**, is a veteran physiotherapist with 20 years of experience. She co-helms the development of a cross-institution *Enhanced Therapy Assistant* programme between TTSH and Ren Ci Hospital, which trains Therapy Assistants to support therapists through effective engagement with patients and caregivers. Keen to enhance learning in this field, Ms Suhana works closely with the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) to implement clinical practice education and assessment into its undergraduate physiotherapy programme.

On behalf of the Senior Management in NHG, **Associate Professor Nicholas Chew, Group Chief Education Officer, NHG and Chairman Medical Board, WHC**, thanked all teachers and mentors for their passion and commitment in nurturing future generations of healthcare professionals. A/Prof Chew said, "COVID-19 has brought out the indomitable spirit of our healthcare family and most importantly, the resilience of our educators to ensure staff receive continual training and education amid the pandemic. Your leadership and dedication play a crucial role in shaping the future of Singapore's healthcare workforce."

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For winners' profiles or more information, please contact:

**Ms Joanna Hioe**

Senior Executive  
Group Corporate Communications  
National Healthcare Group  
Tel: 9720 6841  
Email: [Joanna\\_ZH\\_HIOE@nhg.com.sg](mailto:Joanna_ZH_HIOE@nhg.com.sg)

**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 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](http://www.nhg.com.sg)

**ANNEX**

Awards were presented in 11 categories, including the new *Special Commendation Award*, which acknowledges NHG faculty and educators who went the extra mile to teach and support students and colleagues during the COVID-19 crisis.

**NHG TEACHERS' DAY AWARDS 2020**

S/N	Award Categories
1	NHG Education Leaders Award
2	NHG Teaching Award for Allied Health Senior Educators
3	NHG Teaching Award for Allied Health Educators
4	NHG Inter-professional Teaching Award
5	NHG Teaching Award for Nursing Preceptors
6	NHG Outstanding Nurse Teachers Award
7	NHG Teaching Award for Pharmacy Senior Preceptors
8	NHG Teaching Award for Pharmacy Preceptors
9	NHG Teaching Award for Senior Doctors
10	NHG Teaching Award for Junior Doctors
11	NHG Outstanding Education Partners Award