As the pioneering School of Public Health in Singapore, we are continually etching out the Public Health landscape in Singapore and the region with each new, bold step we make in research, education and training.

This year, we turn two. While the first year symbolised the beginning, ‘two’ represents the duality of contemplation and action. And as we gain momentum in our Public Health journey as a School, our second year beckons us to take stock of where we are today and where we are heading.

In this edition, we’ve featured some of our staff and students - the faces of our School as well as those working tirelessly behind the scenes – as we follow not only the journey of our School, but also the journey of how Public Health has shaped the lifestyles of those whose lives are closely interwoven with its growth.

Hand-in-hand, we work towards shaping public health.

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about the School

Established on 1 October 2011, the National University of Singapore, Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health (SSHSPH) builds upon 60 years of experience in research, training and practice as a Department of Epidemiology and Public Health.

The founding of the School signifies an important milestone in our public health journey to turn discovery into healthier communities for all. 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.

SSHSPH is a member of the National University Health System (NUHS), alongside the National University Hospital (NUH), the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, the NUS Faculty of Dentistry, the National University Cancer Institute, Singapore (NCIS) and the National University Heart Centre, Singapore (NUHCS).

mission
To drive knowledge discovery and practice in Public Health

vision
To be a global leader in Public Health centered in Asia

values
Altruism  Innovation  Mentorship
As SSHSPH turns two this year, how has the School grown and progressed in this past year since its establishment?

We spent our first year building our unique identity, on a legacy of over 60 years of experience in epidemiological, public health and occupational medicine research, teaching and service, as a School.

Last year was equally pivotal and productive, and not without its own set of challenges. The School focused on furthering its core mission, which is to prevent disease and promote health at the population-level. Our students, medically and non-medically trained, come from backgrounds as diverse as our faculty’s. We work hard to imbue in them a passion for prevention that will fuel their public health aspirations after graduation. Many of our alumni from the School’s MSc(PH), previous MSc(OM), MMed(PH) and MMed(OM) programmes continue to make their mark around the world and on the public health stage.

Our next aim is translating etiologic research into the development of prevention programmes and policies. We’re facing the challenges of an ageing population in a highly globalised world with staggering technological advances. We need to come together to find ways to compress the interval between discovery and its translation into programmes and policies. This calls for a new Public Health paradigm (Public Health 3.0) and skill sets in complexity and implementation sciences. The School needs to acquire new capacity and capabilities to move from mere discovery to translation. We are investing heavily into developing skills in modelling and simulation, economic assessment and evaluation as well as mixed methods research in order to better understand complexity and implementation science.

Lastly, we are working on developing local and regional academic-governmental collaborations. Unlike clinical medicine, the majority of public health programmes require governmental leadership, resources and support. Strong links between Schools of Public Health and the government become an imperative, not a choice. Locally, we have strong ties with our Ministry of Health (MOH), the Ministry of Manpower (MOM), the Health Promotion Board (HPB), the Health Sciences Authority (HSA) and the National Environment Agency (NEA). Together with NUS Global Asia Institute, we conduct the NIHA Leadership Development Program and the Regional Forum for Directors of Health. We have also started work with the University of Public Health in Myanmar as part of our collaborations in Asia, supported by the Temasek Foundation, which focuses on capacity building through educational activities.

This year’s Annual Report focuses on how SSHSPH is continually shaping Public Health. What were some of the School’s efforts which contributed to the Public Health stage in Singapore?

This year, the School adopted three strategic thrusts in line with our vision:

Firstly, we are looking to enhance the professionalism of public health practitioners. We achieve this primarily through our education programmes and notably, the School’s flagship graduate programme, the Master of Public Health (MPH). At our School, we believe in building public health leaders not in the classroom, but for life. Our students, medically and non-medically trained, come from backgrounds as diverse as our faculty’s. We work hard to imbue in them a passion for prevention that will fuel their public health aspirations after graduation. Many of our alumni from the School’s MSc(PH), previous MSc(OM),
Our actions taken to shape Public Health must be substantiated with scientific data and facts. What developments in the various research areas has SSHSPH accomplished this past year?

Very often, we complain that there is a lack of data. I think the truth is there is a lot of data out there. They’re just not linked or integrated. The challenge is to separate the signal from the noise. This is where our Population Health Metrics and Analytics (PHMA) initiative comes in. PHMA attempts to bring together disparate data through an agent-based modelling and simulation capability, DEMOS (Demographic Epidemiological Model of Singapore). We plug all of these health, routine hospital, demographic, and genomic data into DEMOS and essentially create a SIM(ulated) city of Singaporeans based on today’s health profile, aged into the future to predict the disease burden we will be facing, say, in 2050. This allows us to quantify and communicate the impact of certain risk factors and inform programmatic and policy changes based on evidence.

An example of this is our work on diabetes. Today, we have some 350,000 diabetics in our population, and if we continue this way without changing our approach towards integration and changes we may wish to make at the School level.

The right education framework can help realise and maximise the potential of its students. How has SSHSPH tailored and refined its education programmes to suit the requirements of the ever-changing landscape of Public Health?

I love playing golf in my spare time. I enjoy the delightful backdrops of manicured greens and sweeping fairways at the courses. But not every course is exactly a straightforward, flat terrain. More than often, you get challenged by the wayward trees around the place, water hazards and subtle contours. Each course offers a unique set of challenging conditions. We can either take them on and move on to greater levels of success or recede in the shadows of fear, self-doubt and inaction. No matter how tough a course might be, I try to focus on the best way I can to complete it.

Likewise, public health is a dynamic and exciting area of work. But policy priorities, research agendas, funding availabilities and the public health landscape can rapidly change. Students who desire to practice in this area must be able to adapt. We can equip our students with the competencies and skill sets they need post-MPH but without a strong conviction or passion for prevention, they can be easily derailed by challenges. It’s important to cultivate and nurture that PASSION.

I like to ask my students, “Why are you pursuing a career in public health? What does it mean to have a ‘Passion for Prevention’? How do you develop this passion? And how do you keep this passion alive and make sure it drives you for many years to come?” I encourage them to ask themselves as well as their fellow peers these questions throughout their training with us.

It’s easy to complete your assignments and pass your exams with flying colours. But I believe we would have failed miserably if we had produced graduates who topped their class with high technical competence but lack the passion for prevention. If our students are passionate, they will thrive in any situation they encounter post-MPH.

The road to achieving one’s goals is not without its fair share of obstacles. Looking back on the past year, what were some of the challenges SSHSPH faced and how did we tackle them as a School?

As mentioned earlier, the School has made significant progress towards greater collaboration. The next step beyond collaboration is to foster better integration among staff. It’s a challenge, I’m the first to admit. We encountered some difficulties in implementing a matrix structure, one that is comprehensively integrated among and across multiple fields of expertise. But such difficulties are par for the course. It’s doesn’t matter that we occasionally deviate from the fairway and experience the rough. What’s more important is that we clearly identify the bunkers and water hazards that we need to surmount before getting back on course again.

That’s why we now have the dynamic trio of Yee Wei (Assoc Prof Lim Yee Wei), Bert (Prof Hubertus Vrijhoef) and Audrey (Assoc Prof Audrey Chia) to lead our School’s Strategic Review Exercise to identify the challenges the School is facing and together, we will find the solutions to overcome them. Through this exercise, which involves systematically gathering feedback from faculty, staff and external parties outside of SSHSPH, we will consolidate and use the information gathered to help re-evaluate our approach towards integration and changes we may wish to make at the School level.

As SSHSPH moves forward in shaping the Public Health landscape, what are some of the key Public Health issues which need to be tackled in the near future?

Our world is becoming more connected, complex, and interdependent than ever before. Our understanding of public health challenges is no different. We began with a simplistic understanding of public health or what I call Public Health 1.0. With vast industrial and economic advancements, other improvements in health such as clean water, improved hygiene and sanitation soon followed.

Many years later, the landscape changed with a better biological understanding of diseases. We began to identify single risk factors and their direct association with a particular disease: asbestos exposure and mesothelioma, tuberculosis bacillus as cause of tuberculosis and so on. This was an era of PH 2.0 where we focus on tackling single risk factors to control and prevent diseases.

Today, I believe we are witnessing the advent of Public Health 3.0, which requires us to think broadly and focus on prevention and health promotion. We need to consider not only the biological link between multiple risk factors and disease, but also the behavioural pattern and socio-environmental system which the population is in when implementing and assessing public health programmes.

A systems approach is required and integration between medical and non-medical and within disciplines will be the keystone to us learning how to more effectively implement our programs and policies to improve health in our populations. Public Health practitioners must work both behind the scenes and on the frontlines to lead in this effort.

“It’s important to cultivate and nurture that PASSION.”
senior management

CHIA Kee Seng
Professor, Dean

CHIA Sin Eng
Associate Professor; Vice Dean (Academic Affairs)

Jeannette LEE Jen Mai
Associate Professor; Vice Dean (Research); Head, Health Education & Promotion Domain

LIM Yee Wei
Associate Professor; Vice Dean (Research); Head, Health Education & Promotion Domain

TEO Yik Ying
Associate Professor; Head, Biostatistics Domain

Hubertus Johannes Maria VRIJHOEF
Professor; Head, Health Systems & Policy Domain

Rob Martinus van DAM
Associate Professor; Head, Epidemiology Domain

LEE Hin Peng
Professor; Head (Chronic Diseases Programme)

Richard James COKER
Visiting Professor; Head (Infectious Diseases Programme)

faculty members

Professors
David KOH Soo Quee
ONG Choon Nam
SAW Seang Mei

Associate Professors
Mikael HARTMAN
KOH Choon Huat, Gerald
Adeline SEOH Ling Hui
TAI Bee Choo
WONG Mee Lian

Assistant Professors
Mark CHEN I-Cheng
CHENG Ching-Yu
CHOI Hyungwon
Alex R COOK
Zoe Jane Lara HILDON
LIM Wei-Yen
Luo Nan
Falk MUELLER-RIEMENSCHNEIDER
PAN An
Clarence TAM Yung Sze Han
TAN Chuen Seng
YOONG Su-Yin, Joanne

Senior Lecturers
SNG Gek Khim, Judy

Lecturers
Elizabeth Alderman JAHNCKE
Kavita VENKATARAMAN

Other Faculty Members
Leontine ALKEMA
Joint Assistant Professor

Gregory CHAN Chung Tsing
Adjunct Assistant Professor

Roy CHAN Kum Wah
Joint Adjunct Professor

CHEAH Peh Yan
Joint Adjunct Associate Professor

CHEW Ling
Adjunct Assistant Professor

CHEW Suok Kai
Adjunct Associate Professor

Audrey CHIA Wai Yin
Joint Associate Professor

Angela CHOW Li Ping
Adjunct Assistant Professor

Kenneth David CHOI Kwok Yin
Adjunct Assistant Professor

Raymond CHUA Swee Yin
Adjunct Assistant Professor

Arun EARNEST
Joint Assistant Professor

Eric Andrew FINKLESTEIN
Joint Professor

FONG Nga Phoon
Joint Adjunct Associate Professor

GOH Kee Tai
Adjunct Professor

GOH Liang Kee
Joint Assistant Professor

Derrick HENG Mok Kwee
Adjunct Associate Professor

David Lowell HEYMANN
Visiting Professor

Martin Lloyd HIBBERD
Adjunct Professor

HSU Li Yang
Joint Assistant Professor

Mohammad Kamran IKRAM
Joint Assistant Professor

KHOR Chiea Chuen
Joint Assistant Professor

KOH Woon Puay
Joint Associate Professor

KOH Yang Huang
Joint Assistant Professor

LEE Chien Earn
Adjunct Associate Professor

LEE Hock Siang
Adjunct Associate Professor

LEE See Muah
Adjunct Associate Professor

NUS Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health Annual Report 2012/13
Poetry to me is an outlet to share my personal life experiences with another person. Similar to the research activities in SSHSPH, we get to share our findings that improve human health.
- Dr Tan Chuen Seng
Assistant Professor, SSHSPH

We Sing

We sing because we want to be:
To be instruments contributing To that melodious harmony;
To be dwelling in the beauty And wonder of enthralling Music;
To be the joy, or the sorrow, The human emotions Music conveys.

For Music is Man’s way of sharing His life journey with another. May Music bring forth a bond, A fellowship among all, Regardless of race or creed, For Music is for everyone: The singers and the listeners.
vivien’s story

Dr Vivien Fe F. Fadrilan-Camacho, a medical doctor and cum laude graduate of the University of the Philippines received a scholarship to realize her dream and pursue a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree at the NUS Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health.

Since graduating, Vivien has returned to the Philippines and has been appointed Chair of the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health at the University of the Philippines Manila, College of Public Health. She currently serves at the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the Philippine General Hospital, teaching and applying her newly acquired knowledge and skills in occupational health.

…Teaching is my passion and I have always wanted to be part of moulding young minds … I want to be the next generation of faculty that will shape medical and public health education in my country … I felt truly blessed and I am very grateful for the opportunity given to me. I still could not believe that my dream was finally a reality.

- Dr Vivien Fe F. Fadrilan-Camacho (second from left), Class of 2012/13

As we grow, our continued strength depends not only on our legacy, but also on the support of our donor community, to help many of the brightest minds pursue their dreams and serve the community.
safiyah’s story

Safiyah Salim graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Science and a Minor in Sociology from the National University of Singapore (NUS), and served as a disability policy officer at the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports, now known as the Ministry of Social and Family Development.

Her passion towards improving the lives of disabled people led her to enroll in the Master of Public Health (MPH) programme in August 2012, a decision which was made possible with the Saw Swee Hock Master of Public Health Scholarship. Safiyah hopes to graduate at the end of this year and pursue a career in public health.

Safiyah on her SSHSPH experience:
During my semester break, I undertook an internship with the Health Services Development Unit of the World Health Organization (WHO)'s Regional Office for the Western Pacific in Manila. As part of the Health Systems Strategies Review Team, I was involved in finalising the findings of the Review and their implications, facilitating an effective High Level Member States Consultation as well as penning the report to be presented to the WHO Regional Committee in October 2013.

Exposure to WHO and its work, at the regional and country levels, allowed me to experience first-hand the various processes via which global health initiatives are framed and undertaken, as well as the nuances within them. Meeting public health practitioners of various nationalities and diverse personal as well as professional backgrounds, and sharing perspectives with them was definitely the icing on the cake!

It is my wish for the School to play a key role in helping to improve the standard of public healthcare in Singapore and the region in the years ahead.
- Professor Saw Swee Hock, Distinguished Benefactor to the NUS Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, Distinguished NUS Alumnus and member of the NUS Board of Trustees

A Gift that made Public Health history
Professor Saw Swee Hock is a distinguished NUS alumnus, professor and philanthropist, whose landmark gift of $30 million enabled the establishment of the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health in October 2011, blazing a path for the new School to reach greater heights of excellence and become Asia’s leader in public health education, training and research in the years ahead.

His gift will enable the School to expand facilities, produce cutting-edge research and world-class educational programmes, professorships and scholarships. It will help us shape the course of the School and face increasingly complex and challenging public health issues confronting us today. In recognition of his achievements and contributions, Professor Saw received the Public Service Medal at the National Day Awards 2013.

Professor Saw has provided generously to various charitable causes, especially in the area of higher education, in the form of gold medals, bursaries, scholarships, institutes, schools and buildings. Recipients of his donations include the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), National University of Singapore (NUS), London School of Economics (LSE), Xiamen University, University of Hong Kong (HKU), Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and Singapore Management University (SMU). In NUS, he has set up an endowed bursary fund which has so far benefited over 110 final year needy students across all faculties and schools. His latest landmark gift to develop the Saw Swee Hock Student Centre at LSE will be completed in late 2013.

Professor Saw is currently President’s Honorary Professor of Statistics in the Department of Statistics and Applied Probability, NUS, and Professorial Fellow in ISEAS. He is an Honorary Fellow of LSE and an Honorary Professor in both HKU and the Xiamen University, most recently receiving an Honorary University Fellowship from HKU in July 2013. He also serves as a member on the NUS Board of Trustees.

Congratulations Professor Saw!
Professor Saw Swee Hock was conferred the Honorary University Fellowship by the University of Hong Kong in July 2013. As Founding Professor and Head of Department of Statistics at the University of Hong Kong, Prof Saw was awarded in recognition of his contributions to the development of statistics education and research in the University, his philanthropic gifts to the University and his consultancy service to the Hong Kong Census and Statistics Department in the collection and analysis of statistics.
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Singapore Chemical Industry Council Limited
Singapore Exchange Limited
Singapore Sports Hub
Singapore Tourism Board
Sino-Environment Technology Group Limited
Standard Chartered Bank
Stirling Coleman Capital Limited
Tal Sin Electric Limited
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Contribute to the future of public health here today.
I enjoy weekly **tennis** practice with the NUS Staff Tennis Team as it is a good opportunity for physical activity and to socialise. We also regularly play in tournaments, which builds team spirit and is great motivation to keep playing and improving.

- Dr Nasheen Naidoo, Research Assistant, SSHSPH

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This year, the School is piloting several major initiatives in our efforts to stay in good shape – both inside and out.
Integrated Care Program for Chronic Diseases

Worldwide, there is an awareness of the need for a well-integrated healthcare system to link and bridge the gaps between the primary, secondary, and tertiary care settings to cope with the challenges of increasing demand from an ageing population. While there is increasing agreement that integration of the healthcare system is required in order for healthcare organisations to perform well, there is less done to explore how best to achieve integrated care. There is no “one size fits all” method to integrate health systems or services. It is thus necessary to explore, understand, and gather evidence regarding which combination of strategies would result in the best outcome and/or cost savings from integrated care.

The Integrated Care Program for Chronic Diseases is aiming to contribute to this objective. This is done by making use of interdisciplinary research across the Singapore health care system and includes research projects around new models of care at the interface between community, primary, and hospital care for patients with chronic diseases and frail elderly, and at the level of Singapore’s regional health systems.

Healthy NUS campus project

Much of the burden of chronic diseases can be substantially reduced by targeting a few health related behaviours. In the light of the increasing burden of obesity, diabetes mellitus and other chronic diseases in Singapore, promoting active lifestyles and health promoting dietary behaviour are of particular importance. Comprehensive and concerted efforts are needed to achieve beneficial behaviour and health changes in the population at large.

The healthy NUS campus initiative aims to facilitate and promote beneficial behavior and positive health changes to:

- Promote positive and maintainable health behaviours and health among NUS students and staff
- Promote well-being, work and study satisfaction, as well as productivity and academic achievements of students and staff
- Establish NUS as an innovative health-promoting university to further increase competitiveness
- Develop comprehensive best-practice health promotion examples for other national and international institutions

Under the healthy NUS campus initiative, the School has outlined several proposals and phases to assess health behaviours at a campus-wide level to determine the strategies, including:

- An initial campus-wide needs assessment to determine relevant health behaviours on campus
- Implementing healthier food in canteens at the Kent Ridge campus
- Creating a ‘sugar-free’ campus
- Promoting opportunities for physical activity (e.g. walking, stair-climbing) on campus
- Promoting cycling on campus via a campus-wide bike rental scheme
- Collaborating with the Health Promotion Board (HPB) to set up a farmer’s market selling healthy food items
- Reducing sedentary behavior in NUS workplaces

Integrated Workplace Safety and Health (iWSH) project

The Integrated Workplace Safety and Health (iWSH) project is about adopting a comprehensive and integrated approach to managing workplace safety, health and wellness by providing and maintaining a safe, healthy and conducive working environment for all employees in the School.

Since 2004, the School has achieved the Gold Award for the University-wide “Annual Safety and Health Award”. We are also currently the only School in NUS which has attained the Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) OHSAS 18001:2007 certification, in light of our effective OH&S management system. And as part of the iWSH approach, the School is incorporating the aspect of promoting staff wellness in an efficient and cost-effective manner. Thus, we have embarked on several activities this past year:

In October 2012, we conducted a survey to understand the positive mental health status of all staff in our newly-formed School, which resulted in our SSHSPH Teambuilding cum Chinese New Year (CNY) celebration in February 2013, to foster staff interaction and bonding.

In August 2013, the School launched Fitness Friday, a School-wide exercise initiative which allows staff to take one hour of time off on Fridays to participate in various exercise interest groups such as tai chi, badminton, running and frisbee, among others.

This programme is in line with the School’s efforts to create not just a health-promoting School within the campus, but subsequently a health-promoting University as well, and as a School of Public Health, it is our call to ‘walk the talk’ in inculcating healthy behaviours into our lifestyles.

Prior to the exercise programme, a health screening and lifestyle baseline survey for all staff was also conducted, and the data will be useful towards planning other upcoming Safety, Health and Wellness programmes.

Above: Faculty and staff at the SSHSPH Teambuilding cum 2013 Chinese New Year celebration
Below: Faculty and staff during a 1-hour mass walk to University Town at the launch of Fitness Friday.
I love hiking because it is a holistic activity for the mind, body and soul - a good workout for the body, amazing natural atmosphere for the mind and warm interactions with fellow hikers for the soul.

- Jason Lai Kuan Han, Research Assistant, SSHSPH

“This photo was taken in Sepraksan National Park, South Korea in June 2013, as part of my solo travels. Although I was travelling alone, I met many friendly locals along the way who accompanied me during the hike.”

A year well-cast

As we round up another fruitful and memorable year in our Public Health journey, we look back at some of our noteworthy events which have made a significant impact on Public Health in Singapore.
The 1st Singapore International Public Health Conference

Over 500 international and local participants from 27 countries gathered for the 1st Singapore International Public Health Conference held on 1 & 2 October 2012 at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel, Singapore. The theme for the inaugural edition was “Translating Public Health Research into Practice”, a timely topic which reflected the need to employ evidence-based programmes and possibilities to address the rapidly-changing healthcare landscape.

The 2-day event was launched by Guest-of-Honour Senior Minister of State for Health and Manpower, Dr Amy Khor, and saw keynote speeches delivered by esteemed speakers such as Professor Peter Piot, Director of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; Professor Kenneth E. Warner, Avedis Donabedian Distinguished University Professor of Public Health at the University Of Michigan School of Public Health; and Professor David L. Heymann, Chair of the Health Protection Agency, UK, and Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

The multi-disciplinary event was not only timely but crucial as we collectively face the escalating threat that health issues pose to the well-being, social, political and economic welfare of many countries around the world. It also gave participants including renowned industry leaders, public health practitioners and policy-makers, a platform to come together to find ways to compress the interval between discovery and its translation into programmes and policies particularly in the areas of Type 2 diabetes prevention, ageing and infectious diseases.

“(What the School is doing) exemplifies the kind of approach we need – an academic endeavour that explicitly envisions and works towards real-world application of their research work”.

-Dr Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State for Health and Manpower

The 1st Worlds of Healthy Flavours Asia

The 1st Worlds of Healthy Flavours Asia kicked off on 28 November 2012 at Raffles City Convention Centre, Singapore. Organised by the Culinary Institute of America (CIA), Harvard School of Public Health’s (HSPH) Department of Nutrition, Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health (SSSHSPH) and Health Promotion Board, Singapore (HPB), the 3-day by-invitation only event brought together food industry leaders as they addressed major health and nutrition issues in Asia such as diabetes and obesity.

The event saw industry experts, international and local chefs conducting culinary demonstrations, presentations and getting involved in panel discussions. It aims to reach out to various sectors of the food industry, including fine dining restaurants and foodcourt operators, in an effort to boost healthy eating habits in Asia.

(L-R): SSSHSPH Dean Prof Chia Kee Seng, Senior Minister of State for Health and Manpower, Dr Amy Khor and Asst Prof Eugene Shum, Chairman of the Chapter of Public Health and Occupational Physicians, taking part in the Bukit Panjang Primary School Festive Drum Group’s performance during the opening ceremony.
NIHA Forum 2013: Economics, Technology Assessment and Health Policymaking

Jointly organised by the National University of Singapore (NUS) Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health and the NUS Global Asia Institute (GAI), the 4th NUS Initiative to Improve Health in Asia (NIHA) Forum took place on 1 & 2 July 2013 at Traders Hotel, Singapore. The event played host to approximately 90 healthcare leaders, healthcare policy academics and industry experts as they convened to tackle this year’s theme of “Economics, Technology Assessment and Health Policymaking”.

NUS President, Professor Tan Chorh Chuan delivered the welcome remarks, followed by the NIHA Forum opening speech, which was delivered by the Guest of Honour, Senior Minister of State for Health and Manpower, Dr Amy Khor.

In addition to keynote lectures by Prof David Haslam, Chairman, National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), United Kingdom and Prof Harvey Fineberg, President of the Institute of Medicine, USA, the Forum saw participants giving presentations, sharing their perspectives in panel discussions and getting involved in lively discussions during their breakout groups.

Congratulations, SSHSPH Class of 2013!

14 July 2013 marked a joyous and momentous occasion for the graduating batch of students from the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health (SSHSPH) as they celebrated an important milestone in their lives – the NUS Commencement Ceremony.

A total of 37 Master of Public Health (MPH), Master of Science (MSc) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) students received their graduate degrees and officially embarked on a new chapter in their Public Health journeys.

This year also marked the inaugural batch of 8 MSc and PhD students graduating from SSHSPH.

In conjunction with the Commencement Ceremony, the School also hosted the first Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health Commencement High Tea 2013 at Kent Ridge Guild House, during which current and graduating MPH and PhD students, their families and faculty gathered together for an afternoon to mingle and celebrate the beginning of a new phase in our graduands’ lives. The graduating batch also signed a Public Health pledge, a new yearly tradition which fosters a shared Public Health vision among the graduates.

Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, Guest Speaker at the 2013 NUS Commencement Ceremony

“I am part of a larger system that truly gives people security and preventive healthcare… continue to make a huge difference in the lives of everyone that you touch”
- Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, Guest Speaker at the 2013 NUS Commencement Ceremony

I pledge to use my knowledge and training in Public Health to improve the health and well-being of my community.
Playing the guitar, after a long and exhausting week at work, is my way of taking a break away from reality. Music is a great form of stress relief.

- Ruth Krishnan, Specialist Associate, SSHSPH

Playing with my son daily

- Nothing is more fulfilling to a parent than witnessing their children’s ‘Firsts’ in all that they do!

- Alex Leow, Assistant Manager, SSHSPH

moulding minds that inspire

In pursuing a Public Health education, our students are inspired and committed to making a positive impact on the communities we live in and around the world.

Geraldine John, Master of Public Health (MPH) Student Class of 2012/13
An Overview of the Education Office

The National University of Singapore (NUS) Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health offers various undergraduate and postgraduate courses, and is also actively involved in undergraduate medical training at the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine:

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Undergraduate Studies

Minor in Public Health

The Minor in Public Health was approved in April 2013 and offered in AY2013/14 to NUS students, with the aims of:

• Introducing students to public health and its approaches and methods to identify, prevent and control global and local human health issues at the population level
• Raising awareness among undergraduates from different majors of the potential applications of their knowledge for public health and the need for a multi-disciplinary, systems and team-based approach in dealing with public health issues
• Laying foundations for future training in carrying out public health and clinical research

These modules will introduce students to the theoretical groundwork of topics that will guide them in practical applications. External public health professionals are also invited to give lectures or be involved in panel discussions, to provide real-world practical experience. Where applicable, the modules also incorporate and encourage critical thinking and creativity, communication skills, ethical decision making, professionalism, systems thinking and teamwork.

Medical Curriculum (offered by the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine)

The Medical Curriculum, taught in the first to fourth year of the five-year medical course, aims to impart:

• An understanding of the influence and relevance of behavioural, social, cultural, environmental, occupational, and economic factors on health and illness, and apply this understanding to the promotion of health and management of illness
• An awareness of the components of healthcare systems and their effects on the population, individuals and patients
• Skills to gather and critically evaluate information and effectively incorporate it into their knowledge base
• Skills to critically appraise evidence, prevent and manage disease, and promote health at the community level which are crucial to the health of Singapore

This training is structured to allow medical students to understand and apply preventive healthcare concepts at the population and individual level, emphasising on the epidemiology of common communicable and non-communicable diseases. The desired result is for students to use these acquired skills to provide holistic, patient-centred and multidisciplinary care to their patients.

Left: Ong Peck Hoon, Master of Public Health (MPH) Student, Class of 2012/13

GEK1900 Public Health in Action

A new General Education Module was approved and offered to the NUS students in January 2013. GEK1900 Public Health in Action aims to give the general population of NUS an introduction to Public Health by using a population-based perspective to understand the broad forces behind development of disease and ill-health. Employing the evidence-based framework, experiences, current issues and ethical dilemmas from cancer to pandemics, from AIDS to diabetes, from diet to disasters, are shared and debated. This module will be one of the essential modules for the Minor in Public Health, starting in AY2013/14.

ENV2103 Environmental and Public Health

The School oversees the module ENV2103 Environmental and Public Health, a core requirement for students undertaking the Bachelor of Environmental Studies (BES), a 4-year direct Honours degree programme offered jointly by the Faculty of Science and Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. This module provides an introduction to public health and environmental health, and the management of contemporary environmental health issues.

SSU2003 Building Healthy Societies

The School offers SSU2003 Building Healthy Societies through the College of Alice & Peter Tan as a senior seminar to the college’s residents. This seminar challenges students to think beyond the individual and to consider ways in which the community and social structures influence individual and community health.
Graduate Studies:

Master in Public Health (MPH) programme

The Master in Public Health (MPH) programme seeks to provide a rigorous and interdisciplinary approach to learning, with emphasis on finding evidence-based and innovative solutions to Asia’s current and future public health challenges. Leveraging on the NUS system and our close links with the National University Hospital (NUH), Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS Business School, as well as the Faculties of Arts and Social Sciences and Engineering, our School ensures that research and teaching provided is both progressive and comprehensive.

Graduates of the MPH programme are equipped to address both traditional and emerging public health issues. Our MPH graduates assume leadership and administrative positions in diverse public health disciplines and work in a wide variety of local and international settings.

Graduate Research Programmes

Launched in August 2012, the Master of Science (MSc) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programmes are research-intensive programmes emphasising mastery of research skills and acquisition of domain knowledge. Students complete coursework and conduct independent research under the supervision of a faculty member, culminating in the submission of a thesis that demonstrates scholarship and original contribution to the knowledge in the field of research.

Preventive Medicine Residency Programme (offered by National University Health System)

Since 2010, the Preventive Medicine Residency Programme has offered a broad range of experiential learning across various participating sites throughout Singapore. Public health and occupational medicine training programmes come under the Preventive Medicine Residency - a three-year ACGME-I (Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education - International) accredited training programme. There are currently 17 residents undergoing this programme.

With four domains, various programmes and inter-disciplinary research centres, we are breaking barriers to produce cutting-edge research with real-world public health applications.
Biostatistics domain

Biostatistics focuses on the generation of health statistics through data management and analysis, as well as areas such as public health genomics.

This year, one of our colleagues, Asst Prof Choi Hyungwon, was invited to contribute two review articles to the prestigious Current Protocols in Bioinformatics, a testament of his contributions and leadership in the area of proteomics and mass spectrometry data analytics.

Another of our colleagues, Asst Prof Alex Cook, led the modelling team in the Demographic Epidemiological Model of Singapore (DEMOS) to forecast the healthcare and economic burden of Type 2 diabetes in Singapore until 2050, an achievement which was cited in numerous high-profile presentations at the World Health Summit in Berlin, as well as the Regional World Health Summit in April 2013. Asst Prof Cook’s research in infectious diseases and the costs of global health challenges has also received numerous media coverage.

The past year has also seen the development of several sophisticated statistical methods in the areas of genetics, clinical epidemiology, proteomics and infectious disease modelling.

Epidemiology domain

Epidemiological research provides insight into the frequency and distribution of diseases in populations and its determinants, providing information for public health and health promotion initiatives.

With regard to teaching, we are now offering epidemiology to undergraduates taking up the Public Health minor, and have been adding courses on public health nutrition and nutritional epidemiology.

This past year, we have built on our research strengths in molecular, nutritional, and clinical epidemiology. For example, we have obtained funding for more research projects, such as a metabolomics study to identify novel risk factors for Type 2 diabetes. Several studies are conducted integrating data on biomarkers and traditional methods to provide better evidence for nutrition recommendations relevant for Asian diets. The domain has also conducted a series of meta-analyses to facilitate timely translation of the totality of scientific evidence to policy decisions.

For clinical epidemiology, a variety of novel biomarkers will be measured in the breast cancer cohort to improve the prediction of breast cancer prognosis. Predictive functions for coronary heart disease have also been modified for better prediction of risk levels in the local population.
The Health Systems and Policy (HSP) domain aims to develop, test and evaluate a health systems’ perspective to monitor health and drive evidence-based formulation of health policy, through multi-disciplinary research.

In our work, we have taken a panoramic view of healthcare in Singapore as well as regionally. For example, taking into account Singapore’s rapidly ageing population, we have focused on research in chronic diseases, its management and financing particularly amongst the elderly. From a more applied perspective, we have also undertaken projects centred on home medical care in Singapore, such as home-based tele-rehabilitation for stroke and fall patients. We are also conducting research into how a patient-centered medical home for those with chronic illnesses can be effectively developed and implemented, thus integrating primary care and hospital care.

The HSP domain also contributed to this year’s NIHA Forum, which provided greater insights on formulating the leadership programme that will train and enhance the capabilities of regulators and healthcare policymakers in the region.

The Health Education and Promotion (HEP) domain aims to focus upon the design, implementation and evaluation of behavior change interventions.

Our ongoing studies centre around translating research findings into practice to reduce sexually transmitted diseases among sex workers in Singapore. We are also conducting studies on the built environment, and the determinants of physical activity and its behaviour. These studies will contribute new insights into promoting physically active lifestyles and work towards addressing chronic diseases caused by lifestyle-related factors.

Additionally, we have launched an initiative, the Prevention of Obesity and Diabetes (POD), focusing on community level behavioural interventions related to obesity and diabetes prevention.

At the institution level, efforts to launch a “Healthy Campus Initiative” (HCI) are also underway, with aims to promote positive health behaviours among students and staff as an example for other institutions.
Infectious Diseases Programme

Headed by Prof Richard Coker, the Infectious Diseases (ID) programme was established with the aim of being a research-strong programme that supports the research needs of domestic stakeholders to meet ID challenges in Singapore, and support the development of teaching, training and capacity development to respond to ID challenges in the region.

These are some of the projects we have undertaken with the aim of improving health-related practice, policy and research:

• Modelling interventions against a potential influenza A epidemic in Singapore
  This project uses computer-based modelling to quickly and effectively examine multiple scenarios in the event of a highly infectious pandemic occurring, and allow detailed analysis of actions.

• Formative and pilot studies for HIV/STI prevention in men-who-have-sex-with-men (MSM)
  This project addresses the challenges faced in conducting locally relevant research in MSM, through in-depth interviews with high-risk MSM and focus group discussions designed to gather input and build a consultative environment with stakeholders for designing future projects.

• Individual and institutional determinants of influenza vaccination in healthcare workers
  This project aims to investigate barriers to influenza vaccination among healthcare workers and related potential interventions in Singapore.
The Singapore Population Health Study

The Singapore Population Health Study (SPHS) was set up in late 2011 as the resource centre for the School and NUS for population-based health studies. We are actively conducting the following studies:

• **Singapore Consortium of Cohort Studies**
  Following the completion of our recruitment, this year, we are conducting revisits of our volunteers and patients to update phenotype information, including new surveys on cognition and healthcare utilisation.

• **Singapore Health 2012 Studies**
  We are currently analysing data collected in our 2012 study, and a second edition will be implemented in early 2014. Ongoing Knowledge, Attitudes, Perceptions and Behaviour (KAPB) and epidemiologic studies of haze and emerging respiratory infections are also underway.

• **Household Cohort Study of Acute Respiratory Infections**
  The aim of this study is to identify the common pathogens causing such infections, to understand transmission patterns between household members, and demonstrate the interaction between pathogen and host factors in determining transmission. This study will be completed in October 2013.

• **Demographic Epidemiological Model of Singapore (DEMOS)**
  The DEMOS will provide a framework to transform low dimensional summary statistics from national statistics publications into richer, higher dimensional data. Using DEMOS, we are currently modelling health diseases and behaviours to assess the impact of interventions to reduce future diabetes or other chronic diseases.

• **Nutrition, physical activity and metabolic disorders**
  In the past year, our research programmes have focused on the effects of coffee and refined grain consumption, as well as the health effects of sedentary behaviours. We have also conducted studies on the accuracy of the assessment of physical activity, the prevalence and socio-demographic determinants of physical activity behaviours, and the health effects of sedentary behaviours.

• **Systematic reviews and meta-analysis**
  Besides initiating four meta-analyses projects focusing on diet and health, we also completed a Health Technology Assessment commissioned by the Ministry of Health Singapore.

WHO Collaborating Centre for Occupational Health

• **Local Collaborations**
  Together with WHO CC, Ministry of Manpower, Singapore, we embarked on a study of 30 workplaces to:
  - Develop tools and assess levels of knowledge, attitude and practices of workplace health protection and health promotion and its integration
  - Pilot and evaluate the potential impact of health promotion and health protection
  - Assess the potential economic impact and benefit of health protection and promotion programmes

In December 2012, we also co-organised a study trip for delegates from the Occupational Health and Injury Prevention Division, Health Environment Management Agency of the Ministry of Health, Vietnam, to share with them our occupational health training programme in NUS.

Our Centre Head and Director, Associate Professor Chia Sin Eng was also involved in a project to write up the Workplace Safety and Health Guidelines on Statutory Medical Examinations, which was completed in early 2013.

• **Regional Collaborations**
  This past year, we have also conducted several collaborations which saw participants from India, China, Malaysia and the Philippines, among other countries, participate in weekly video-conference lectures on International Perspectives in Environmental and Occupational Health (IEOH), courses in Industrial Hygiene and Industrial Toxicology.
The Population Health Metrics and Analytics (PHMA) is a cutting-edge health information system that will monitor and integrate a massive volume of data, in order to help researchers understand health and disease; and provide guidance to policymakers.

PHMA consists of 4 major components:

- The Modelling and Simulation Core (DEMONS++) consists of tools capable of computer simulations in different scenarios in order to project future outcomes.
- The Population Health Monitor seeks to continuously follow up a large cohort of Singapore’s population through questionnaires, interviews, health checks and laboratory tests, to understand their health risks and health-seeking behaviour.
- The Aggregate Data Repository seeks to create a comprehensive database that enables a researcher to search for and utilise data in an efficient manner.
- The Meta-analyses Platform aims to analyse and organise epidemiological data from studies around the world.

Health Promotion Research

This year, we are currently conducting the following studies under health promotion research:

- STI/HIV/AIDS risks related to heterosexual behaviours of Singapore Men.
  This year, we continued our collaboration with the Health Promotion Board (HPB) to assess STI/HIV risk related sexual behaviours and health-seeking behaviours among heterosexual men who engage in paid sex and/ or casual sex with women in Singapore and neighbouring countries. We completed in-depth interviews and surveys with men who engaged in high-risk heterosexual behaviours in October 2012.

- A qualitative study of attitudes and risk reduction behaviours of women (non-sex workers) with HIV-positive partners.
  This study, funded by the Association of Women for Action and Research (AWARE), was completed in November 2012. The objective was to explore attitudes and perceptions surrounding HIV and sexual behaviour among women whose husbands or partners are infected with HIV. The findings from this study will go towards planning a HIV-prevention education programme for women.

- Randomised controlled trial of an STI/HIV/AIDS prevention intervention for adolescents attending a public STI clinic in Singapore.
  This collaboration between NUS and the Department of STI Control (DSC) aims to assess the impact of an STI/HIV/AIDS prevention programme among adolescents attending the Department of STI Control Clinic (DSC).

- Health behaviour survey among undergraduate university students in low and middle income countries: a multi-country study.
  Together with the University of Limpopo in South Africa, we are conducting a multi-country survey among undergraduates to compare the prevalence of health-related behaviours and associated knowledge and beliefs in different low and middle income countries in Asia and Africa. The survey will be completed in December 2013.

Lung and Lymphoma Studies

- Genes, Environment and Lung Cancer, Singapore (GEL-S) Study.
  This past year, our collaborations with the US Institutes of Health and the International Lung Cancer Consortium have led to several publications that have pooled data from Singapore with other countries to arrive at more accurate estimates of the effects of family history and specific genetic polymorphisms on lung cancer risk.

- Singapore Lymphoma Study.
  Our collaboration with the Genome Institute of Singapore on a Genome Wide Association Study of genetic determinants of lymphoma risk in Asian populations has resulted in a publication in Nature Genetics journal.

The Singapore Epidemiology of Eye Disease (SEED) programme provides novel knowledge of eye health and age at the population level, to enable dissecting, detecting and preventing eye diseases in both the young and ageing populations in Singapore and Asia.

We combine innovative and cutting-edge epidemiological research to create focused and theme-oriented strategies, with multi-disciplinary expertise in all aspects of clinical and epidemiological research. Our major research areas are:

- Basic & Advanced Epidemiology
- Genetic & Molecular Epidemiology
- Infrastructure of Population Health

Centre for Environment and Occupational Health Research (CEOHR)

The Centre for Environmental and Occupational Health Research (CEOHR) elucidates and prevents environmental and occupational related health problems. We conduct research and provide support in areas concerning chemical safety, environmental and occupational health, as well as provide training in environmental and occupational health. CEOHR works closely with the NUS Environmental Research Institute (NERI) and various institutions in US and China.

Our main research activities include detection and control of environmental and occupational diseases, carcinogenesis and chemoprevention, metabolomics, oxidative stress and antioxidants, and the identification of biomarkers for Environmental and Occupational Health Studies.

In 2012, we published a paper using S-phenylmercapturic acid (SPMA) as a complementary method for benzene, a human carcinogen monitoring. This method is currently being used by local petroleum and petroindustries.

Salivary Biomarkers Research Group

This year, we were actively involved in a collaborative research project with the Universiti Brunei Darussalam on the impact of Qigong classes on mental health and salivary biomarkers among university undergraduates. Our results suggest that qigong practice may reduce depression, anxiety and stress, reduce stress hormones and improve mucosal immunity among newly enrolled nursing and midwifery students. These findings have been accepted for publication in a journal on Complementary Therapies in Clinical Practice.

Our group is also involved in ongoing collaborative studies in the use of salivary biomarkers in the study of mental and physical stress in various occupational groups, allergic diseases, infectious diseases, organophosphate toxicity, and oral immunity. We are also exploring the applications of salivary biomarkers in behavioural sciences and health-environment interactions.

Centre for Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Research (CIDER)

CIDER was jointly established by the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) and SSHSPH and was officially launched on 27th July 2012 by Professor Quek Tong Boon, Chief Defence Scientist of MINDEF.

We are currently developing epidemiologic capabilities for disease surveillance, consultation and research to prevent and detect potential infectious disease outbreaks of public health concern. Our group has a core panel of infectious diseases experts that provide infectious diseases and biodefence consultation.

Our Centre also aims to spearhead capability development efforts in areas such as spatial-temporal surveillance systems, syndromic predictive modelling and risk assessment of infectious diseases which have global concern. We are also engaging in collaborations with local and overseas partners and organisations, to lead and to support research activities that will improve and shape our public health system locally and regionally.
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Dietary Intakes, Biomarkers and Genetic Susceptibility in Relation to Risk of Coronary Heart Disease in Singapore Chinese

Rob M van Dam

Family-Based Genome-Wide Association Study of Early-Onset Myopia

Saw Seang Mei

A Novel Multiple-Zone Soft Contact Lens to Slow Myopia Progression

Saw Seang Mei

Validation of Quality of Life Instruments for Assessing Patients with End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD)

Luo Nan

Tele-Rehabilitative Technologies for Home Therapy in Stroke Patients

Koh Choon Huat, Gerald

Visually-Disabling Ocular Complications of High Myopia in Singapore Armed Forces Conscipts

Saw Seang Mei

Estrogenic Biomarkers in Predicting Breast Cancer

Koh Woon Puay

Lung Cancer in Singapore Chinese Women: Genetic Determinants of Susceptibility to Inflammation and Estrogen-Related Risk Factors

Seow, Adeline

Retinal Vessel Caliber, Early Childhood Cardiovascular Risk Factors and Refractive Errors in Pre-School Children

Saw Seang Mei

Environmental and Genetic Determinants of Adiponectin in Chinese, Malays and Asian Indians

Lee Jen-Mai Jeannette

Genetic Risk Determinants for Asian Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus

Ng Peng Keat, Daniel

Physical Exercise and Mental Health in Elderly

Koh Choon Huat, Gerald

Sensitisation of Cancer Cells to Trail-Induced Apoptosis by Andrographolide: Molecular Mechanisms and Potential Clinical Application

Shen Han Ming

Analysis of Multivariate Failure Time Data: A Semi-Completing Risks Approach

Tai Bee Choo

Risk Factors Predicting the Outcomes of Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery (CABG) Using a Large Hospital-Based Cohort: An Important Pre-requisite for Surgeon Specific Comparisons

Agus Salim

Publications in the Spotlight

Research carried out by the School's faculty, together with our partners and students, have and continue to make an impact in the world of health promotion and disease prevention. Below are the publications which have received news and media coverage this past year:


In the two years since the School was established, our efforts to improve and enhance our capabilities have not gone unnoticed - our faculty, staff, and students have done us proud by clinching numerous accolades this past year.

SSHSPI Awards

Commemoration Award for NUS ASHPA 2013
SSHSPI won the Commemoration Award for the NUS Annual Safety & Health Performance Award (ASHPA) in 2013, the highest possible award in recognition of the effective implementation of our safety and health management systems.

Faculty Awards

Prof David Koh receives Outstanding Singapore International Volunteer Award
Professor David Koh received the inaugural Outstanding Singapore International Volunteer (SIV) Award from the Singapore International Foundation (SIF) for outstanding contributions and leadership capabilities displayed during his past overseas SIF missions in occupational health and occupational dermatology.

Asoc Prof Teo Yuk Ying wins NUS faculty teaching excellence award
Associate Professor Teo Yuk Ying received the NUS Faculty Teaching Excellence Award (FTEA) AY 2011/2012 in recognition of his many contributions and commitment to teaching excellence at SSHSPH.

Staff Awards

SSHSPI staff receive honours at the National Day Awards 2013
Several members of our SSHSPH family were presented with National Day Awards 2013. Mr Lee Teck Ngee received the Efficiency Medal 2013 for displaying exceptional efficiency in his duties.

Mdm Chua Lay Ha, Mdm Fong Mew Hoe, Prof David Koh, Mdm Lee Bee Lan, Prof Lee Hin Peng and Mdm Tan Joo Ee all received the Long Service Medal 2013 for having displayed irreproachable behaviour and completing 25 years of service.

Student Awards

FAOBMB Congress Awards
Ho Wanxing, Eugene (PhD) won the FAOBMB Young Scientist Program Travel Fellowship and Best Poster Presentation Award at the 13th Federation of Asian and Oceanian Biochemists and Molecular Biologists (FAOBMB) Congress 2012 held in November 2012.

Awards received at the 1st Singapore International Public Health Conference 2012
Lim Wai Yee (PhD) was awarded First Place in the Student Poster Presentation at the inaugural Singapore International Public Health Conference 2012.

Ng Wei Ling Charis (MPH) and Chen Huijun, Cynthia (PhD) were awarded the Student Oral Presentation (Runner-Up) prize while John Loh Ming Ren and Ng Qiu Ju (Medical Undergraduates) were awarded the Student Poster Presentation (Runner-Up) prize.

IOF Young Investigator Award
Dai Zhaoli (PhD) was conferred the IOF Young Investigator Award of oral presentation at the IOF Regionals - 3rd Asia-Pacific Osteoporosis Meeting held in December 2012.

Conference on Healthy Ageing in Asia
Dai Zhaoli (PhD) won the Best Poster Award during the Conference on Healthy Ageing in Asia in March 2013.

Inaugural Ivan Polunin Medal
Dr Wee Liang En, Ian (Medical Undergraduate) received the Ivan Polunin Medal for achieving the best overall performance in epidemiology and public health throughout the medical course, and for demonstrating considerable involvement and leadership in service to the community and research in public health.

Conference on Healthy Ageing in Asia
Ho Wanxing, Eugene (PhD) was one of ten NUS representatives to receive the Global Young Scientist Travel Fellowship to attend the inaugural Global Young Scientist Summit 2013.

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I love trekking and exploring new lands, like the exquisite Banaue Rice Terraces. Getting close to nature always calms my soul and boy, are my lungs grateful for the fresh air!

- Safiyah Salim, MPH Student, Class of 2012/13, Saw Swee Hock Master of Public Health Scholarship recipient

“Trekking up the Banaue Rice Terraces, Philippines, in July 2013 with fellow WHO interns. Apart from trekking, it was a cultural trip to expose ourselves to the mountainous civilisation.”

Through various external partnerships and collaborations, we are expanding our network in Public Health to make a difference to public health programmes at home and around Asia.
This past year, the School has played host to several regional and international institutions during which we shared and exchanged knowledge about our respective Schools and curricula:

- Delegates from the University of Malaya in July 2013.
- Delegates from the Sorbonne Paris Cite Consortium in June 2013.
- Delegates from Guangzhou Medical University in July 2013.
- Delegates from Nanjing University in July 2013.

The School, together with the Health Sciences Authority (HSA), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in conjunction with the 1st Singapore International Public Health Conference on 1 October 2012, a tie-up which will see both organisations working together to better protect public health and advance public health science.

Since signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) last year, this year has seen the School expand on this academic and research partnership in several ways.

Through funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), LSHTM is leading a 2-year collaborative research programme on multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis (MDRTB) with SSHSPH, the University of Public Health, Yangon, and the national tuberculosis programmes in Myanmar and Yunnan Province, China. The programme will analyse risks associated with MDRTB, health systems constraints to control, and the economics of control.

Both Schools have also jointly developed a short course on vaccinology. Faculty from both schools will teach on the course, which is scheduled to start in November 2013.

**Overseas Visitors**

This past year, the School has played host to several regional and international institutions during which we shared and exchanged knowledge about our respective Schools and curricula:

- Delegates from the Sorbonne Paris Cite Consortium in June 2013.
- Delegates from the University of Malaya in July 2013.
- Delegates from Nanjing University in July 2013.
- Delegates from Guangzhou Medical University in July 2013.

###SSSHSPH Thought Leadership Series

On 3 July 2013, the School presented the inaugural session of the Thought Leadership Series, an ongoing series which will see the brightest minds in Public Health tackle the most pressing public health issues facing us today.

Titled “Precision Medicine: Promises or Perils?”, the first session saw Professor Harvey V. Fineberg, President of the Institute of Medicine, USA, share his views on the up-and-coming issue of Precision Medicine.

###Hearing Awareness Week 2013

The School was proud to be a partner at Siemens’ 5th annual Hearing Awareness Week, which took place on 22 & 23 June 2013.

Held at the NUHS Tower Block, the 2-day event was a good opportunity for families and friends alike to enjoy a free hearing screening by Siemens’ audiologists, listen to educational talks by doctors and audiologists, get caricature sketches done, watch dance performances and visit fun yet informative booths.

###Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Health Sciences Authority (HSA)

The aim of this programme is to bring Singapore and Myanmar closer together in our mutual learning and development of public health, for the advancement of “health for all”. Under this programme, the School, together with the University of Public Health (UPH), Yangon, Myanmar, conducted a course on “Recent Advances in Occupational Medicine” from 16-20 September 2013. Through lectures, tutorials and workplace visits (right), the participants learned to identify occupational safety and health hazards and suggest the appropriate preventive actions.

###London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine Joint Research Projects

Since signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) last year, this year has seen the School expand on this academic and research partnership in several ways.

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###Temasek Foundation - National University of Singapore (NUS) Saw Swee Block School of Public Health : “Public Health (Community Health) for Leaders and Specialists in Asia” Programme

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The School wishes to express its sincerest thanks to all faculty, staff and students listed here, and those who choose to remain anonymous, who have helped make this publishing endeavour possible:

- Aye Mya Win
- Asst Prof Chen I-Cheng Mark
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- Prof Richard Coker
- Asst Prof Alex Cook
- Dr Sourav Das
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- Charisse Anne Fernandez
- Fong Mew Hoe
- Chong Guan Hong Jacinta
- Assoc Prof Mikael Hartman
- Asst Prof Zoe Jane Lara Hildon
- Jin Jing
- Geraldine John
- Ruth Krishnan
- Diane Lai
- Jason Lai Kuan Han
- Prof Lee Hin Peng
- Assoc Prof Jeanette Lee Jen Mai
- Leong Kah Wai
- Dr Alkema Leontine
- Alex Leow Shuangjie
- Lew Hwee Yeong Felicia
- Lim Eng Jee
- Lim Hui Ping
- Asst Prof Lim Wei Yen
- Assoc Prof Lim Yee Wei
- Asst Prof Luo Nan
- Asst Prof Falk Mueller-Riemenschneider
- Dr Nasheen Naidoo
- Charis Ng
- Ng Ah Ching Vivian
- Ng Wai Yee
- Venetia Ong Hui Ling
- Ong Peck Hoon
- Asst Prof Pan An
- Pang Jun Xiong Vincent
- Pang Li Hui Christine
- Pang Long
- Peh Hock Huat Raymond
- Phan Phuong Thao
- Quake Ai Li
- Dr Salome Rebello
- Safiyyah Salim
- Shim Ming Eng
- Sim Kiat Siang (Shen Jixiang)
- Suhana Solhan
- Assoc Prof Tai Bee Choo
- Asst Prof Clarence Tam
- Asst Prof Tan Chuen Seng
- Tan Hui Shan
- Tan Miah Huan
- Assoc Prof Teo Yok Ying
- Joan Thomas
- Assoc Prof Rob Martinus Van Dam
- Prof Bert Vrijhoef
- Wong Kin Yoke
- Assoc Prof Wong Mee Lian
- Wu Limei
- Yeap Liew Moon
- Asst Prof Joanne Yoong Su-Yin
- Zeng Jing
- Zhao Xiahong

As we move forward into the 21st century, the public health demands and challenges we face will constantly evolve. But just as we have risen up to challenges before, we can together as a School, take on those that may come.

With continuing passion and commitment, we will continue to ensure that the future of Public Health is in good hands.