

(continued from Page 3: The Three "Integration Challenges")

Public hospitals are also partnering GPs to enable SOC patients to be cared for in primary care settings, while providing for fast track referrals back to specialist care if needed. Examples of such partnerships include SingHealth's Delivering On Target (DOT) and TTSH's Community Right-Siting Programme (CRISP). We hope to see more such collaborations that reduce unnecessary consults and streamline patient care across settings.

"MOH will continue to work with the College and regional health systems to support family doctors and develop family medicine so that we can turn these challenges into opportunities."

Integrating Across Professions

The 3rd integration challenge is that of integrating across professions. The pace of change in patient needs and medical advancements will heighten the need for all-rounded expertise for patient care. However well-trained, family doctors will have to work with fellow primary care and specialist colleagues, and other healthcare and social care professionals.

We want to help our family doctors do this. For example, to support the work of family doctors in caring for patients with mental health conditions, MOH and AIC have set up community-based resources such as allied health professionals in Community Mental Health Teams (COMIT). GPs can refer patients to these teams for case management,

therapeutic intervention and home visits, which complement the medical consultation.

For more effective chronic disease management, we are also encouraging GPs to come together to form virtual networks called Primary Care Networks, or PCNs. MOH will support PCNs with other professional resources such as nursing, allied health and administrative support. By way of reminder, the current PCN application call will close on 31 May.

Conclusion

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have spoken on three integration challenges that family doctors face. MOH will continue to work with the College and regional health systems to support family doctors and develop family medicine so that we can turn these challenges into opportunities. Opportunities for family doctors to help Singaporeans attain better health and better care.

Let me now close by thanking once again all family doctors for your contribution. I would also like to commend the College for its effort in developing family medicine in Singapore.

- 1 World Health Organisation. World Health Day 2017 Campaign Essentials: Depression. Available at: <http://www.who.int/campaigns/world-health-day/2017/toolkit.pdf?ua=1>. Accessed 30th Mar 2017.
- 2 Katon WJ. Epidemiology and treatment of depression in patients with chronic medical illness. *Dialogues Clin Neurosci*. 2011 Mar; 13(1): 7-23.

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CFPS Celebrates World Family Doctors' Day

by Dr Chan Hian Hui Vincent and Dr Low Sher Guan Luke, FCFP(S), Council Members

the World Family Doctors' Day Dinner was held at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel on 20th May 2017. The guest of honour for the event was Mr Chan Heng Kee, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Health. Deputy Director of Medical Services Associate Professor Kenneth Mak was also present, as were many of our Family Medicine luminaries across our various Family Medicine settings. These include Associate Professor Goh Lee Gan, Dr Alfred Loh, Associate Professor Lim Lean Huat, Dr Wong Tien Hua (who also represents the SMA), Dr Adrian Ee (SHP), A/Prof Chong Phui-Nah (NHGP), Dr Liew Yii Jen (NUP), Dr Elaine Tan (MOH Primary Care Division), AIC's Dr Wong Kirk Chuan and Dr Khoo Sei Kiong (Academy of Medicine) among others.

The evening kicked off with a performance by the Baton Twirling Club Singapore, followed by a key note address from the Permanent Secretary. In his address, Mr Chan

highlighted the importance of Family Medicine as its complexity and importance grows. He also pointed out the challenges facing our fraternity, namely the "Three integration challenges, namely integrating across physical and mental health, integrating across care settings and integrating across professions. Do read Mr Chan's full speech in this very edition of College Mirror, as it can help us understand MOH's policy direction.

This was followed by College President, Associate Professor Lee Kheng Hock's report on the "Family Medicine for OUR Singapore" (FAMOUS) project. A/Prof Lee shared the key findings of this project which you can also read about in this issue of College Mirror under the "President's Forum". One of the interesting findings was how highly trained Family Physicians felt more self-fulfilled despite this not necessarily leading to more pay. Perhaps Maslow's self-actualisation via higher education and teaching can make one's clinic



◀ Happy SingHealth FM ACP family at WFDD 2017



(more photos of the event can be found on Page 14 and on www.cfps.org.sg/galleries)

◀ Recipients of College Teachers' and Distinguished Educators' Awards

CFPS Honours Our FM Teachers

College Teachers' Award

Dr Ang Lai Lai
Dr Chan Meng Huey Jason
Dr Choo Kay Wee
Dr Chua Chi Siong
Dr Chung Wai Hoong Irwin
Dr Eng Soo Kiang
Dr Goh Kian Peng
Dr Koong Ying Leng Agnes
Dr Lam Chih Chiang Benjamin
Dr Lee Biing Ming Simon
Dr Lim Mien Choo Ruth
Dr Low Sher Guan
Dr Moey Kirm Seng Peter
Dr Ong Chooi Peng
Dr Phua Cheng Pau Kelvin
Dr Rukshini Puvanendran
Dr Soh Hun Beng Lawrence
Dr Somasundram Pushparanee
Dr Subramaniam Surajkumar
Dr Tan Puay Wee Steve
Dr Tan Yew Sang
Dr Tan Yew Seng
Dr Tang Wern Ee
Dr Tsou Yu Kei Keith
Dr Yeo Cheng Hsun Jonathan

Distinguished Educators' Award

Dr Chew Sze Mun
Dr Chung Wei Pyng Clara
Dr Leong Choon Kit
Dr See Toh Kwok Yee
Dr Soh Soon Beng
Dr Tan Kok Heng Adrian
Dr Tan Ngiap Chuan
Dr Wong Tien Hua

practice more fulfilling. Other interesting points included how many family physicians hoped for family medicine to be recognised as a specialty, knew the importance of pursuing post-graduate education in family medicine, and how it would enable them to better manage patients.

A delicious 4-course dinner was served, as participants tucked in to an appetiser of Lemon Myrtle Salmon "Nicoise" quail eggs, green beans and cherry tomatoes. The celery and potato soup was tasty too. There were 2 choices for the main dish being roasted chicken thigh with sautéed mushroom ragout or baked cod fish. Dessert was a wonderful plate of Mousse cake with strawberry ice-cream and raspberry coulis.

The final item for dinner was the presentation of the College Teachers Award and the Distinguished Educator's Award ceremony, where College Vice-president Dr Tan Tze Lee was on stage to hand out the awards. This was in recognition for the work of our College teachers, who are our silent warriors in the fight to raise clinical standards for our fraternity, one trainee at a time. Kudos and thanks to our College teachers, and we have an article describing the efforts of one of the college teachers' award recipient and how he gave his time selflessly for the trainees who were appreciative of his good intentions. The dinner ended on this high note, a wonderful celebration of Family Medicine in Singapore.

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