

ANNUAL REPORT

2023/2024



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ABOUT THE SCHOOL



Building upon decades of experience in research, training and practice in epidemiology and public health, the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health (SSHSPH), under the National University of Singapore, was established in October 2011 as Singapore's national school of public health. The School is also a member of the National University Health System (NUHS).

The School aims to continually foster healthier communities in Singapore and the region, and impact public health programmes and policies through its robust educational programmes and translational cross-disciplinary research work on cohort studies and life course epidemiology, infectious disease research, health technology assessments, health promotion, workplace safety and health, health systems evaluation and health services research. An interdisciplinary approach, augmented by rigorous training, applicable research and regional partnerships, places SSHSPH at the forefront of public health knowledge discovery and practice in Asia.

Mission

Turning discovery into healthier communities through education, research and partnership

Vision

Making the difference to the health of populations. Within Singapore and beyond, we catalyse the changes that improve the health and wellness of populations.

Values

Excellence. We will be outstanding in our fields.
Partnership. We care, share and work together.
Integrity. We will do what is right.
Innovation. We find new ways to do better.

DEAN'S MESSAGE

As we celebrate the 13th anniversary of our School's establishment, I am delighted to share that we have continued to strengthen our commitment to translational research and deepen our impact on advancing public health in the region. Your efforts have been instrumental in driving our mission forward, and I thank each of you for your unwavering dedication to excellence.

Continuing along the global health trajectory, this year marks the 10th anniversary of the School's partnership and presence in Cambodia. In April 2024, a delegation from the School visited Cambodia's Ministry of Health (MOH) to reinforce strategic partnerships in areas such as health training, capacity building, research, and public health initiatives. This visit was pivotal, laying the groundwork for a shared commitment to advancing public health in the region and paving the way for a healthier, more resilient future for all.

In 2024, we also launched several transformative initiatives. In collaboration with the National Cancer Centre Singapore (NCCS), we introduced a new Cancer Public Health Programme aimed at advancing the understanding of cancer and reducing its burden at the population level. This programme fosters interdisciplinary collaboration and drives innovative research in critical areas such as cancer screening, equitable access to treatment, improved outcomes, survivorship, and end-of-life care.

The establishment of the Asia Centre for Health Security is another strategic step toward mitigating future biological threats through collaborative research and capacity-building efforts. Meanwhile, the Climate, Environment, and Health Programme was launched to address Southeast Asia's vulnerability to climate change, leveraging data and technology to counter emerging health threats.

Amid these accomplishments, our colleagues rose to the challenge of addressing pressing public health issues, including the Mpox outbreak, healthcare financing reform, and public health campaigns targeting sodium reduction and vaping. These efforts underscore the resilience and dedication of our community in safeguarding public health.

“We are poised to seize new opportunities and further extend our impact on public health. Our commitment to nurturing the next generation of public health leaders, advancing innovative research, and forming impactful partnerships will continue to guide our efforts. We are particularly excited to explore the integration of AI in public health, deepen our work on health equity, and expand our collaboration with the Ministry of Health on national health surveys, programme evaluation, and economic analyses. We also aim to broaden our impact across ASEAN countries.”

In 2025, we will launch two new education programmes at the Master's and Doctorate levels, equipping our students with cutting-edge knowledge and skills to tackle emerging global health challenges. Additionally, we look forward to participating in the World Health Summit Regional Meeting in Asia in April 2025, collaborating with global partners to build a healthier and more equitable future for the region.

As our School continues to grow, we remain committed to improving our internal structure for greater agility and efficiency. As part of our ongoing reorganisation, we will transition from three domains into four specialised domains, a change to be officially announced in the first quarter of 2025.

At the heart of our success lies the passion and dedication of our people. I am deeply grateful for your hard work and contributions, which have propelled our School to where it is today. Together, let us continue striving to build a healthier, more equitable future for all.

Dean, Prof Teo Yik Ying



Senior Management



Prof Teo Yik Ying
Dean
Vice President (Global Health),
NUS Office of the President



Assoc Prof Jeannette Lee
Vice Dean, Academic Affairs



Assoc Prof Liow Chee Hsiang
Vice Dean, Education



Prof Hsu Li Yang
Vice Dean, Global Health



Assoc Prof Jason Yap
Vice Dean, Practice
Director,
Public Health Translation



Prof Alex Cook
Vice Dean, Research
Domain Leader,
Biostatistics and Modelling



Assoc Prof Luo Nan
Director, Graduate Research Programmes
Domain Leader,
Health Systems and Behavioural Sciences



Assoc Prof Adeline Seow
Domain Leader, Epidemiology

Emeritus Professors

Lee Hin Peng
Ong Choon Nam

Professors

Chia Kee Seng
David Koh Soo Quee
Gerald Koh Choon Huat
David Leslie Paterson

Associate Professors

Chia Sin Eng
Mary Chong Foong Fong
Kimberly Fornace
Natasha Howard
Falk Müller-Riemenschneider
Ng Wee Tong
Adeline Seow Ling Hui
Sim Xueling
Tai Bee Choo
Kavita Venkataraman
Wee Hwee Lin
Siyan Yi

Research Associate Professor

Yann Boucher

Assistant Professors

Ian Ang Yi Han
Cynthia Chen Huijun
Wenjia Chen
Hannah Clapham
Borame Sue Lee Dickens
Akira Endo
Mornin Feng Mengling
Saima Hilal
Zoe Jane-Lara Hildon
Swapnil Mishra
Rick Ong Twee Hee
Kiesha Prem
Seow Wei Jie
Rayner Tan Kay Jin
Jasper Tromp
Yvette van der Eijk
Yi Huso

Research Assistant Professors

Shou Yiyun
Billy Wang Yi

Senior Lecturers

Raymond Lim Boon Tar
Andre Müller
Salome Antonette Rebello
Judy Sng Gek Khim
Cecilia Teng

Lecturer

Tan Yeong Lan

Senior Tutor

Chew Feng Yi

Emeritus Honorary Fellow

Wong Mee Lian

View all faculty members [here](#).

PEOPLE

Other faculty members

Mely Caballero Anthony
Professor (Adjunct)

Aw Su
Lecturer (Adjunct)

Nick Bansback
Associate Professor (Honorary Visiting)

Eduardo Banzon
Associate Professor (Honorary Visiting)

Ayelet Berman
Associate Professor (Honorary Visiting)

Jaime J Caro
Professor (Honorary Visiting)

Chae Sae-Rom
Assistant Professor (Adjunct)

Chan Beng Seng
Associate Professor (Adjunct)

Gregory Chan Chung Tsing
Assistant Professor (Adjunct)

Roy Chan Kum Wah
Professor (Adjunct)

Adam Chee
Associate Professor (Adjunct)

Karen Cheong Lei Yin
Assistant Professor (Adjunct)

Chew Ling
Associate Professor (Adjunct)

Chew Ming Fai
Associate Professor (Adjunct)

Chia Ngee Choon
Associate Professor (Joint)

Dennis Chia
Lecturer (Adjunct)

Winston Chin Chee Wei
Associate Professor (Adjunct)

Martin Chio Tze-Wei
Associate Professor (Adjunct)

Chng Jeremiah
Assistant Professor (Adjunct)

Chong Siow Ann
Professor (Adjunct)

Angela Chow Li Ping
Associate Professor (Adjunct)

Chow Wai Leng
Assistant Professor (Adjunct)

Kenneth David Choy Kwok Yin
Assistant Professor (Adjunct)

Raymond Chua Swee Boon
Associate Professor (Adjunct)

Richard Cookson
Professor (Visiting)

Jeffery Lawrence Cutter
Associate Professor (Adjunct)

Feng Zilu
Lecturer (Adjunct)

Eric Andrew Finkelstein
Professor (Joint)

Fong Ngan Phoon
Associate Professor (Adjunct)

Michael Friedman
Associate Professor (Honorary Visiting)

Gan Wee Hoe
Associate Professor (Adjunct)

Gao Qi
Lecturer (Adjunct)

Gao Xiaoli
Associate Professor (Joint)

Jake Goh Jit Khong
Assistant Professor (Adjunct)

Kenneth Hartigan-Go
Associate Professor (Honorary Visiting)

Mikael Hartman
Associate Professor (Joint)

Derrick Heng Mok Kwee
Professor (Adjunct)

Michael James Herdman
Associate Professor (Honorary Visiting)

David Barry Hipgrave
Professor (Visiting)

Beverly Lorraine Ho
Associate Professor (Honorary Visiting)

Marc Ho Zheng Jie
Associate Professor (Adjunct)

Raymond Hutubessy
Professor (Visiting)

Jeff Hwang Yi-Fu
Lecturer (Adjunct)

Mark Jit
Professor (Honorary Visiting)

Koh Woon Puay
Professor (Joint)

Ramanan Laxminarayan
Professor (Honorary Visiting)

Lee Chien Earn
Professor (Adjunct)

Lee Heow Yong
Associate Professor (Adjunct)

Lee Hock Siang
Associate Professor (Adjunct)

Vernon Lee Jian Ming
Professor (Adjunct)

Helena Legido-Quigley
Professor (Visiting)

Hsien-Hsien Lei
Associate Professor (Adjunct)

Gillian Leng
Professor (Honorary Visiting)

Leo Yee Sin
Professor (Joint)

Liew Tau Ming
Associate Professor (Adjunct)

Jeremy Lim Fung Yen
Associate Professor (Adjunct)

John Lim Chien Wei
Professor (Joint)

Lim John Wah
Assistant Professor (Adjunct)

Lim Poh Lian
Associate Professor (Adjunct)

Lim Su Chi
Research Associate Professor (Joint)

Lim Yee Wei
Associate Professor (Joint)

Lin Liang
Assistant Professor (Adjunct)

Annie Ling Mei Chuan
Associate Professor (Adjunct)

Luo Wei
Assistant Professor (Joint)

Stefan Ma Sze Lok
Associate Professor (Adjunct)

Mayfong Mayxay
Professor (Visiting)

Michael
Assistant Professor (Adjunct)

Mo Yin
Senior Lecturer (Joint)

Jorgen Möller
Associate Professor (Honorary Visiting)

Oliver Morgan
Associate Professor (Honorary Visiting)

Alec Morton
Professor (Visiting)

Prem Kumar Nair
Associate Professor (Adjunct)

Suganthi Narayanasamy
Lecturer (Adjunct)

Ivy Ng
Professor (Adjunct)

Ng Lee Ching
Associate Professor (Adjunct)

Ng Yeuk Fan
Associate Professor (Adjunct)

Terence Ng Thiam Tuan
Assistant Professor (Adjunct)

Ngiam Kee Yuan
Professor (Adjunct)

Ooi Eng Eong
Professor (Joint)

Steven Ooi Peng Lim
Associate Professor (Adjunct)

Trisha Peel
Professor (Visiting)

Desiree Phua Yee Ling
Lecturer (Adjunct)

Peter Piot
Professor (Visiting)

Natarajan Rajaraman
Senior Lecturer (Adjunct)

Adrian Roellin
Professor (Joint)

Charumathi Sabanayagam
Associate Professor (Joint)

Saw Seang Mei
Professor (Joint)

Brian See Cheong Yan
Assistant Professor (Adjunct)

Melvin Seng
Assistant Professor (Adjunct)

Lydia Seong Peck Suet
Associate Professor (Adjunct)

Eugene Shum Jin-Wen
Associate Professor (Adjunct)

Mythily Subramaniam
Associate Professor (Joint)

Sun Zhe
Research Assistant Professor (Joint)

Tai E Shyong
Professor (Joint)

Halina Binte Talib
Assistant Professor (Adjunct)

Alvin Tan Kian Wei
Lecturer (Adjunct)

Iain Tan Bee Huat
Associate Professor (Joint)

Kelvin Tan Jek Chen
Associate Professor (Adjunct)

Kyle Tan Xin Quan
Assistant Professor (Adjunct)

Licia Tan Mei Ling
Lecturer (Adjunct)

Maudrene Tan Luor Shyuan
Lecturer (Adjunct)

Tan Ker Kan
Associate Professor (Joint)

Tan Say Beng
Associate Professor (Joint)

Clive Tan
Assistant Professor (Adjunct)

Tan Seow Yen
Assistant Professor (Adjunct)

Tan Shermin
Assistant Professor (Adjunct)

Tan Sok Teng
Lecturer (Joint)

Yot Teerawattananon
Professor (Visiting)

Teoh Yee Leong
Associate Professor (Adjunct)

Shyamala Thilagaratnam
Associate Professor (Adjunct)

Bernard Thio Yauw Leng
Associate Professor (Adjunct)

Sri Chander s/o Tikamdas Nebhraj
Associate Professor (Honorary Visiting)

Matthias Paul Toh Han Sim
Associate Professor (Adjunct)

Vasuki d/o Utravathy
Assistant Professor (Adjunct)

Rob Martinus van Dam
Professor (Visiting)

Timothy William
Associate Professor (Honorary Visiting)

Christina Misa Wong
Associate Professor (Adjunct)

David Wu
Assistant Professor (Adjunct)

James Yip Wei Luen
Associate Professor (Adjunct)

FACULTY AND STAFF AWARDS

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND OCCUPATIONAL PHYSICIANS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2023

This award recognises exceptional public health and occupational medicine (PHOM) leaders and visionaries who have distinguished themselves through their accomplishments and contributions to the PHOM field in Singapore, and served as role models to the PHOM community.

Prof Chia Kee Seng

HIMSS SENIOR EXECUTIVE AWARD 2024

This award recognises individuals who exhibit active leadership and demonstrates the ability to propel innovation by harnessing cutting-edge technology to drive transformational changes and addresses healthcare pain points leading to improved health outcomes.

Assoc Prof Adam Chee (Adjunct)

HPHSR CLINICIAN SCIENTIST AWARD 2024 (SENIOR INVESTIGATOR)

This award recognises senior clinician scientists who have demonstrated sustained, high levels of productivity and leadership in Health Promotion, Preventive Health, Population Health, and Health Services Research (HPHSR), generating significant and sustainable impact on the nation's health outcomes.

Assoc Prof Luo Nan

NATIONAL DAY AWARDS 2023: PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION MEDAL (BRONZE)

The Medal was instituted in 1963 and is awarded to persons for outstanding efficiency, competence and industry.

Assoc Prof Adeline Seow

NATIONAL DAY AWARDS 2023: LONG SERVICE MEDAL

The Medal was instituted in 1962 and is awarded to persons of irreproachable character and completing at least 25 years of service.

Associate Prof Jeannette Lee

NUHS TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD 2023

This award recognises outstanding teachers who exemplify the NUHS values of Teamwork, Respect, Integrity, Compassion, Excellence and Patient Centredness.

Dr Andre Matthias Müller

Asst Prof Jasper Tromp

NUS PRESIDENTIAL YOUNG PROFESSORSHIP AWARD 2024

This award recognises talented and promising early career academics with excellent research track records in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Asst Prof Swapnil Mishra

PRESIDENT'S SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AWARDS 2024

This award recognises outstanding research scientists and engineers whose work have resulted in significant scientific, technological or economic benefits for Singapore.

Prof Saw Seang Mei

SSHSPH TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD (INDIVIDUAL AWARD) AY2022/2023

This award recognises faculty members who have excelled in teaching, and have shown a high level of performance, dedication and commitment to teaching and learning.

Asst Prof Hannah Clapham

Dr Cecilia Teng

Asst Prof Saima Hilal

SSHSPH YOUNG RESEARCHER AWARD AY2022/2023

This award recognises junior faculty members who have demonstrated great potential in research and achieved research excellence.

Asst Prof Yvette van der Eijk

SSHSPH OUTSTANDING RESEARCHER AWARD AY2022/2023

This award recognises faculty members who have achieved a consistent track record of research excellence and impact in their area of expertise.

Asst Prof Jasper Tromp

WOMEN TECH LEADERS AWARD 2024 (ASIA'S TOP 50 WOMEN TECH LEADERS)

This award recognises women technologists working and based in Asia who have shown outstanding leadership and operational skills in managing complex tech projects.

Prof Saw Seang Mei

WELL-BEING CHIEF EXECUTIVE AWARD 2024

This award recognises CEOs who have distinguished themselves through innovative leadership in promoting workplace mental health and well-being in Singapore.

Assoc Prof Prem Kumar Nair (Adjunct)

SSHSPH LONG SERVICE AWARDS 2024

45 YEARS

Prof Ong Choon Nam

40 YEARS

Prof Chia Kee Seng

25 YEARS

Assoc Prof Lee Jen-Mai, Jeannette

Ms Su Jin

20 YEARS

Assoc Prof Tai Bee Choo

Ms Lim Eng Jee

Ms Saadiah Binte Awak

15 YEARS

Prof Cook, Alexander Richard

Mr Chong Yew Yon

Ms Kelly Quek

Ms Lim Hui Ping

Ms Soh Moira

Ms Yang Qian

10 YEARS

Mr Cai Guoyuan

Ms Ho Sau Ling

Ms Koh Sock Fan

Ms Lee Hui Lian

Dr Lim Boon Tar Raymond

Ms Tay Zoey

Mr Teo Mou De

5 YEARS

Ms Chen I-Pei Jacinta

Ms Cheng Yi Ling

Dr Chia Airu

Ms Cindy Chan Mei Jun

Mr Daryl Ong Jun Xian

Dr Foong Pin Sym

Prof Hsu Li Yang

Asst Prof Jasper Tromp

Ms Leng Nur Ashikin Bte Muhammad Yusuf Leng

Ms Lim Shi Qi, Adeline

Mr Ng Xian Yi

Dr Park Su Hyun

Dr Teng Woon Chien, Cecilia

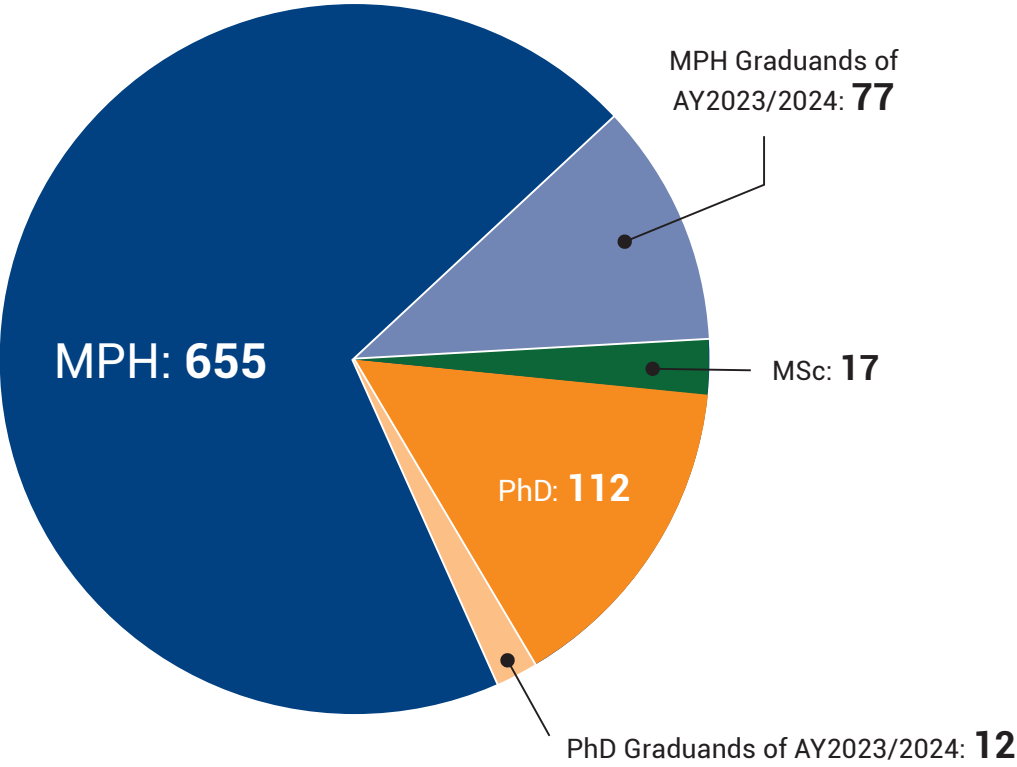
Asst Prof Yi Huso

Assoc Prof Yi Siyan

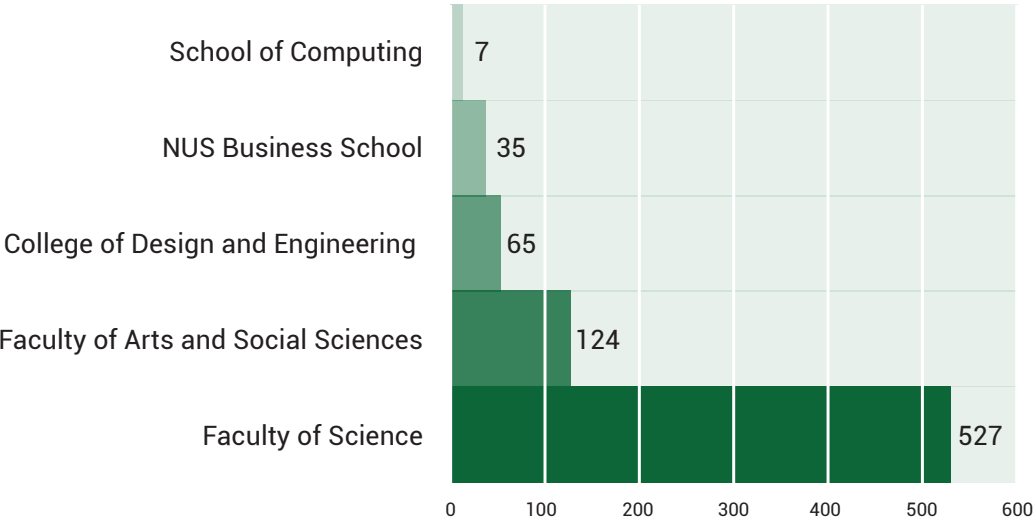
Ms Yue Qi Jing, Felicia

Education In Numbers

Graduates since the School's establishment in 2011:



Number of NUS graduates with a Minor in Public Health since 2013:



563 Year 1 and 2 students for the modules: Medicine and Society & Information Literacy

293 Year 3 students for the modules: Public Health Aspects of Primary Care & Community Health Project



STUDENT AWARDS

DEAN'S LIST

Awarded each semester to the top five per cent of students from the Master of Public Health programme with the highest Semester or Academic Year average point.

Semester 1

Lim Biyu

Mak Ying Yuan

Ng Yan Ting

Ong De Sheng

Tam Jing Ying, Tiffany (Tan Jingying)

Wee Wei Ting Juliana

Semester 2

Cheryl Chong Xi Zi

Chua Ziyang Justin (Cai Ziyang)

Fung Wai Kit

Justin Lee Guang Jie

Mak Ying Yuan

Ng See Ming Amy

Sim Yu Ki

Tan Yin Zhien

DEAN'S MEDAL AND PRIZE

Awarded each year to the student from the Master of Public Health programme who has achieved the highest mark for the Practicum.

Gabriel Lee Keng Yan

DEAN'S MEDAL AND PRIZE IN IMPLEMENTING PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES

Awarded to a graduating student from Master of Public Health, Master of Science or Doctor of Philosophy programme who has obtained a good CAP and achieved the best score for Implementing Public Health Programmes & Policies module.

Arif Tyebally

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD

Up to three awards are available each year, for the graduate research student who has distinguished himself/herself in research, as assessed by the quality and quantity of publications since matriculation and the public health impact of his/her work.

Lan Xiang

Sarah Tan Yi Xuan

LADY YUEN-PENG MCNEICE HEALTH PROMOTION MEDAL AND PRIZE

Awarded to a graduating student from Master of Public Health, Master of Science, or Doctor of Philosophy programme who has obtained a good CAP and achieved the best score for the Health Behaviour and Communications module.

Arif Tyebally

LEE HIN PENG MEDAL

Awarded to a graduating student from Master of Public Health, Master of Science, or Doctor of Philosophy programme who has obtained a good CAP and achieved the best score for the Public Health Research Methods module.

Lee Gong Wei, Benjamin

NUSS MEDAL FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

Awarded to the student who has achieved academic excellence as well as made significant extra-curricular contributions.

Sarah Tan Yi Xuan

OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SOCIETY MEDAL

Awarded to the student who has distinguished himself/herself in the examination leading to the degree of Master of Public Health (with specialisation in Occupational Health).

Kenneth Leong Bao Ren

RICHARD GILLIS PRIZE

Awarded to the graduating student pursuing a specialisation in Occupational Health in the Master of Public Health programme who achieves the best academic results and also distinguishes himself/herself in the Industrial Hygiene component of the course.

Kenneth Leong Bao Ren

TYE CHO YOOK GOLD MEDAL

Awarded to the student who has distinguished himself/herself in the examination leading to the Master of Public Health degree.

Arif Tyebally

SSHSPH GRADUATE STUDENT TEACHING AWARD

This award recognises the contributions of graduate students as Teaching Assistants (TA) in the school's education programmes, based on student and module coordinator feedback.

AWARDEES FOR AY23/24

Cheng Ling Jie Jeremy

Feng Zilu

Ong Herng-Jie Eleanor Joan

Find out more about our [education programmes](#).



Climate Change and Health: Panel Discussion on Impacts, Adaptation and Mitigation within the Health Sector, 25 September 2023

The Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health and the Centre on Sustainable Medicine at the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine jointly hosted a panel discussion on the intersection of climate change and health. Acknowledging climate change as a major threat to human health, the event focused on the impacts, adaption and mitigation strategies within the health sector.

The panel featured experts who shared their valuable firsthand experiences and insights:

- Dr Munirul Alam (International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh) spoke on responding to climate-driven cholera epidemics.
- Dr Zulkhairul Naim Bin Sidek Ahmad (University of Malaysia Sabah) discussed policies for malaria elimination in the face of climate change.
- Professor Nick Watts (Centre on Sustainable Medicine, NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine) presented on developing a net-zero emission health service in the United Kingdom.

The discussion was moderated by Dr Kimberly Fornace (Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health) and Dr Amanda Zain (Centre on Sustainable Medicine).

The discussion was moderated by Dr Kimberly Fornace (Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health) and Dr Amanda Zain (Centre on Sustainable Medicine). This event provided a platform for experts to highlight innovative solutions and explore how the health sector can both adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change.

Singapore International Public Health Conference (SIPHC), 19 – 20 October 2023

The 3rd Singapore International Public Health Conference (SIPHC) was held in conjunction with the 17th Singapore Public Health and Occupational Medicine Conference at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront hotel.

Jointly organised by the School and the College of Public Health and Occupational Physicians, Academy of Medicine, Singapore, the event brought together close to 400 distinguished local and international speakers and delegates to discuss contemporary global public health and occupational medicine issues centered on the theme, "Embracing The Future". The topics discussed include health equity, mental health, healthy longevity and resilient ageing, public health challenges in the post pandemic world as well as innovations for workplace health and well-being.



Public Health Thought Leadership: Advancing Global Health for More Equitable Health Outcomes and Health Security for All, 7 February 2024

The 12th instalment of the Public Health Thought Leadership Dialogue featured distinguished speaker, Dr Anders Nordström, Advisor, Advocate, Activist and former Swedish Ambassador for Global Health, Advancing Global Health.

In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become increasingly evident that achieving health security is intricately linked to the pursuit of health equity. The landscape of global health is evolving, demanding a departure from conventional aid paradigms. Health, as a common good at the national, regional, and global levels, necessitates a shift in our perspective. The imperative for stronger national and regional capacities prompts a critical reassessment of our global agenda. How can we reformulate our approach to global health in light of these pressing realities? As we confront the challenges posed by global health threats, what innovative multilateral systems and collaborative strategies can we envision, distinct from historical models?

The panel discussion featured contributions from Prof Ivy Ng, Group Chief Executive Officer, SingHealth; Prof Vernon Lee, Executive Director, National Centre for Infectious Diseases, Executive Director of the interim Communicable Diseases Agency; Dr Kiesha Prem, Programme Lead (NUS Public Health - Lao PDR Programme), NUS Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health. The discussion was moderated by Prof Hsu Li Yang, Vice Dean, Global Health, NUS Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health.

Inaugural dinner and launch of Asia Centre for Health Security, 17 April 2024

The inaugural dinner and official launch for Asia Centre for Health Security (ACHS) was graced by Adjunct Professor Derrick Heng, Deputy Director-General of Health (Public Health), along with esteemed representatives from government agencies, academic institutions from Singapore, and delegates from the Southeast Asia Strategic Biosecurity Dialogue organised by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health were in attendance.

Led by Professor Hsu Li Yang, Vice Dean of Global Health at the NUS Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health and Director, Asia Centre for Health Security, ACHS is a new academic think tank in Asia dedicated to preparing the region for biological threats and improving health security through research, training, and collaborations.

"Preparedness research and innovation is critical for the prevention and mitigation of pandemics and spread of high consequence biological threats, improving how communities are supported as well as influencing policy and decision making" said Prof Hsu, "This should be done not just at national or global levels, but also as part of regional initiatives to safeguard the health of our communities."

With an international multidisciplinary team of experts from across the fields of biorisk management, health security law and governance, biosecurity and international security and preparedness and response systems. ACHS will work with government agencies, academic institutions and other like-minded organisations to contribute towards effective policy-making and biosecurity practices in Asia. ACHS will also run webinars, hold policy roundtables and offer a fellowship in health security, with the aim of long-term capacity development in health security resilience and leadership; and for multi-sectorial collaboration, education and advocacy in improving future responses to health security threats.





Southeast Asia Health Security Roundtable – Singapore, 24 – 25 May 2024

The Southeast Asia Health Security Roundtable Series aims to support regional and national capacities for detecting and responding effectively to infectious disease outbreaks by fostering regional dialogue on health security.

The third instalment held in Singapore from the 24 to 25 May 2024, was hosted by the National University of Singapore, Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health and staffed by the Global Health Office and the Asia Centre for Health Security. Supported by Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP), it brought together over 30 esteemed thought leaders from 12 countries.

Professor Kenneth Mak, Director-General of Health at the Ministry of Health, Singapore graced the event as Guest of Honour, and faculty consisted of representatives from Universitas Padjadjaran (UNPAD), Indonesia; Health Intervention and

Technology Assessment Program (HITAP), Thailand, interim Communicable Diseases Agency, Singapore; National Centre for Infectious Diseases; Asia Centre for Health Security; and Tan Tock Seng Hospital.

Over two days, representatives from ASEAN member states shared presentations on the lessons learnt and best practices for coordination and decision-making, crisis communication strategies, and managing misinformation during COVID-19.

In his welcome remarks, Professor Hsu Li Yang, Vice Dean of Global Health at the NUS Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health and Director for the Asia Centre for Health Security, emphasised the imperative to foster regional dialogue and the exchange of experiences in health security and pandemic preparedness as essential measures for preventing future outbreaks.

Dr Paul Huleatt, Counsellor (Health) Australian High Commission, also highlighted the importance of the roundtable as a timely platform to facilitate dialogic sharing and collaboration amongst countries in view of burgeoning health security issues.



NATIONAL COHORTS OFFICE (NCO)

NCO undertook a landscape scan of 9 population cohorts and needs in efforts to further scale the national cohort ecosystem. The cohorts highlighted the need for a national data standard for population cohorts, manpower for harmonisation to this standard and data concierge services to manage the potential increase in data requests. NCO also met with Bioinformatics Institute and Biomed DAR to explore synergies in harmonisation efforts and cross sharing of tools.

Connecting Across Cohorts and Stakeholders

NCO presented to the following policymakers:

- Following Permanent Secretary (Health)'s approval to award a one-year maintenance grant to the 4 Strategic Cohorts, NCO worked closely with the Strategic Cohorts to collaboratively refine the 2022 Strategic Cohorts Request for Proposals (RFP). This involved facilitating discussions through email exchanges and monthly in-person meetings. Leveraging this platform, the NCO provided valuable guidance on governance structures, shared materials on joint data architecture, and delivered educational sessions on best practices.
- In close collaboration with the Singapore Strategic Cohorts Consortium (SSCC), NCO reviewed the RFP based on 12 qualitative evaluation criteria and the proposal was endorsed by the Strategic Cohorts Steering Committee (SC) and NCO Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) on 28 May 2024.



HEALTH INTERVENTION AND POLICY EVALUATION RESEARCH (HIPER)



Short Course on the Digital Transformation of Public Healthcare, 10 October 2023

As part of the short course on Digital Transformation of Public Healthcare, HIPER Director, Assoc Prof Wee Hwee Lin, was invited by the Global Health Office of the school to conduct a session on health technology assessment of digital health products. The session was attended by 23 participants specially invited by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Singapore.

ISPOR Europe

Several members of HIPER were invited to ISPOR Europe 2023, where they shared their insights on diverse topics. Assoc Prof Wee Hwee Lin led a conversation on AI and its power in Health Economics and Outcomes Research (HEOR), while noting the importance of sustained human oversight. She also highlighted progress in the use of real-world data by Asian HTA agencies. Prof Alec Morton, an advisor to HIPER, also contributed to a panel discussion centered on point-of-care diagnostics. His focus was particularly on challenges of incorporating the contribution of antimicrobial resistance reduction by such technologies into economic evaluations.

Union World Conference on Lung Health

HIPER was invited to present about the research on optimizing Truncate-TB treatment strategies in the 2023 Union World Conference on Lung Health in Paris, France. These strategies employ novel regimens to treat drug-susceptible tuberculosis over 2 months, a considerably shorter period than the 6 months required for standard treatment. One such strategy was found to be non-inferior to standard treatment in a randomized controlled trial led by our collaborator, Dr. Nick Paton. HIPER highlighted the results from a cost-minimization analysis of the trial data and a modelling investigation to determine how health economic outcomes can be optimized for the Truncate-TB strategies.

Health Technology Assessment International Symposium, 8 December 2023

As part of the update sharing for the COVID Collaborative project funded by the Hitachi Fund Support for Research Related to Infectious Diseases, Assoc Prof Wee Hwee Lin received an invitation to participate in the 11th Health Technology Assessment International Symposium held at University of Tokyo. The symposium provided a platform for participants to share experiences related to pandemic management in their respective countries. During this symposium, the HIPER Director presented an overview of the COVID testing strategies implemented in Singapore. She also shared insights regarding the parameters that the project team could employ for modeling diagnostic testing under various pandemic scenarios, and presented analysis results pertaining to COVID testing and the effectiveness of border control policies. This contribution enriched the collaborative discussion, fostering an exchange of knowledge and experiences in the global effort to address and manage the ongoing pandemic.

Presentation at WHO Fair Pricing Forum, 6-8 February 2024

Assoc Prof Wee Hwee Lin, was invited to join an esteemed panel of speakers at the World Health Organization 2024 Fair Pricing Forum on the theme

"Building real-world evidence in the real world: are regulatory and pricing decisions better aligned with health system goals?".

She discussed current efforts by the REAL World Evidence In ASia for HEalth Technology Assessment in Reimbursement (REALISE) working group to implement the REALISE, which includes incorporating the recommendations in the Guidance into current HTA Process and Methods, using the Guidance as a curriculum for training of HTA analysts and promoting the Guidance to healthcare professionals so that they understand their roles in collecting and curating high quality real world data and real world evidence.

Webinar on HTA for all: without boundaries

HIPER, in collaboration HITAP, organised a webinar aimed at exploring diverse perspectives within health technology assessment (HTA). The webinar included a survey to gather insights on working in HTA from various countries. We were honored to host HTA experts such as Dr Olivia Wu, Director of Health Economics and Health Technology Assessment (HEHTA) at the University of Glasgow, Ms Anne Julienne Genuino-Marfori, Chief Health Program Officer of the Department of Health in the Philippines, and Dr Suwit Wibulpolprasert, Vice President of IHPP and HITAP Foundation. They shared valuable insights, experiences, and challenges encountered in their respective fields of work. The webinar attracted around 180 sign-ups from 25 countries, with the majority representing the academic and private sectors.

HIPER Policy Forum, 19 March 2024

HIPER organised a Policy Forum aimed at providing a platform for policymakers to convene, exchange ideas, and learn from each other about best practices in HTA. The closed-door session welcomed HTA agency members and leaders from seven overseas countries (Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Timor Leste). The focus was on discussing the implementation of Universal Health Coverage and HTA within their respective countries.



HIPER Symposium, 20-22 March 2024

The symposium is HIPER's annual flagship event, a vital nexus bringing HTA stakeholders together in a leap towards capacity building in Singapore and the Asia-Pacific region. This year, HIPER organised a three-day event with a focus on addressing key challenges and advancements in HTA practice and policy, with 90 attendees from 15 countries

Day 1 centred around the theme "HTA: From Practice to Policy." The keynote speaker discussed legal frameworks for institutionalizing HTA, followed by a panel of esteemed speakers who shed light on the current implementation challenges. The day concluded with two parallel workshops: one focused on "Critiquing Company Submissions - A Health Economics Viewpoint" and the other on "Communicating Value to Stakeholders."

Day 2 shifted focus to "Accelerating Medical Innovation: Early HTA," exploring the role of early HTA in addressing medical innovation challenges and its relationship with policy. Experts in medical innovation and early HTA led discussions on this in the morning, followed by a hands-on workshop in the afternoon where participants learned to use Target Product Profiles (TPP) to inform medical innovation design and development.

The final day of symposium focused on "Equity in HTA," delving into discussions on how economic

evaluation can consider marginalized groups. Invited speakers shared relevant research in this area, followed by a panel discussion on innovative approaches to healthcare access and evaluation for marginalized populations, aiming to drive transformative change in public health. Panellists also explored challenges in data and economic evaluation, along with potential solutions.

Collaboration on Sustainable Financing Models to Support Access to Novel Antibiotics in Singapore

HIPER, together with the Research for Impact (RFI) Singapore, and the Office of Health Economics (OHE) in London, collaborated on a project focused on exploring sustainable financing models to support access to novel antibiotics in Singapore. Some of the key objectives of this project are to present the landscape of new financing models being proposed and/or implemented around the world and assess potential models for adoption in the Singapore context. A discussion paper that encompasses all the findings for this project was presented to partners in the AMR roundtable for their review and feedback, with the finalized paper publicly accessible on HIPER's website.



Collaboration on priority setting for health innovation in Thailand

HIPER has been actively involved in a collaboration with the Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program (HITAP) Foundation to address priority setting for health innovation in Thailand. This partnership aims to leverage Early Health Technology Assessment (HTA) methodologies to support the research and development of medical innovations within the country. Through this collaboration, HIPER contributes its expertise in early health technology assessment to assist Thai stakeholders in identifying and prioritizing areas where innovative healthcare interventions can have the greatest impact on improving public health outcomes in Thailand.

Evaluating the implementation of the HEADS-UPP Intervention

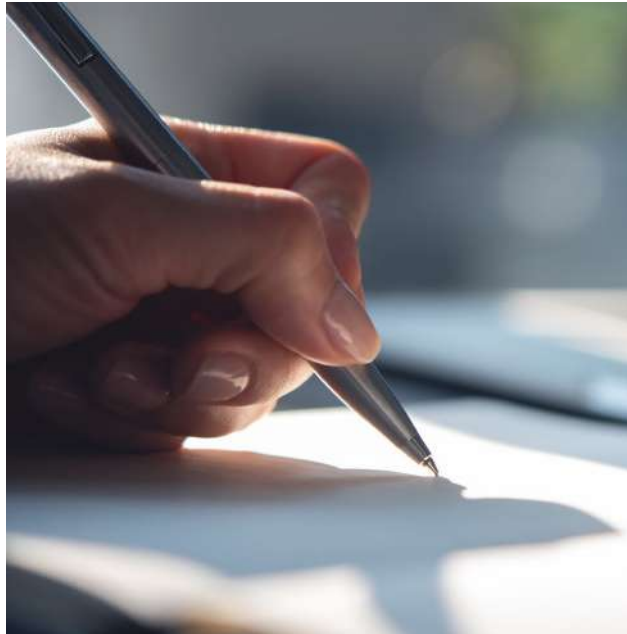
HIPER is working with the National University Hospital (NUH) to evaluate one of their programmes, NUH HEADS-UPP (HEALTH and Development SUPPORT in Preschool Partnerships), that looks into providing health and development support to disadvantaged children. HIPER is tasked to conduct a theoretically informed implementation evaluation of the Enhanced HEADS-UPP intervention to achieve the following aims:

1. To determine what the key barriers and facilitators were in the development, implementation, and evaluation of the Enhanced HEADS-UPP intervention;
2. To investigate what the relationships and dynamics were amongst the different stakeholders that were involved in the Enhanced HEADS-UPP intervention;
3. To explore how relevant and impactful the Enhanced HEADS-UPP intervention was found to be amongst the different stakeholders involved in its development, implementation, and evaluation.

EHTA training course and Symposium on System Construction of National Medicine Evaluation in Belt and Road Countries in Beijing, China, 20-22 September 2024

HIPER, together with HITAP, was invited by the Beijing Children's Hospital, Capital Medical University, to conduct a training course on the Methodology of Comprehensive Clinical Evaluation of Medicines in Beijing. The hands-on training course was conducted over two days (20-21 September 2024) in Mandarin. Through the course, over 20 participants from various government, healthcare and private organizations were equipped with both theoretical knowledge and practical skills to perform Health Technology Assessments (HTA). The course covered techniques to construct deterministic Markov models as well as strategies to perform deterministic and probabilistic sensitivity analyses. In addition, participants were provided with an overview of the aspects of model validation, and key pointers on presenting economic evaluations in alignment with Consolidated Health Economic Evaluation Reporting Standards (CHEERS) and China National Health Development Research Center (CNHDRC) guidelines.

On 22 Sep 2024, the team from HIPER was also invited to the Fourth Symposium on System Construction of National Medicine Evaluation in Belt and Road Countries. During which, Prof Alec Morton shared on HTA of precision medicine, while Asst Prof Wang Yi presented on early HTA. Through the workshop and symposium, close international collaborations and partnerships between NUS and HTA partners in China have been forged.



Exploring Sustainable Financing for Novel Antibiotics in Singapore: White Paper Launch Event, 15 July 2024

HIPER organised an insightful and engaging session at the Exploring Sustainable Financing for Novel Antibiotics in Singapore: White Paper Launch Event and attracted the participation of over 90 online and in-person attendees. The hybrid event delved deep into various financing models and strategies for promoting the development and distribution of novel antibiotics, with the aim to drive forward sustainable solutions for combating antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and ensuring the availability of effective antibiotics for future generations.

Hybrid Talk on A Learning Health Technology Assessment System – Lessons from Recent and Ongoing Reforms, 18 July 2024

HIPER organised a talk on A Learning HTA System – Lessons from Recent and Ongoing Reforms, which explored ongoing and proposed reforms in HTA policies, methods, and processes in Australia, India, and Thailand. It provided a platform for sharing insights and learning from recent and ongoing reforms in these countries. It garnered the attendance of close to 90 overseas and local participants, with majority coming from government agencies or academic institutes in Philippines, India and Singapore.

Short course on Value-Based Care: The Singapore Experience, 12-14 August 2024

HIPER, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health Singapore, conducted a short course on Value-Based Care, with a focus on Singapore's context. It was attended by 19 participants, majority from Singapore with one participant from Vietnam. The course equipped participants with essential knowledge and skills to develop strategies for delivering high-value care within their healthcare settings, with an overarching goal to enhance patient outcomes while ensuring the sustainability of healthcare systems. Participants gained an understanding of value-based healthcare, exploring how healthcare financing frameworks promote this approach. The course emphasized the importance of evidence-based practices and the role of interdisciplinary collaboration in optimizing resource utilization and minimizing waste.

Key learning objectives included:

- Understanding the principles of value-based healthcare.
- Assessing the influence of healthcare financing on care delivery models.
- Implementing evidence-based practices to improve care quality.
- Enhancing efficiency, patient satisfaction, and cost-effectiveness in clinical practice.
- Learning benchmarking techniques and strategies for program evaluation.

By the end of the course, participants were equipped with the skills to evaluate care quality and efficiency, ensuring patient satisfaction while keeping cost-effectiveness in mind. These strategies, when implemented, will ultimately foster better patient outcomes and contribute to a more sustainable healthcare system.

MIDSEA NETWORK

MIDSEA Modelling Symposium, 13 November 2023

The MIDSEA Network, funded by Temasek Foundation, hosted a symposium, bringing together the views from both ends of the policy maker-modeller spectrum to identify best practices for a modelling community that provides valuable support to policy making during outbreaks in South East Asia. Participants shared best practices in developing, using, evaluating, and communicating mathematical models for policy making in infectious disease outbreaks.

MIDSEA Webinar Series, 20 March 2024

The MIDSEA Network organised a webinar session on understanding the long-term sequelae of infectious diseases. This online session attracted modellers and decision-makers from Yangon, Bangkok, Hanoi, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, and Singapore, providing a platform for valuable discussions on this critical topic.

MIDSEA Summer School, Workshop and Symposium, 19-28 June 2024

The MIDSEA network, in collaboration with the Vietnam Science Association, organised the MIDSEA Summer School, Workshop and Symposium focused on infectious disease modelling in Southeast Asia. The 10-day event was held at the International Center for Interdisciplinary Science and Education (CSE) in Vietnam, and saw over 70 scientists and postgraduate students from 17 countries in attendance. Throughout the event, prominent researchers presented a diverse array of studies and lectures on infectious disease models, with the ultimate goal of enhancing preparedness for future outbreaks in the region. Notably, Vice Dean (Research), Prof Alex Cook, delivered two lectures sharing his research and expertise on models and statistics of prevalent infectious diseases in Southeast Asia, including dengue fever, influenza, and other respiratory illnesses.



GLOBAL HEALTH WORK

Dr Kimberly Fornace and Associate Prof Yann Boucher led a programme launched by the School to drive research on climate change impact on public health in South-east Asia. The programme will facilitate collaborations with partners across South-east Asia that monitor climate impact on health and develop integrated environmental and health solutions, and also support and mentor early career scientists and students working on climate, the environment and health.

Prof Teo Yik Ying, Dean, led a delegation to Cambodia to strengthen strategic partnerships between Cambodia's Ministry of Health (MOH) and NUS in areas such as health training, capacity building, research, and public health initiatives. The delegation included Vice Dean of Global Health, Prof Hsu Li Yang, UHS-SPH Integrated Research Programme Leader, Assoc Prof Siyan Yi and Asst Prof Kiesha Prem amongst others were warmly welcomed by His Excellency Professor Chheang Ra, Minister of Health, Cambodia. During the meeting, key areas of current and future public health topics and initiatives were discussed. Emphasis was placed on bolstering the health workforce capacity in Cambodia through comprehensive research and medical training programs. This visit was pivotal as it laid the groundwork for a shared commitment towards advancing public health in the region, transcending geographical boundaries to pave the way for a healthier and more resilient future for all.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

A Memorandum of Understanding with Tsinghua University Vanke School of Public Health was signed on 25 January 2024, focusing on expanding collaboration between the two institutions to promote joint research and development activities. The signed MOU led to the launch of the Tsinghua-NUS Joint Research Initiative Fund on 27 February 2024, reflecting the commitment of both universities to collaborate on shared concerns.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the School and Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) on 14 June 2024 to formalise the partnership between the two entities. The signatories were Dean, Prof Teo Yik Ying, and Ambassador Morikawa Toru, Executive Director of ASEF. It was witnessed by His Excellency Mr Ishikawa Hiroshi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Singapore, Embassy of Japan, and Professor Leo Tan, ASEF Governor from Singapore. As part of this partnership, the School will jointly host a Roundtable discussion, with ASEF and the Asia Centre for Health Security (ACHS), from 6 to 7 November 2024, to discuss the critical topic of "Risk Communications during Public Health Emergencies" from a Whole-of-Government perspective, ensuring coordinated responses in times of public health crises.



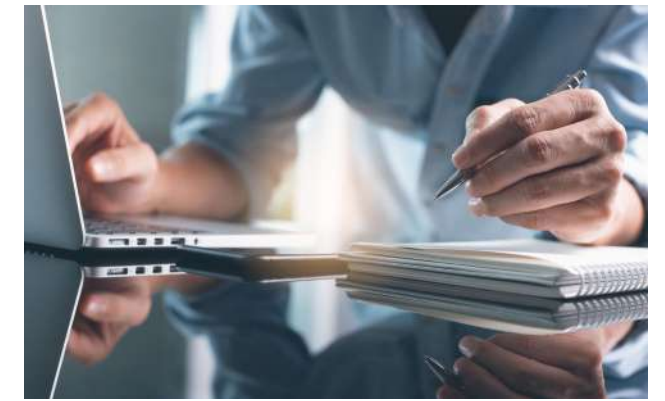
WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

Digital Transformation in Public Healthcare, 9 – 13 October 2023

The Global Health Office held an in-person programme on Digital Transformation in Public Healthcare, under the Singapore Cooperation Programme of MFA. The programme focused on four key areas - Telemedicine and Artificial Intelligence-enabled medical devices, Blockchain electronic health records, Data sharing among healthcare providers, Use of technology in decision-making on treatment plans and health outcomes. This programme hosted 22 foreign government officials, fostering engaging discussions and valuable insights. During the programme, participants had the opportunity to explore the Centre for Healthcare Innovation (CHI) Living Lab, and received a comprehensive tour of their Command, Control & Communications system. Additionally, they visited Singapore General Hospital, including its museum, and concluded their site visits with a tour of the SCDF HQ.

Urban Health Security, 20 – 24 November 2023

The Global Health Office held an in-person programme on Urban Health Security, under the Singapore Cooperation Programme of MFA. The programme focused on five key areas - Building national capacities and capabilities to respond to outbreaks effectively, Use of technology in urban health preparedness, Risk communication, community engagement and protecting vulnerable groups, Policy implementation at hospitals and primary care institutions, Building community resilience and enhancing participatory governance. This programme hosted 22 foreign government officials who actively participated in insightful sessions. During the programme, participants had the opportunity to explore the National Centre for Infectious Diseases, the Singapore Botanic Gardens' National Orchid Gardens and National Environment Agency's Mosquito Production Facility Environmental Health Institute.



Online Programme: Multi-sectoral Urban Epidemiological Response Training for Outbreak Control, 29 January – 2 February 2024

The Global Health Office conducted an online programme titled "Multi-sectoral Urban Epidemiological Response Training for Outbreak Control" as part of the Singapore Cooperation Programme by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The programme aimed to impart knowledge and skills in applied epidemiology and rapid response to participants. Through a blend of seminars, lectures, case studies, and panel discussions, participants delved into outbreak detection, investigation, and response methodologies. Course topics included an overview of field epidemiology, field epidemiology in the context of COVID-19, public health surveillance, and risk communication. Engaging 18 foreign government officials, the programme facilitated fruitful discussions and provided valuable insights.

Joint Seminar with SingHealth Duke-NUS Global Health Institute, 17 July 2024

The Global Health Office hosted a joint seminar with SingHealth-DukeNUS Global Health Institute (SDGHI). During the half-day event, researchers from the two institutions exchanged insights on their ongoing work in global health research, practice, and education. Through presentations on current projects and international activities, along with networking opportunities, researchers discussed existing partnerships and forged new connections. The event also highlighted SSHSPH's and SDGHI's regional programmes and explored opportunities for further collaboration in the ASEAN region.



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