



WHAT'S UP, DOC?



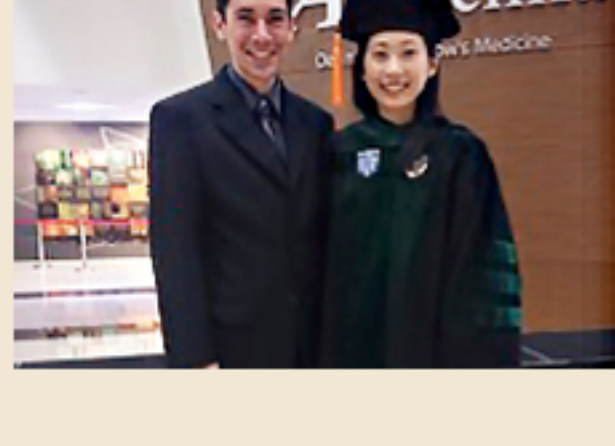
PRINT PDF VERSION



The Duke-NUS Dialogues

On the 24th January 2017, we launched a new initiative: The Duke-NUS Dialogues. The Dialogues aim to connect the alumni to Duke-NUS' core mission, through regular dialogues with prominent clinicians, top scientific researchers and government leaders.

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Taking the Road Less Travelled

Life has a way of throwing surprises in our paths, as it did two years ago to my husband and me. We were in our final year of medical school – him in Canada, and I at Duke-NUS. We'd planned for him to come to Singapore for residency, and hopefully finally close the chapter on our six-year long distance relationship.

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First Alumni Survey

You will always be a part of the Duke-NUS family, even after your graduation. We want to keep in touch and know how you are doing professionally. We hope to understand the challenges you face in your medical career, and in doing so, help to better prepare future classes.

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ALUMNI RELATIONS



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- Getting to know the Alumni Relations Team

ALUMNI EVENTS AND MENTORSHIP



- Class Reunion for Class of 2013
- Alumni Speaker Series
- 5th Year Class Reunion for Class of 2011
- Coffee Appreciation
- NUHS Alumni Gatherings
- College Day 2017
- Duke-NUS Alumni Clinical Observership (DACO)
- Duke-NUS Alumni Forum with Professor Terrance Chua
- NUS Day of Service
- Radiology Residency Dinner
- Alumni Volunteering for Duke-NUS

UPCOMING EVENTS



Look out for these exciting upcoming events. Check your emails for more details.

- New batch of students coming in for Transition 1 23rd July to 27th July 2018 (previously known as Foundation)
- White Coat Ceremony 17th August 2018
- DNMA Annual General Meeting 24th August 2018
- Dean's Pancake breakfast 28th September 2018

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS



Published paper - Evaluating Student-Led Medical Foreign Language Courses: A Preliminary Study (Andrew Chia Chen Chou, Pin Yu Chen)

Our alumni Dr Andrew Chou and Dr Petty Chen wrote a paper studying the efficacy of LINGO, the Duke-NUS student-initiated medical foreign language course to improve communication with patients with limited English proficiency.



Dr Wijaya Martanto Takes on a Different Role

Dr Wijaya Martanto (MD Class of 2014) joined the Clinical Governance team of Sengkang General and Community Hospitals. In this new role, he engages general practitioners around Alexandra Hospital, Sengkang and Punggol in collaboration with SKH's Service Planning team to establish close partnerships for the future. We wish him every success in this exciting new role. Find out [more](#).



Dr Brian Chan Interviewed For Tomorrow's Medicine

Dr Brian Chan, our graduate from MD Class of 2017, was interviewed for the June 2017 edition of the SingHealth magazine, Tomorrow's Medicine. Besides profiling his years of being a student leader, it shared Dr Chan's passion for volunteerism. He is a volunteer for Runninghour, a running club for the visually and intellectually challenged. Find out more [here](#).



Dr Lim Kheng Choon Featured in Faces Of Healthcare

Dr Lim Kheng Choon, our alumnus from the pioneer MD Class of 2011, was recently interviewed for the Faces of Healthcare website. He discussed his experience as a chief resident and training his junior colleagues. Read more about it [here](#).



New Duke-NUS and NUS Engineering Partnership

Duke-NUS partnered NUS to start the NUS Engineering and Medicine track. Successful students will graduate with a Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree at Duke-NUS Medical School after obtaining a Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) degree at NUS. Our alumnus, Dr Eric Cher (MD Class of 2014) was highlighted as a graduate with B.Eng from NUS. Read more about it [here](#).

MD Class of 2011 Exiting Residency

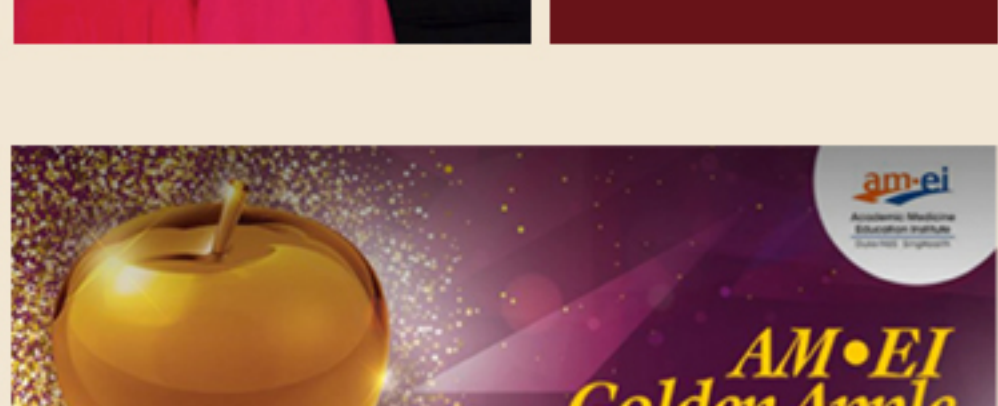
Congratulations to our pioneer class of MD alumni on the completion of their residency training and the beginning of a new phase in their medical career. Cheers to Dr Chia Ghim Song (SGH Neuro Interventional Radiology), Dr Dixon Grant (SGH Haematology), Dr Cecilia Kwok (SGH Psychiatry), Dr Lim Kheng Choon (SGH Neuroradiology), Dr Astrid Melani Suantio (SGH Geriatric Medicine) and Dr Tina Tan (IMH Geriatric Psychiatry).



Outstanding Clinical Ward Teaching Junior Resident Award

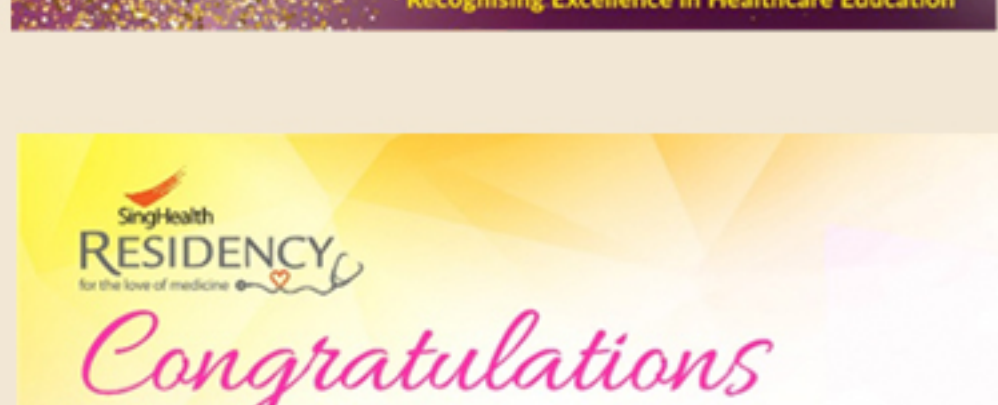
Our alumnus, Dr Clarissa Tio (Class of 2015), who is doing her training in Internal Medicine residency in the US has recently won the Outstanding Clinical Ward Teaching Junior Resident Award at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre.

Good on you, Clarissa!



AM•EI Golden Apple Awards 2017

Congratulations to our Alumnus Dr Ku Chee Wai (Class of 2013) for being nominated for the Outstanding Young Educator Award!



SingHealth RISE Awards 2017

An impressive number of RISE award winners are Duke-NUS alumni. Congratulations to the SingHealth RISE Awards 2017 Winners!

Quality Improvement Project Award

- Dr Foo Li Lian (Class of 2012), Ophthalmology for Reducing Preparation Time for Wheelchair Patients to be Examined at Slitlamp Upon Entering Consultation Room
- Dr Chia Ghim Song and Dr Lim Kheng Choon (both Class of 2011), Diagnostic Radiology for Improving CT Brain Competency

Outstanding Resident Award

- Dr Astrid Melani Suantio (Class of 2011), Geriatric Medicine
- Dr Dixon Grant (Class of 2011), Haematology
- Dr Feng Jiajun (Class of 2012), Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery
- Dr Ignasius Aditya Jappara (Class of 2012), Cardiology
- Dr Jeanne Tan May Mapp (Class of 2012), Neurology
- Dr Yong Ming Hui (Class of 2012), Neurology
- Dr Chester Huang Junjie (Class of 2015), Paediatrics
- Dr Zhang Yuan Helen (Class of 2015), Emergency Medicine
- Dr Lee Man Xin (Class of 2016), Emergency Medicine

Best House Officer Awards

- Dr Cao Jinyi (Class of 2016)
- Dr Lek Sze Min (Class of 2016)

Best Medical Officer Awards

- Dr Melbin Emerson Co (Class of 2013)
- Dr Leong Jia Hui Isabelle (Class of 2014)
- Dr Leong Dalun (Class of 2014)



National Outstanding Clinician Scientist Resident Awards

This inaugural national award recognizes Clinician Scientist Residents for their outstanding performance and contribution in clinical training and research to improve patient care. Only two awards nationally were given this year, and both were awarded to Duke-NUS grads!

[left] Dr Tay Khwee Soon Vincent (Class of 2011) accepting the award from Prof Ian Curran, Vice Dean, Education

[right] Dr Feng Jiajun (Class of 2012) accepting the award from Prof Ian Curran



Clinician Scientist Featured in SingHealth Residency Newsletter

Dr Jeanne Tan, (MD Class of 2012), was recently featured in issue 47 of SingHealth Residency newsletter. Read on to know more about her journey as both a Clinician Scientist and a Neurology Senior Resident.

Dr Jeanne Tan, pictured 4th from the left, with fellow CS Residents and Prof Tan Eng King, pictured 5th from the left


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The Duke-NUS Dialogues

On the 24th January 2017, we launched a new initiative: The Duke-NUS Dialogues. The Dialogues aim to connect the alumni to Duke-NUS' core mission, through regular dialogues with prominent clinicians, top scientific researchers and government leaders. We are grateful to Mr Tony Chew, honorary DNMA member and long-time supporter of DNMA, for initiating this recurring event and for generously hosting the Dialogues in his home.

The Inaugural Duke-NUS Dialogues with Minister of State Dr Janil Puthuchear

We are very honoured to have had Dr Janil Puthuchear, Minister of State (Ministry of Education & Ministry of Communications and Information) as our first speaker. Dr Janil was a founding faculty member of the school, architect of the Body and Disease Course, and pioneered TeamLEAD.

Titled "From Clinician to Politician - Reflections and Insights", Dr Janil shared his journey with alumni, select students and key school leaders. He was candid with the challenges he faced and how, with the help of colleagues and mentors, he was able to emerge from each one stronger. His advice for the alumni is to forge strong bonds amongst themselves and the school. Leveraging on one another's strength, the school will be able to attract quality candidates and the graduates will stand to gain recognition among the medical fraternity.



The Second Duke-NUS Dialogues with Minister Ong Ye Kung

On the 17th May 2017, the 2nd Duke-NUS Dialogues was graced by Mr Ong Ye Kung, Minister of Education (Higher Learning and Skills) & Second Minister of Defence. More than 60 alumni, students, faculty and SingHealth leaders attended the dinner and talk. Speaking on the topic of "The Challenges of Constant Change", Minister Ong shared new perspectives and advice about the future challenges of Singapore's economy, having resilience in the face of setbacks, and adapting ourselves to the country's changing demographics.



The Third Duke-NUS Dialogues with Senior Minister of State Dr Lam Pin Min

We had a meaningful and enriching evening on 15th November 2017 for the third instalment of The Duke-NUS Dialogues. The speaker, Senior Minister of State from Ministry of Health, Dr Lam Pin Min, was a strong draw. Registration for this dialogue was filled within two weeks.

Dr Lam spoke on the topic of "Defensive Medicine and Changes to the Montgomery Test". He also shared his thoughts on upscaling of primary care, and how Duke-NUS graduates can step up to fill the need. SMS Dr Lam closed by talking about his journey from a clinician to a politician.





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WHAT'S UP, DOC?

Taking the Road Less Travelled By

By Dr Tan Wen Qi, MD 2015



Life has a way of throwing surprises in our paths, as it did two years ago to my husband and me. We were in our final year of medical school – him in Canada, and I at Duke-NUS. We'd planned for him to come to Singapore for residency, and hopefully finally close the chapter on our six-year long distance relationship. So it was a bit of a shock when we found that, due to a change in licensing requirements for Canadian students, this wouldn't work.

We thus found ourselves with two options: either we spend another five years apart while he completed residency in Canada, or I move to Canada for residency. It was the hardest decision I had ever made. But in the end, I decided to make the move to Canada. I soon learned that getting into Canadian residency isn't a walk in the park for international medical graduates (IMGs), with overall match rates of 5-10%. Given that much of my clinical experience had been in radiology, it was time to find an alternative specialty. I remembered how much I'd liked family medicine, and decided to spend a year working with a family physician in Victoria.

This turned out to be one of the best decisions I'd ever made, because after a bit of a learning curve I fell in love with it. There's a huge satisfaction in catching patients who fall through the cracks and turning their lives around. One elderly lady I'll never forget had poorly controlled asthma, for which she had been getting treatment at walk-in clinics because of a mistrust of family physicians. After spending many sessions with her, I managed to gain her trust and optimize her asthma treatment, renewing her conviction to stay with our family practice. I'll also remember the Malaysian Chinese breast cancer survivor, whom I helped overcome her fears of breast cancer monitoring. I'll never forget the sincere gratitude some patients showed, simply because I spoke Mandarin. Over the year, I built many incredibly fulfilling patient relationships, and when we finally had to move to another city, those patient relationships were one of the hardest things I had to leave behind.

My husband later matched to radiology in Saskatoon. So we packed our bags and, with his help, I started looking for new clinical opportunities. I soon realized that this wasn't a straightforward job – emails and phone calls would go unanswered; promising conversations would peter out. Clinical traineeships I had arranged would be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. It made me realize how hard the Duke-NUS staff worked, and how easy they made things for us students. Even after I had graduated, the Student Affairs staffs were incredible in helping me get registered in Canada, navigating the complicated system efficiently while meeting near-impossible deadlines.

Despite the initial challenges, the clinical opportunities I did secure more than made up for the effort. I discovered a love for teaching when I became a clinical tutor at the local college of medicine. I was also very lucky to work with excellent physicians, who enriched my learning and helped me immensely on my quest to residency. It was here that the clinical skills I had acquired from my various Duke-NUS tutors really came into their own. Many physicians I worked with gave very positive feedback; the GP I worked with in Victoria even said he had "all [his] misconceptions of IMGs shattered". I think it speaks volumes of the quality of education we get at Duke-NUS – it really is of world-class standards.

When my turn for the residency match came, I put in my applications and attended the interviews for family medicine. Then we settled down for a grueling wait, hoping that - despite some very steep odds - I'd match to where my husband was training. But life has a way of throwing surprises in our paths. On 1 March 2017, we finally received the news that I had matched to my first choice, Saskatoon's family medicine program. After six years of being apart and two years of sweat, tears, and fears, there aren't words to describe the immense relief and joy we felt.

I know that this is only the end of the beginning, but I'm grateful and eager to walk the road ahead. Looking back now, I'm really thankful for the continuous encouragement my mentors and peers have given me, and I'm glad I went ahead with that very difficult decision nearly two years ago: "I took the one less travelled by, and that has made all the difference."

If you have a personal narrative you would like to share, please contact us at alumni@duke-nus.edu.sg



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You will always be a part of the Duke-NUS family, even after your graduation. We want to keep in touch and know how you are doing professionally. We hope to understand the challenges you face in your medical career, and in doing so, help to better prepare future classes.

With these goals in mind, we developed and administered the first Duke-NUS Alumni Survey in August 2017. We sought to gather information on how well prepared alumni felt as PGY1s, their research activities, and career intentions. Alumni from the Class of 2016 and earlier were surveyed.



To encourage participations, alumni who responded were given a \$10 Starbucks gift card.

We received 71 responses, which is 28% of our total alumni community. The results were encouraging and can be summarized as follows:



MAJORITY OF ALUMNI IN THE CLASS OF 2016 FELT WELL PREPARED FOR PGY1



MANY ALUMNI REMAIN ACTIVE IN RESEARCH AND LEADERSHIP

- **65** publications/activities were made in the last year by 33 alumni
- **19** leadership and education roles/activities were taken up in the last year by 12 alumni



MORE THAN HALF FOR A CLINICIAN PLUS CAREER

- **45%** intend to work as a Clinician
- **25%** intend to work as a Clinician Educator
- **13%** intend to work as a Clinician Scientist
- **10%** intend to work as a Clinician Leader
- **4%** intend to work as a Scientist
- **3%** intend to work as a Biomedical Entrepreneur



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ALUMNI RELATIONS

Clinical Attire



For years the students – and many of you! – have asked for clinical attire, and now, with Yong Loo Lin students and most specialties embracing hospital attire, Duke-NUS will have its own! Student Affairs launched a Design Competition in May 2016 for medical students to participate in creating a distinct identity. The Competition drew fourteen submissions. The selection was based on creativity, originality and practicality and the judging panel comprised personnel from Communications & Organisational Excellence, Student Affairs, teaching faculty as well as student representatives. Students were keen to purchase the attire and now you will see entire tutor groups all in matching Duke-NUS attire!

Getting to know Alumni Relations



[From left: Mr Daniel Goh, Dr Mara McAdams and Mr Wong Yong Jie]

The department of Alumni Relations is here to serve you. Led by Dr Mara McAdams, the team endeavours to build strong ties between the alumni and engage alumni with the school. Dr Mara works closely with Mr Wong Yong Jie (Executive) to plan, administer and evaluate programmes and events, present the alumni perspective within Duke-NUS and NUS, and help to evaluate the curriculum through alumni feedback. Complemented by a strong group of Alumni Committee members, we plan to develop more professional plus community and wellness programmes for our alumni members. Mr Daniel Goh has left the service in June.

You are always welcome to drop in the office for a coffee and a chat. Alternatively, you can reach us at alumni@duke-nus.edu.sg, mara.mcadams@duke-nus.edu.sg and our Facebook page www.facebook.com/DNMAsg/.

ALUMNI RELATIONS OFFICE

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ALUMNI EVENTS AND MENTORSHIP

Class Reunion for Class of 2013



The MD class of 2013 gathered on 2nd June 2016 for a class reunion. Alumni caught up with one another over a delicious Middle Eastern dinner at Kazbar. Besides reminiscing about the good old days as medical school students, everyone was eager to swap their "war stories" in their respective residencies. It was a fruitful gathering to rekindle old memories and forge new bonds.

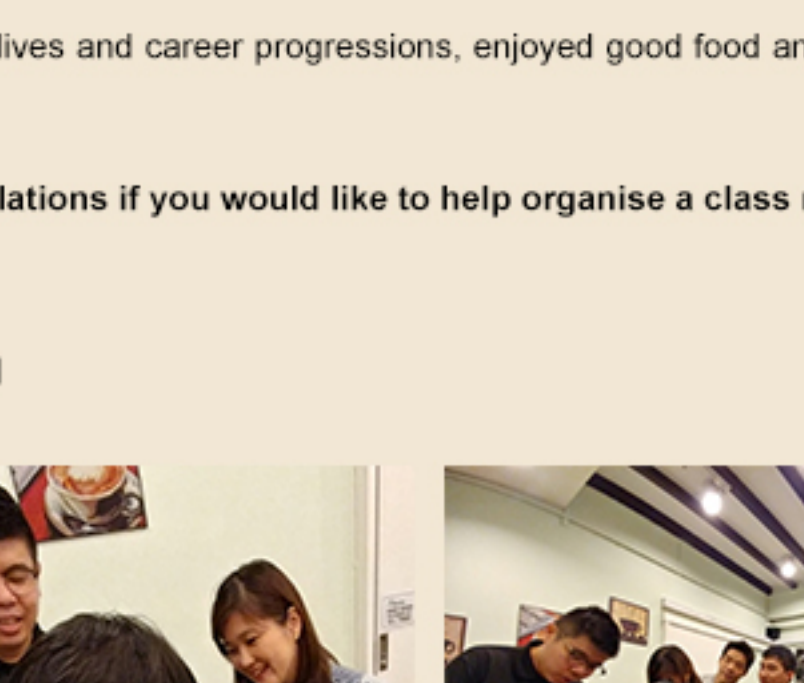
Alumni Relations is glad to pay for your yearly class reunion, so start planning one today and give us a call!

Alumni Speakers Series



The Alumni Speaker Series hosted its inaugural talk in October 2016. The series aims to interest both the alumni and students through talks about current issues in medicine and introductions to specialty residency programs. To kick off the series, we invited Dr Hanley Ho, a consultant from the Institute of Infectious Diseases and Epidemiology, to give a presentation on Singapore's response to Zika virus. Our alumnus, Dr Andrew Green from Class of 2012, shared his experience as part of the Preventive Medicine Residency program and served as MC and moderator.

5th Year Class Reunion for Class of 2011



The inaugural class of Duke-NUS had a class reunion on 10th December 2016 to celebrate the 5th anniversary of their graduation. Nearly half the class attended along with an impressive number of spouses, significant others, and children. Noting the number of children, one class ambassador said, "Our class has effectively replaced itself."

The class caught up on each other's lives and career progressions, enjoyed good food and relived their childhood days as they played with the many kids present.

Please get in touch with Alumni Relations if you would like to help organise a class reunion.

Coffee Appreciation



On 10th December 2016, the Alumni Relations organised a Coffee Appreciation Workshop for our hard-working young doctors. Held at Highlander Coffee, we had very enthusiastic participation from our residents in SGH. Committed alumni Dr Edwin Yang and Dr Maria Noviani (both MD class of 2016) came post-call, and definitely needed the caffeine boost. The workshop started with a brief history of the coffee beans before diving into the different methods of preparing the beverage. After a few rounds of tasting, everyone had a blast making their own coffee and even some fanciful latte art. Everyone came away from the event with a greater appreciation of the cup of java, and maybe discovered their hidden talent as a barista.

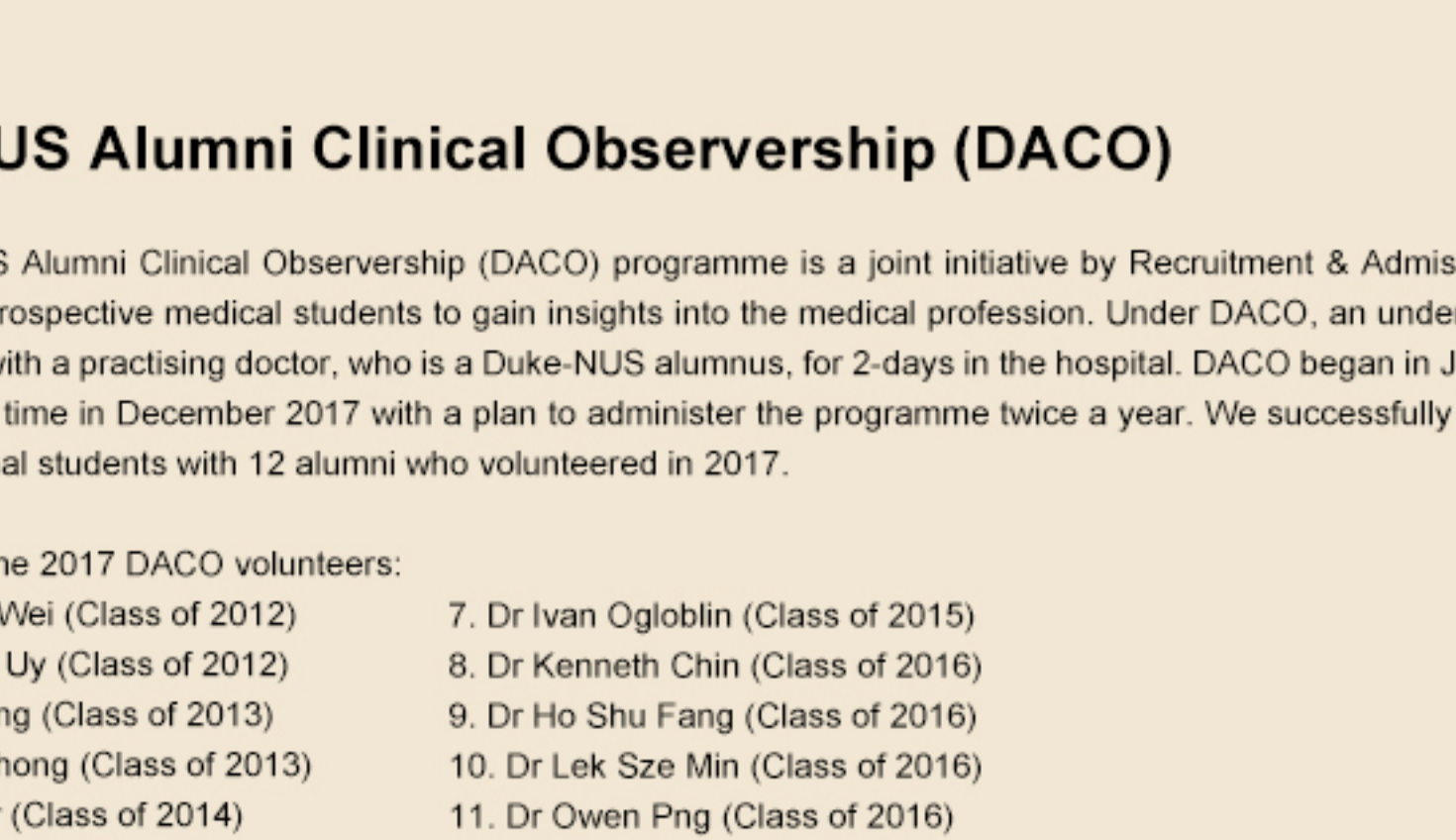
NUHS Alumni Gatherings



On 26th January 2017, Dr Arpana R. Vidyarthi and Alumni Relations hosted the 1st Duke-NUS alumni event for our alumni working in NUHS. More than 10 of our alumni turned up for the mini gathering, including Dr Melissa Tan (MD Class of 2014) with her baby girl.

We had a second gathering on 4th October 2017, and MS4 students were also invited. The alumni were glad to share their first-hand experiences of NUHS with the students who are considering applying for residency there.

College Day 2017



On 8th February 2017, the Student Council organized our first College Day, supported by Student Affairs & Alumni Relations. The primary objective was to foster better relationships between our students and alumni through sharing a meal and near-peer teaching by alumni. After the dinner, the three simultaneous presentations began. Firstly, Dr Chia Ghim Song, Class of 2011, walked a group over to SGH where he led students through the interpretation of x-rays. Back in Stead College, our first alumni couple from the Class of 2011, Dr Rena Dharmawan and Dr Daniel Yong, talked about Work/Life Balance, career decisions and life as a surgical trainee. Lastly, Dr Anu Pandey and Dr Sashen Aponso from Class of 2015 coached students on how to best prepare for CPX4, the final exam four years take in April. Students gave positive feedback on all the talks, which made for an auspicious start to the Year of the Rooster.

Duke-NUS Alumni Clinical Observership (DACO)

The Duke-NUS Alumni Clinical Observership (DACO) programme is a joint initiative by Recruitment & Admissions and Alumni Relations for prospective medical students to gain insights into the medical profession. Under DACO, an undergraduate student will be paired with a practising doctor, who is a Duke-NUS alumnus, for 2-days in the hospital. DACO began in June 2017 and ran for the second time in December 2017 with a plan to administer the programme twice a year. We successfully matched 25 local and international students with 12 alumni who volunteered in 2017.

Thank you to the 2017 DACO volunteers:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Dr Lim Jing Wei (Class of 2012) | 7. Dr Ivan Ogloblin (Class of 2015) |
| 2. Dr Maverick Uy (Class of 2012) | 8. Dr Kenneth Chin (Class of 2016) |
| 3. Dr Wang Ming (Class of 2013) | 9. Dr Ho Shu Fang (Class of 2016) |
| 4. Dr Zhou Zhihong (Class of 2013) | 10. Dr Lek Sze Min (Class of 2016) |
| 5. Dr Eric Cher (Class of 2014) | 11. Dr Owen Png (Class of 2016) |
| 6. Dr Glenn Goh (Class of 2015) | 12. Dr Edwin Yang (Class of 2016) |

We welcome more volunteers and encourage you to step forward for our June 2018 programme. Find out more about DACO [here](#).

Duke-NUS Alumni Forum with Prof Terrance Chua



During the tail end of the second Duke-NUS Dialogue, Prof Wong Tien Yin raised an issue that has also been a topic of many of our alumni's discussions. Perceived lack of Associate Consultant positions is a topic that has troubled many of our alumni and students.

To learn more, the Duke NUS Medical Alumni (DNMA) invited Prof Terrance Chua, Group Chairman of the Medical Board of SingHealth, to give a talk to our alumni and students on the 13th of June 2017. Through the event, Prof Chua shared his perspectives on the matter and addressed the concerns of our senior residents who are soon to complete their training. Prof Chua also took the chance to advise recent graduates on career planning.

NUS Day of Service



NUS Day of Service is a day when the entire NUS community comes together to give back to society. More than 1,400 alumni, students and staff volunteered for 21 community projects across Singapore and overseas, and reach out to a total of about 4,500 beneficiaries.

On 9th September 2017, the Duke-NUS Music SIG, with their renditions of classic English and Chinese evergreens. Patients, family and even the healthcare professionals all stopped to listen and show their appreciation with applause and song requests.

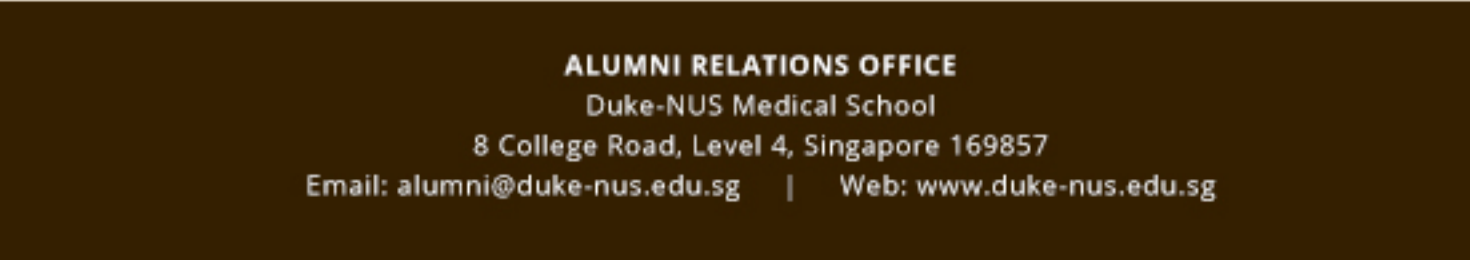
Radiology Residency Dinner



Alumni Relations encourages alumni to get together to socialize and network. One of the ways events are organized is along specialty lines. Specialty groups create an opportunity for building a sense of Duke-NUS community within each residency, and set the stage for mentorship of future alums as well as students. On 16th October 2017, the alumni from the Diagnostic Radiology Residency organised a dinner gathering. Calling themselves "Dudes of Duke Radio", they enjoyed a sumptuous dinner at Supply & Demand. Dr Chia Ghim Song and Dr Lim Kheng Choon, both Class of 2011 and Associate Consultants with SingHealth, were generous in sharing their experience excelling in the residency.

Start organising a get-together for your specialty. Bond with fellow Duke-NUS alumni over a nice dinner and Alumni Relations is happy to help with funding. Contact Alumni Relations at alumni@duke-nus.edu.sg for more information.

Alumni Volunteering for Duke-NUS



In February 2017, Dr Bianca Chan (MD Class of 2011) came to Practice Course Year 2 as a guest tutor and shared with our year 2 students on her experiences managing moral distress as a student and trainee.

In May 2017, Dr Aditi Manjeri (MD/PhD Class of 2011) and Tu Anh Pham (MD Class of 2015) were in school to share with the students about their post-graduation life and experience.

In August 2017, Dr Edwin Yang (MD Class of 2016) attended the SIG fair and took the chance to share with the students.

December 2017 was a busy month. Dr Chan Wee Lee (MD Class of 2017), Dr Sean Wu (MD Class of 2017), Dr Wu Hong King (MD Class of 2017), Dr Ruan Xu Cong (MD Class of 2017) & Natalie Wee (MD Class of 2016) shared their experience in IM Residency from the 3 clusters.

Dr Owen Png (MD Class of 2016), Dr Kenneth Chin (MD Class of 2016), Dr Ho Shu Fang (MD Class of 2016) & Dr Kenneth Goh (MD Class of 2017) assisted the students with the CDAC Health Screening in December 2017.

Dr Edwin Yang (MD Class of 2016), Dr Lek Sze Min (MD Class of 2016), Dr Janice Tan (MD Class of 2016), Dr Isabelle Jang (MD Class of 2014) & Dr Ku Chee Wai (MD Class of 2013) mentored the students at the Suturing Workshop organized by the Surgery SIG in December 2017.