

Family Medicine

Serving the Community

by Samuel Ting and Vanessa Chong (LKC class of 2023)
On behalf of 2022 Organizing Committee
Credits to Wai Sin Yee for the screenshots during the event

The Family Medicine Extravaganza is an annual event which serves as an outreach platform for students and junior doctors considering family medicine as a career in Singapore. It is jointly organised by medical students from the 3 medical schools (NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, NTU Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine and Duke-NUS Medical School) in conjunction with the Joint Committee of Family Medicine Singapore and the College of Family Physicians Singapore (CFPS).

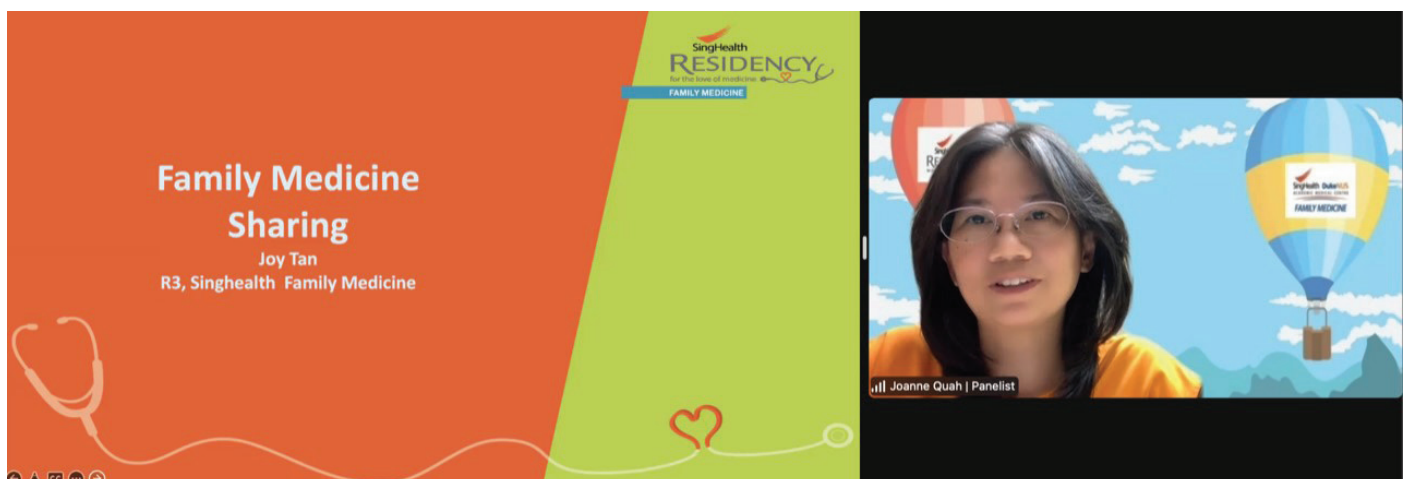
On 13th May 2022, the 8th edition of Family Medicine Extravaganza was held over Zoom webinar (due to COVID regulations) and saw over 80 participants with a good mix of medical students from the 3 medical schools and HO/MOs from the various clusters. The theme for this year was 'Family Medicine: Serving the Community'.

Our keynote speakers were Dr Mark Ng Chung Wei and Dr Kenneth Tan Kian Wee, who expounded upon various aspects of the landscape of family medicine in Singapore. The 4 programme directors (Dr Jason Chan Meng Huey from NHG, Dr David Tan Hsien Yung from NUHS, Dr Joanne Quah Hui Min from Singhealth and Dr Suraj Kumar from CFPS) were also invited to share about the individual residency programs. Concurrently, one resident from each cluster was also invited to talk about their experience as a resident/trainee. This gave our participants a good view of the programme from the ground as well. Coincidentally, the residents revealed that they were actually from the same batch in medical school so that was a mini-reunion during the event itself!

This event was held at an opportune time with the recent shift in public policy from the government, where primary care was identified to be a key aspect of improving healthcare outcomes locally. Such reforms included plans to invite Singapore residents to enroll with a primary care physician. Our keynote speakers were delighted to talk about the topics ranging from the pandemic to the new policies announced.

After the various sharings, participants were invited into a Q&A panel. With the zoom webinar function, it was certainly helpful for panelists to type out answers to the various questions posed which allowed more questions to be answered in the limited duration of the event. While there were still many questions from the participants, the night had to draw to a close. The event ended with a lucky draw, where 4 winners walked away with a brand new Litmann stethoscope sponsored by the CFPS.

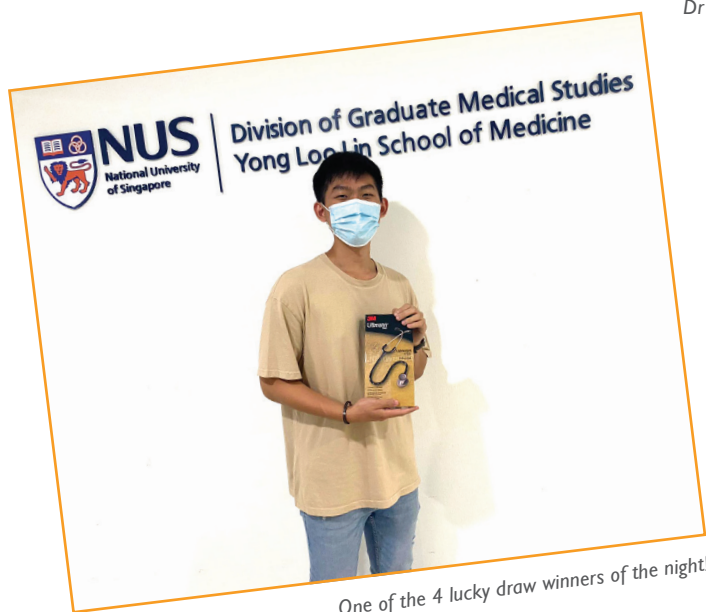
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Dr Joanne Quah (Singhealth) giving a brief sharing of the Singhealth Residency Programme



Dr Keith Tan (NUHS) sharing about his experiences in the NUHS Residency Programme



One of the 4 lucky draw winners of the night!

We hope that the event has been helpful to our participants to gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be a family physician and pique their interest in considering family medicine as a career path.

We would like to thank all participants, panelists and organisers for their hard work in making this event come to life. In particular, the student organising committee would like to thank JCFMS and Dr Loke Kam Weng for their support throughout the entire planning process.

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A combined photo of all the panelists, speakers and organizers nearing the end of our event