

IN FOCUS



NHG Education Webinar
COVID-19 & Other Disruptors: Challenges and Opportunities for e-Learning

FACE TO FACE



Improving Clinical Reasoning for Undergraduate Physiotherapy Students during COVID-19

HAPPENINGS



Record Number of Participants at NHG Residency e-Career Day 2021



NHG Residency Virtual Welcome 2021: Understanding The Social Determinants of Health



Congratulations Prof Pang Weng Sun!



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NHG EDUCATION

NHG Education Webinar

COVID-19 & Other Disruptors: Challenges and Opportunities for e-Learning



The past year has seen many disruptions to education. The COVID-19 pandemic in particular, has posed challenges for teachers, learners and administrators of educational institutions alike.

Associate Professor Erle Lim, Vice-Provost (Teaching Innovation & Quality) from the National University of Singapore (NUS), shared his experience and insights with some 228 healthcare professionals and educators at the 22 July 2021 run of the NHG Education Webinar, on how NUS overcame the disruptions, and seized the opportunities brought about by the pandemic.

Rethinking Exams

He described the sudden and significant changes to the conduct of examinations as one of NUS' biggest disruptions during the pandemic. The reduction of practical exams from 1,100 in the early onset of the pandemic, to zero during the DORSCON orange phase, as well as moving exams online proved to be the most challenging.

The prospect of conducting online exams from the students' homes was a bugbear to A/Prof Lim and his team, due to the increased possibility of students cheating (e.g. using their mobile devices).

He said that his team started scouting for online proctoring solutions, however the available software was too costly and tedious to implement across the university. Hence, they made the decision to use Zoom as a proctoring platform, and set up systems and guidelines to ensure that all teaching assistants, invigilators, and examiners knew how to proctor over the virtual application.

"Our teams came together to work out toolkits for the students, we had sessions to tell them what was happening, we came up with infographics, videos... to let them know what (online) exams are going to be like," said A/Prof Lim.

"We also ensured that our teachers went through trial exams, multiple mock assessments so that everybody was ready... (and) that was for 35,000 students and 5,000 teaching staff."

In addition, the student code of conduct was also reviewed,

subjecting the students to stricter disciplinary action and failing the module(s) should they be found to have cheated; and computing graduates and teaching assistants were also hired to hack the systems, with the aim of uncovering security vulnerabilities, he shared.

A/Prof Lim stressed that while measures were introduced and enforced, what is more important is to rethink the way exam questions were set, where application knowledge was tested rather than the recall of knowledge. "We just need to think of how to run authentic exams that really test things," he said.

Rethinking Education

"Pandemics are here to stay", added A/Prof Lim, and as hybrid learning (online and blended) becomes the new normal, he urged educators alike to take this opportunity to rethink education delivery, and redesign teaching spaces (for different users) that drive new ways of learning.

However, he cautioned that before educators and universities (or institutions) go about creating "toys" or "gimmicks" for the students, these "learning tools" need to have a purpose.

"We need to ask ourselves, why are we doing it?" said A/Prof Lim. "It is because we (educators) want to avail ourselves of the affordances of technology, so that we can help our students through their learning journeys, to ensure that they learn better... and for us to track how they learn."



A/Prof Michelle Jong (bottom) moderating the Q&A session

Improving Clinical Reasoning for Undergraduate Physiotherapy Students during COVID-19



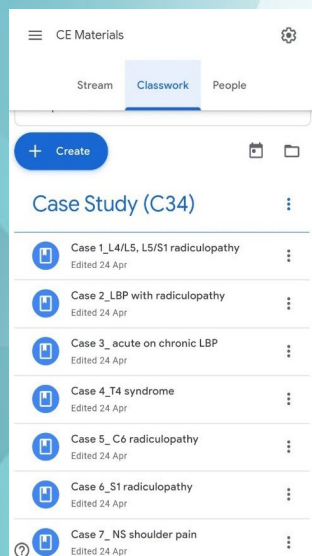
Mr Tan Howe Yong (centre), Senior Physiotherapist (KTPH) with two students at the end of their placement

students to ensure the continuity of learning, she was however concerned about the efficiency and effectiveness of teaching clinical reasoning skills through HBL.

"Clinical reasoning skills are vital in an increasingly demanding healthcare system... (and) as it is, it can be quite difficult and complex to teach," said Ms Tong, who was in-charge of the clinical placements.

"The safe-distancing precautions put in place during CB (Circuit Breaker) made it even more challenging for us, but we had to think of ways to ensure the progression of learning throughout this period," added Ms Tong, who initiated the use of Vignette (case-based learning) and Concept Maps to facilitate the teaching of clinical reasoning to the students.

Ms Tong shared that commonly encountered spinal-related cases seen at the outpatient physiotherapy clinic were selected for the Vignette, in order to prepare the students for future clinical practice. Cases were handpicked for a specific learning objective to show the students the usual clinical picture, including all the information relating to the patient's state (e.g. symptoms description and subjective assessment).



Case studies uploaded onto Google Classroom

Teaching clinical reasoning to undergraduate physiotherapy students was put to the test during the COVID-19 pandemic, when the caseload in Khoo Teck Puat Hospital (KTPH)'s outpatient clinic dropped by 80 per cent.

Coupled with the safe distancing measures in place, all relevant clinical teaching activities were reduced for the six final-year physiotherapy undergraduate students undergoing their six-week placement at KTPH.

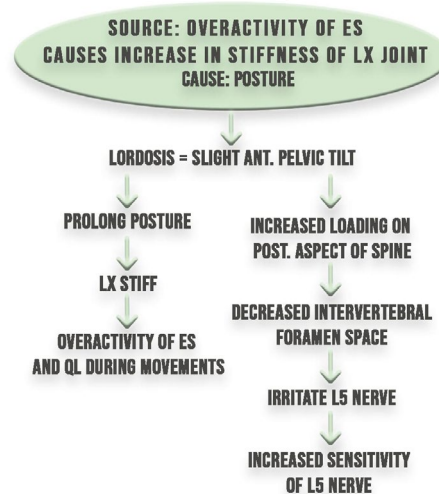
Ms Phoenix Tong, Principal Physiotherapist and Clinical Educator Lead (Allied Health) at KTPH, shared that while home-based Learning (HBL) was incorporated into the clinical placement for the

The majority of students were "very satisfied" with the overall training experience based on their end of placement survey responses. One of the students commented that online resources and case studies were useful to identify knowledge gaps.

Ms Tong shared that the positive feedback received from using Vignette and Concept Maps opened up possibilities to both students and clinicians in exploring alternative methods to teach clinical reasoning.

"The COVID-19 crisis definitely sped up the adoption of digital technology for health professions education," she said, adding that "it also provides a platform to rethink how teaching and learning can carry on efficiently and effectively with limited resources".

"I believe that the use of digital learning combined with scientifically proven teaching strategies should be the way forward."



Sample of a concept map



Ms Phoenix Tong Po Yu is a Principal Physiotherapist and Clinical Educator Lead (Allied Health) at Khoo Teck Puat Hospital (KTPH). She attained her Master in Manual Therapy from University of Western Australia. She joined KTPH in 2009 and has been specialising in area of musculoskeletal outpatient with a special interest in treating patients with chronic back and neck pain.

Record Number of Participants at NHG Residency e-Career Day 2021



Dr Faith Chia giving her opening address.

"A lot of the clinicians were really engaging and very patient to answer nearly all of the queries. I really appreciate it... I got the opportunity to find out about some of the specialities that I was interested in," shared Mr Hang.

"This would have been impossible for me as I am currently based in Australia, and I think that many Singaporean overseas students do not have access to the pathways, and information about the specialities back in Singapore," he said, adding that the sessions helped him clarify details such as technical entry requirements for the different residency specialities.

While majority of the participants appreciated the convenience of a virtual career day, many still look forward to attending a physical career day.

"It was very convenient, rather than having to go down to the venue. Of course, there was definitely less of an intimate interaction with the doctors, (but) during physical events, we would sometimes personally approach the doctors to find out more," said Mr Ng.

This year's National Healthcare Group (NHG) Residency e-Career Day attracted a record high of more than 600 local and overseas medical students, Post-graduate year 1s (PGY1s) and medical officers, a significant increase from last year's 400 attendees.

Held on Zoom over the Jul 16 to 18 weekend, participants had the opportunity to mingle with some 500 faculty and residents across all 32 specialties and training programmes to learn more about postgraduate and residency training, as well as to explore different career routes such as the Clinician Scientist track - for individuals who are keen on embarking on a clinical-research career, and the newly-introduced Hospital Clinician Scheme - for local doctors who are keen on enhancing their careers as non-specialists.

"We were very heartened to see the enthusiasm from the participants, and the vibrant interactions that they had with our faculty and residents," said Dr Faith Chia, Designated Institutional Official, NHG Residency.

"We worked to improve the engagement despite having to remain on a virtual platform by getting our residents to lead smaller, more intimate session with participants," she added. "We hoped that it would encourage more interaction and questions, and it seemed to have worked well, with some sessions overrunning and making us feel bad that we had to end the spirited discussions to start a different one."

Final-year medical student from the University of Queensland, Mr Nicholas Hang, who tuned in from Australia found that being able to hear from the experiences of current residents first-hand, "helpful in learning what the discipline entails".

"It gave me a very good overview of the day to day life in each specialty and what to expect if I choose to come back to Singapore," said Ms Alevia Khoo, Year 3 medical student from the University of Adelaide.

Nine in 10 participants shared that they had their queries addressed during the programme talks, and it helped informed their decision for residency application.

"The sessions helped me to understand the specialty pathways better," said Mr Lee Wai Kit, Year 4 medical student from Monash University, Victoria, who tuned in from Australia.

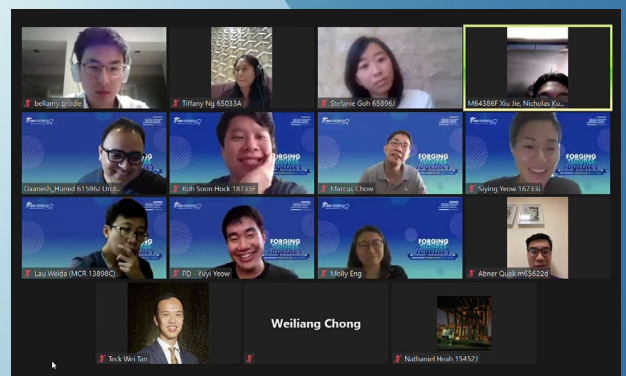
"I was able to feel at home, and asked questions relating to the transition back to Singapore, how it was like," remarked Mr Clement Ng, Year 4 medical student from University of Tasmania, who also tuned in from Australia.

"Would love to meet the department in person when possible!" shared one participant

"Can't wait for restrictions to end so that we can go back to meeting the faculty in person!" shared another.

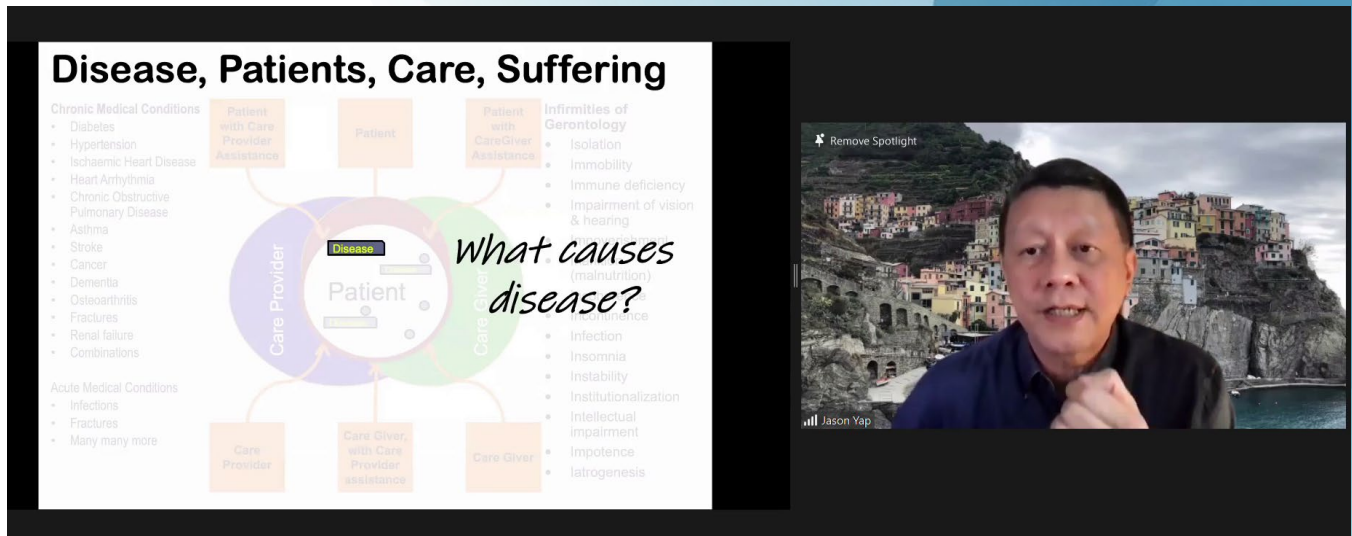


A/Prof Vishakumar G Shelat, Programme Director, Post-graduate Year 1 (TTSH) giving his talk about PGY1 training during the Medical Students Connect session



NHG Urology Residency Programme Breakout Session

NHG Residency Virtual Welcome 2021: Understanding The Social Determinants of Health



A/Prof Jason Yap sharing his insights on the social determinants of health

For the second year in a row, National Healthcare Group (NHG) Residency held its virtual welcome for 133 new residents in place of its annual community engagement day (CED), on 10 July 2021.

As part of NHG Residency’s onboarding programme, the CED aims to provide the doctors commencing their specialist training, with the opportunity to understand their patients outside the clinical setting.

Unable to head into the community due to current measures, the NHG Resident Council invited Associate Professor Jason Yap, Vice Dean (Practice) and Director (Public Health Translation) at the National University of Singapore Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, to give a talk about the impact of social determinants of health on disease prevalence and outcomes; and collaborated with The Food Bank Singapore to organise a two-week long food donation drive in July, with the aims of enabling the new residents to better appreciate the healthcare ecosystem holistically.

In her opening address, Dr Faith Chia, Designated Institutional Official, NHG Residency, highlighted the importance of understanding how social determinants affect patients’ health outcomes and the decisions that they make. “Each patient has their own story, expectations, hopes and struggles,” said Dr Chia. “(And) that is why we really want all of us to remember this, as we embark on our careers as physicians.”

**"Each patient has thier own story, expectations, hopes and stuggles."
– Dr Faith Chia**

During his talk, invited guest speaker A/Prof Yap stressed that “the societal determinants of health go beyond the communities we interact with, and it is also about the largest facet that we live in, from the legal system to everything else”.

A/Prof Yap hoped that his talk would encourage the new residents to adopt a different perspective when they treat their patients, and to see them as humans rather than diseases to treat.

“The societal determinants of health go beyond the communities we interact with.” – A/Prof Jason Yap

“The talk was a good reminder (for us) because as a clinician, it is easy to overlook the social and lifestyle aspects that influence health,” shared Dr Anissa Lye, first-year NHG Emergency Medicine resident.

“It is a reminder of what we (residents) can do on the systems level to help patients, whether now or in the future,” added Dr Tan Ming Juan, first-year NHG Dermatology resident.



Click on the image to watch our residents hard at work during the food donation drive

Congratulations to Professor Pang Weng Sun



Photo credit: Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, NTU Singapore

on his new appointment as Dean of MOH Holdings Healthcare Leadership College!

NHG Education would like to congratulate Professor Pang Weng Sun, Senior Consultant, Geriatric Medicine (Khoo Teck Puat Hospital) on being appointed as the new Dean of Healthcare Leadership College (HLC), a division of MOH Holdings.

Prof Pang has assumed the role of Dean-Designate from 1 September 2021, and he will succeed Professor Aymeric Lim as Dean, HLC on 1 January 2022.

“With his esteemed standing among the healthcare community, and his passion in nurturing the next generation of leaders while instilling the right values and leadership philosophies, I am more than confident that Weng Sun will continue to ignite the development of HLC as a College that builds value-based leadership capabilities and capacities for the future of Singapore healthcare,” said Mr Chan Yeng Kit, Permanent Secretary (Health), Ministry of Health.

Learn more about Prof Pang's new appointment here: <https://www.ntu.edu.sg/medicine/news-events/news/detail/professor-pang-weng-sun-appointed-new-dean-of-mohh-healthcare-leadership-college>



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NHG Education Awards and Accolades 2021

Congratulations to our colleagues from the NHG Education community who were recognised at various local and overseas platforms!

NHG Awards 2021

Professor Chua Sze Hon

(Distinguished Senior Clinician Award)
Programme Director, NHG Dermatology Residency Programme, and Education Director, National Skin Centre

Mr Edwin Tan Chee Shiong

(NHG Young Achiever Award)
Clinical Educator Lead (Nursing), Institute of Mental Health

Dr How Kwang Yeong

(NHG Young Achiever Award)
Programme Director, NHG Surgery-In-General Residency Programme

Ms Ng Poh Ling Yvonne

(NHG Outstanding Citizenship Award)
Executive Director, NHG College

NTU Koh Boon Hwee Scholars Award

Associate Professor Koh Nien Yue

Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine
Clinical Core Faculty Member,
NHG Internal Medicine Residency Programme

Associate Professor Yip Chee Chew

Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine
Education Director,
Khoo Teck Puat Hospital

Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology APAO distinguished Service Award 2021

Associate Professor Yip Chee Chew

Education Director, Khoo Teck Puat Hospital

2021 National Day Awards

Associate Professor Ong Say How

(The Public Administration Medal (Bronze), 2021)
Senior Consultant,
Institute of Mental Health

Ms Lee Siok Ying

(The Efficiency Medal, 2021)
Principal Clinical Pharmacist,
Khoo Teck Puat Hospital

Ms Chew Pei Kiang

(The Commendation Medal, 2021)
Senior Nurse Educator,
Khoo Teck Puat Hospital

Ms Lim Xinrui Emily

(The Efficiency Medal, 2021)
Assistant Manager,
Group Education, NHG

Ms Lim Bee Khim Brenda

(The Commendation Medal, 2021)
Head of Nursing Department,
National Skin Centre

Ms Thng Chew Khim

(The Efficiency Medal, 2021)
Senior Radiographer,
Khoo Teck Puat Hospital

Ms Liene Goh Siew Hiang

(The Efficiency Medal, 2021)
Senior Executive,
Group Education, NHG