

(continued from Page 9: Primary Care Network: A holistic team for Chronic care at GP clinics in Singapore)

Dr Derek Leong (GP Member of Class PCN)

Qn1: When did you hear of PCN, and what made you decide to join one?

I first heard of this in April 2017 when MOH launched its first application call for General Practitioners (GPs) to join the Primary Care Networks (PCN) scheme. I decided to join one as participating GPs would be able to tap on funding and administrative support to implement team-based care to better monitor and manage their patients' healthcare needs.

Qn2: What were some challenges and/or resistance (or fears) that you had to overcome to join the PCN?

As a partner in Healthmark Group anchoring a relatively newer clinic, my concern was that if there would be any additional fees or excess administrative paperwork required to join a PCN.

Another area of concern was with regards to business operating confidentiality. In the initial stages of PCN development, there was no clarity on how much or what information clinics would be required to collate and submit.

Qn3: How did you overcome them in the end?

All my concerns were addressed once the concept and vision of the PCN scheme became more apparent over the ensuing few months, and discussion with various other fellow GPs and my group partner doctors.

Qn4: How did AIC and PCN HQ support you through this journey thus far?

AIC has supported me through this journey thus far through timely provision of information to my PCN HQ (Class PCN). My PCN HQ formed a chat group and Dr Leong Choon Kit and Dr Paul Ang Teng Soon have provided up to date and relevant information with regards to the PCN set up, requirements, and running. Information regarding funding and expenditure have also been made very transparent. A PCN meeting date for all the participating clinics has also been set already for all of us to meet up face to face.

Qn5: Could you share with us a specific example where your patients were able to enjoy better chronic care in the community thanks to the PCN scheme?

With the shared resources of the PCN, my chronic disease patients will be able to enjoy easier access to services such as diabetic retinopathy screening, nutrition advice, and nurse counselling etc.

Qn6: What are your thoughts or any tips to help your fellow GP peers who are interested to join a PCN?

Speak to your fellow GPs who are already part of a PCN and make the decision to come on board. A single twig breaks, but the bundle of twigs is strong.

■ CM



Building Guitars In Okinawa

Interviewed by Dr Tan Li Wen Terence, Editorial Board Member

Joji Yoshida is a talented Japanese luthier making a splash in the world of hand crafted instruments. Joji trained under reknown builder, Sergei de Jonge in Canada and is now based in Naha, Okinawa, where he handcrafts a limited number of masterpieces each year. I caught up with Joji for some inside information on his work.

College Mirror (CM):

Thanks for speaking with us, Joji! Can we start by asking how you got starting building instruments?

Joji Yoshida (JY):

In 2010, I quit my job and was planning to move from Yokohama to Okinawa. I have been playing guitar since I was 12 and always dreamed if I could build it by myself. I found it was the perfect timing to jump in, so I took Sergei de Jonge's guitar making course and became a guitar builder.

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Joji Yoshida's favourite guitar built - looks great and sounds great

All images courtesy of Joji Yoshida

CM:

So what is it like being a guitar builder?

JY:

Guitar building is the only job I never feel I waste my time. All the other jobs I have experienced, I always feel I was doing it for money, to live. But guitar making, it is not only for money. It is fun. I love it. People love it and respect me. People wait for the weekend and hate Monday. But as a guitar builder, working is fun. Day doesn't matter.

CM:

What's a typical day like for you?

JY:

Work until night, then my private time (play guitar, watch movie, etc). Since I am self-employed and do whatever I want to do, there is no fixed schedule actually.

CM:

How long does it take to make a guitar? Maybe you could give us a rough idea of the construction of a guitar?

JY:

About a month. If I rush, 20 days. Depending on how many options a guitar has though.

CM:

That's a long time! Let's talk about the guitars you've built! What's your favourite guitar you have built?

JY:

This one. <http://www.jojiyoshidaguitars.com/048.html>. It is not only looks great but sounds great too! Many times the best looking guitar does not sound as good as it looks. But this one was different. Also, maple guitars usually lacks bass but this one has full sound. Guitar is made of wood. Product of nature. There is no same thing. Every piece is different. In this guitar, I guess all the planets are aligned!

CM:

Thanks Joji, before I let you go, can I ask what advice you would give us if we were thinking of a custom made guitar?

JY:

Work hard and save money, because it is expensive! Seriously, designing a guitar in your mind won't cost you any money. Do it as long as you can. People ask me to build a copy of famous maker. Be yourself and find your own voice, look, and let me build a true original one for you, not a copy of someone else.

■ CM