

5th Family Medicine Extravaganza 2018

by Michael Shi Yan, Berwyn Tan Wei Pin, He Chen,
Overall-in-Charge, the 5th Student Organising Committee of Family Medicine Extravaganza 2018

College President Dr Tan Tze Lee represented the College of Family Physicians Singapore at this panel discussion held on 7 May 2018, and this was subsequently broadcasted on national television in the “Perspectives” series by Channel NewsAsia (CNA). The topic of the panel interview was “Patient Empowerment”, and other participants included Geriatrician Dr Wong Sweet Fun, Cardiologist Dr Lim Toon Wei, Mr Raman Singh, CEO of MundiPharma and CNA moderator Ms Karen Lam.



The 5th Family Medicine Extravaganza was held on 24th August 2018 at the Clinical Sciences Building Auditorium of Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine Novena Campus. Medical students from all three medical schools in Singapore (Duke-NUS Medical School, NTU Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine and NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine) worked together to organise this event, with generous support from the Joint Committee of Family Medicine Singapore (JCFMS). Our concerted effort and hard work paid off with a record-breaking impressive turn-up number of 220 medical students and junior doctors and overwhelming positive feedback from participants, speakers, and participating institutions (College of Family Physicians Singapore, Family Medicine Residency Programmes from Singapore Health Services, National Health Group, and National University Health Services).

As Singapore Ministry of Health plans to expand family medicine practice, family physicians often take up additional

roles other than their clinical duties. Given that our family medicine landscape is undergoing major transformation, medical students often find it difficult to keep abreast of the emerging multitude of new roles family physicians play, from education to research and administration.

As such, we decided that the theme for this year would be “A Kaleidoscopic View of Family Medicine”, where we would allow the next generations of doctors to take a glimpse of what family medicine offers beyond clinical work. We invited clinicians to share their experiences in their area of interest, and also share why they decided to go down that path. This will also make family medicine a more attractive career for future doctors.



CFPS President Adj Asst Prof Tan Tze Lee presenting a token of appreciation to Adj Assoc Prof Tan Ngiap Chuan

This year’s programme featured keynote talks from experienced Family Medicine physicians who took on different roles on top of their clinical work. We invited A/P Tan Ngiap Chuan to talk about his research, Dr Goh Lay Hoon about her involvement in medical education, Dr Leong Choon Kit to share about his overseas medical work and Dr Kwong Seh Meng to share about his involvement in local community work. The speakers highlighted the diversity of the roles Family Medicine physicians can play in their career, which was inspiring to all the participants who wish to pursue Family Medicine. The keynote talks were followed by a 45-minute panel discussion, where we invited programme directors and residents representing the three Sponsoring Institutions and the College of Family Physicians Singapore to answer

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A participant asking questions during Panel Discussions



Participants interacting with SingHealth Family Medicine Residency Programme Director Dr. Joanne Quah

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questions raised by the audience regarding the different programs and their various experience in Family Medicine. The event ended off with a sumptuous buffet dinner, which

was also a rare opportunity for the participants to personally interact with the speakers and the representatives from the different Family Medicine programmes at their booths.



Cum Scientia Caritas

by Dr Goh Ziying and Dr Tan Wei Beng
Trainees of 2017 - 2018 MMed(FM) College Programme



A lively dialogue session with Programme Directors and trainees

Family Medicine (FM), the first, foremost and best defence barricade against diseases, has been developing and expanding in an exponential rate. FM strives to develop and deliver good evidence health care services to our patients in the community. Its importance is glimpsed by multiple acknowledgement of its role in many aspects of medicine. As its tradition, the 5th Family Medicine Extravaganza was held under the leadership of the young and energetic generation of future doctors. While FM is expanding upwards and outwards, it is no surprise that during the event that evening, we are also looking inwards into the heart of FM, its Caritas.

Speakers from different walks of community health care were invited to give their valuable insight on the various roles and the potential career development as a Family Physician (FP).

Dr Tan Ngiap Chuan, with a keen interest in research, introduced the concept of 'Generalist Wheel of Knowledge, Understanding and Inquiry'¹ to illustrate the integral role and different facets of clinical research to improve primary healthcare outcome. Dr Goh Lay Hoon, who is passionate about education, reminded us that one of the roles a FP play is to be an educator to the next generation of doctors. Dr Leong Choon Kit, with a heart and calling for overseas medical work, inspired us with his personal life experiences. Dr Kwong Seh Meng, who is actively involved in community health care, shared on his various fulfilling and enriching roles.



Dr Kwong Seh Meng shared his fulfilling experiences in FM.

We were honoured to hear from Dr Elaine Tan, who shared on the current landscape of FM. Today, primary care roles are evolving rapidly. It is now recognised that FPs play a critical role in our nation's healthcare system. FPs will be trained to do more complex work and to anchor care in the community.

The students had an opportunity to ask questions during the lively dialogue session and the scrumptious buffet dinner. The dialogue session was chaired by the Programme Directors from various FM Residency Programmes: Dr Darren Seah of NHG-AHPL Family Medicine Residency Programme, A/Prof Tan Boon Yeow of NUHS Family Medicine Residency Programme, Dr Quah Hui Min Joanne of SingHealth Family Medicine Residency Programme and Dr Suraj Kumar of College of Family Medicine training programme, along with its respective trainees.

Though the speakers' working backgrounds are different, their hearts are aligned with one another. Within the layers of clinical medicine lies its unifying spirit: FM with heart, calling, courage and passion. The core of FM is centred on the heart of the patient care, to combine science with its Caritas. We sincerely hope that the next generation of FPs will take up the calling to advance FM to higher levels, to serve patients from cradles to graves with best medical care possible. Inwards, upwards and onwards.



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