



Pharmaceutical Society
of Singapore
www.pss.org.sg

ANNUAL REPORT 2011 / 2012

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105TH Council (April 2011- March 2012)

President	:	Ms Teng Bee Choon, Christine
Vice-President	:	Mr Lim Mun Moon
Hon. Secretary	:	Ms Thum Chui Mei, Miko
Asst. Hon. Secretary	:	Dr Shih Lee Chuen, Vivianne
Hon. Treasurer	:	Mr Ng Cheng Tiang
Asst. Hon. Treasurer	:	Mr Tham Wen Chen
Council Members	:	Ms Chew Sui Tjien, Lita
	:	Ms Chua Siew Wei
	:	Ms Fatimah Moideen Kutty
	:	Mr Ng Boon Tat
	:	Ms Seow Siew Ngor, Serene
	:	Ms Tan Li Chuan, Emily

Activity Log 2011 - 2012

24 Mar 11	Pre-registration Pharmacists' Training Programme 2010/2011 Closing Ceremony
24 Mar 11	105th Annual General Meeting held at Arthur Lim's Auditorium, Alumni Medical Centre <i>New Council for 2011 was elected with Ms Christine Teng as President</i>
30 Mar 11	Continuing Pharmacy Education Session <i>"Common Female Gynecological Cancer" by A/Prof Yam Kwai Lam, Philip</i>
6 Apr 11	Continuing Pharmacy Education Session <i>"Complementary Medicine Module 1" by Ms Catherine Cooling</i>
7 Apr 11	Continuing Pharmacy Education Session <i>"Complementary Medicine Module 2" by Ms Catherine Cooling</i>
21 May 11	Good Distribution Practices 1 (GDP) for Health Products & Medical Devices <i>by Mr Darren Freestone</i>
25 Jun 11	Pre-registration Pharmacists' Training Programme 2011/2012 Opening Ceremony <i>"Welcome Speech" by Ms M K Fatimah & Mr Wu Tuck Seng, "Pre-registration Pharmacists' Training" by Ms Felicia Ling & "SPC's Competency Standards and Examination" by Mr Ian Wee</i>
2 Jul 11	Pre-registration Pharmacists' Training Programme 2011/2012 <i>"Pharmacovigilance" by Mr Choon Chih Tzer, Ms Adena Lim, Ms Sally Soh</i>
2 Jul 11	Launch of "Know Your Medicines, Get It Right! @ North West" <i>Medication Reviews for elderly in the North West district. A 3 year collaboration between NUSPS, PSS and North West Community Development Council</i>
6 Jul 11	Continuing Pharmacy Education Session <i>"Treatment of Vaginitis: Over-The-Counter or Evidence Based Medicine?" by Dr. Tan Thiam Chye</i>
16 - 17 Jul 11	21st Singapore Pharmacy Congress <i>"Partnering Community, Optimising Care" at Sheraton Towers. Dr Jason Cheah, Chief Executive Officer, Agency for Integrated Care, graced the event as the Guest of Honour</i>
16 Jul 11	Collaboration with Agency for Integrated Care Pte Ltd <i>Signing of MOU with Dr Jason Cheah</i>
16 Jul 11	Pre-registration Pharmacists' Training Programme 2011/2012 <i>"Having a Successful Pharmacy Career" with expert speakers from various sectors of pharmacy</i>
23 Jul 11	Pre-registration Pharmacists' Training Programme 2011/2012 <i>"Pharmacists' Role in Healthcare Industry – Sales, Clinical Research & Regulatory" by Ms Erin Lee, Ms Janice Tan, Ms Bernadette Lim</i>
6 Aug 11	Pre-registration Pharmacists' Training Programme 2011/2012 <i>"Pharmacy Law and Practice & Drug Registration System in Singapore" by Ms Imelda Halim and Ms Joyce Tan</i>

Activity Log 2011 - 2012

20 Aug 11	Pre-registration Pharmacists' Training Programme 2011/2012 <i>"Interpretation of Paper: From Paper to Clinical Practice" by Dr Edwin Chan</i>
31 Aug 11	Continuing Pharmacy Education Session <i>"Drug Allergies" by Dr Leong Khai Pang</i>
3 Sep 11	Pre-registration Pharmacists' Training Programme 2011/2012 <i>"Communication Skills" by Mr Gerald Lim Chin Siang, Mr Chee Kok Seng, Ms Doreen Tan, Mr Ivan Chew, Ms Lim Wan Peng</i>
10 Sep 11	Pre-registration Pharmacists' Training Programme 2011/2012 <i>"Complementary Medicines – Herbal Products" by Ms Christina Lim</i>
17 Sep 11	Good Distribution Practices 2 (GDP) for Health Products & Medical Devices <i>by Mr Darren Freestone</i>
24 Sep 11	Pre-registration Pharmacists' Training Programme 2011/2012 <i>"Renal medicine" by Ms Petrina Fan</i>
8 - 15 Oct 11	Pharmacy Week 2011 <i>"Know Your Medicines, Get it Right!" 8-day island wide medication review</i>
15 Oct 11	Pre-registration Pharmacists' Training Programme 2011/2012 <i>"Geriatrics" by Ms Wendy Ang</i>
18 Oct 11	Discussions with Delegates from Sogo Mission
31 Oct 11	Continuing Pharmacy Education Session <i>"Emergency Medications & Updates in Paediatric Resuscitation" by Dr Lee Khai Pin</i>
8 – 11 Nov 11	Discussions with Delegates from the Center for Qualification of Licensed Pharmacist directly under SFDA, China
12 Nov 11	Pre-registration Pharmacists' Training Programme 2011/2012 <i>"Hormones and Contraception" by Ms Ng Ai Shing</i>
25 Nov 11	Continuing Pharmacy Education Session <i>"Informed Consent – Is it Enough to Protect the Patient?" by Mr James Cheong, A/Prof Catherine Tay</i>
26 Nov 11	Pre-registration Pharmacists' Training Programme 2011/2012 <i>"Paediatrics" by Ms Valerie Seah</i>
4 Dec 11	Launch of "Promoting Healthy Lifestyle and Improve Health Literacy" a collaboration between Health Promotion Board and South West Community Development Council with Dr Amy Koh as Guest-of-Honour. <i>PSS will partner with them in the 18 road shows over 3 years to provide "Know Your Medications" talk to participants at the road shows</i>
10 Dec 11	Pre-registration Pharmacists' Training Programme 2011/2012 <i>"Drug Use in Pregnancy and Lactation" by Ms Oh Ching Ching</i>
13 – 15 Dec 11	Discussions with delegates from Nepal Pharmacy Council
17 Dec 11	Pre-registration Pharmacists' Training Programme 2011/2012 <i>"Travel Medicines" by Ms Law Hwa Lin</i>

Activity Log 2011 - 2012

28 Jan 12	Pre-registration Pharmacists' Training Programme 2011/2012 <i>"Leadership-Healthcare Financing and Pharmacist Role in Cost Management"</i> by Mr Liak Teng Lit, Ms Yong Pei Chean
1 Feb 12	Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between Singapore Sports Council, the Health Sciences Authority and PSS to establish a working relationship towards establishing a framework for Anti-doping drug database in Singapore
3 Feb 12	19th Certified Pharmacy Technician Course Graduation Ceremony <i>21 participants achieved Certificate of Completion and 1 obtained Certificate of Attendance</i>
4 Feb 12	Pre-registration Pharmacists' Training Programme 2011/2012 <i>"Dermatology"</i> by Ms Winnie Li
11 Feb 12	Pre-registration Pharmacists' Training Programme 2011/2012 <i>"Smoking Cessation"</i> by Ms Claudine Oh
11 Feb 12	<i>"Know Your Medicines, Get It Right! @ North West"</i> <i>Medication reviews conducted for elderly in Yishun</i>
18 Feb 12	Pre-registration Pharmacists' Training Programme 2011/2012 <i>"Pharmacist Health Ambassador Programme"</i> by Dr Koh Yang Huang, Ms Melinda Chiew, Ms Angela Leow, Ms Samantha Bennett
25 Feb 12	Pre-registration Pharmacists' Training Programme 2011/2012 <i>"Psychiatry"</i> by Dr Joseph Leong Jem-Yi
29 Feb 12	Continuing Pharmacy Education Session <i>"Management of Common Sports Injuries in the Community"</i> by Dr Darren Leong
3 Mar 12	Pre-registration Pharmacists' Training Programme 2011/2012 <i>"Pharmacogenetics – A TDM Tool"</i> by Dr Balram Chowbay
17 Mar 12	Pre-registration Pharmacists' Training Programme 2011/2012 <i>Project Presentation</i>
17 Mar 12	Pre-registration Pharmacists' Training Programme 2011/2012 <i>Closing Ceremony</i>
17 Mar 12	106th Annual General Meeting in conjunction with Talentime and Member's Appreciation Hi-Tea Buffet held at York Hotel

President's Report



The 105th PSS Council was voted into office during the last AGM on 24th March, 2011. The Council comprised a good mix of members from various Pharmacy sectors, i.e. hospital, community, industry, academia and regulatory body.

It has been an exciting and busy 12 months, jam-packed with activities and projects with the objective of forging stronger ties with members, partners and stakeholders both locally and abroad so as to continue to focus on our mission which is to maximise the contribution of pharmacists to the healthcare of Singaporeans.

Highlights

The pages that follow in this Annual Report contain reports of various activities undertaken by the different chapters in PSS and collaborations with our partners. Hence, I will just highlight a few items here:

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed on 16 July between the Agency of Integrated Care (AIC) and PSS to launch a pilot programme for pharmaceutical care in the Voluntary Welfare Organization (VWO) nursing homes. This initiative aims to enhance the capability of nursing homes (NH) in managing their residents' medication needs more effectively. As of end Dec 2011, we have 6 NH and 2 Hospices participating in the programme. Community Pharmacists from Guardian, National Healthcare Group Polyclinic Pharmacy, Unity Healthcare and Watsons are providing the services to these NH and Hospices and their commitment has been critical to the success of this programme.

The Pharmacist Health Ambassador Programme (PHAP) which has been in place since 2008 continues to run successfully. Between Oct 2010 to Dec 2011, 1622 patients were documented to have counselling sessions on chronic disease management and health promotion by community pharmacists with a total of 2687 recommendations given to patients. It is also heartening to note an excellent follow-up rate of 98.1% and at least 64% of patients reported improved outcomes with pharmacist advice.

President's Report

Pharmacy Week was held from 8th to 15th October 2011 and continued to run on the theme “Know Your Medicines, Get It Right!” to highlight to the public the importance of understanding and using their medications correctly. The weeklong campaign involving nationwide medication review saw 400 patients approaching their community pharmacists for medication reviews. Awareness of need for medication reviews by pharmacists was promoted through traditional press advertisements and distribution of flyers, as well as the novel radio advertisement via radio channel. Preliminary data showed that majority of patients still do not know the indications or use of their medications hence we need to continue our efforts to educate the public on medications safety and the need to visit a pharmacist for regular review of their medications.

The 21st Singapore Pharmacy Congress themed “Partnering Community, Optimizing Care” was successfully held on 16-17 July at Sheraton Towers. We received participation from approximately 600 pharmacists and colleagues from various pharmaceutical professions from Singapore and overseas.

We were happy to recognise and acknowledge exemplary role models within our profession through 3 awards that was given out during the 21st Singapore Pharmacy Congress. The recipients for the awards are Mr Peter Yap for the Prof. Lucy Wan “Outstanding Pharmacist” of the Year Award; Mr Ng Yun for the PSS Community Pharmacist of the Year Award; Mr Yeoh Siang Fei for the PSS – Shire Hospital Pharmacist of the Year Award.

Year 2012

Moving forward we will continue to engage partners to promote and maximise the role of the pharmacists to optimise the healthcare of Singapore residents. We will continue to pursue current initiatives and work on new opportunities. One exciting initiative is exploring new collaborations with AIC and specific VWOs to provide home care services for high risk and/or immobile patients.

There remains a crunch for pharmacist manpower in Singapore. PSS will be working with MOHH to conduct a Back-to-practice induction course for pharmacists as a recent survey conducted suggest that there are some pharmacists who might be interested to return to practice in the community setting.

The preparation for the 22nd Singapore Pharmacy Congress is well underway. This year's congress will be held from 29th to 30th September at the Shangri-La Hotel and promises to be another exceptional meeting. The congress will also mark the start of Pharmacy Week 2012 from 29th September to 7th October.

President's Report

A lot of work remains to be done and plenty of help and effort is needed to increase public awareness of Pharmacists' role in healthcare and maximising our role for betterment of healthcare in Singapore. I would like to call upon all pharmacists in Singapore to join us in PSS (the only society that represent Pharmacists and their professional interest in Singapore) to further this cause. Our Society's strength lies in each and every pharmacist's unwavering support, volunteerism and contribution. Let us work on building the "Pharmacist" brand, not only for the profession but for the good of the general public.

Finally, I would like to convey my sincere appreciation to the 105th Council, our various chapters/committees members, advisors, members, partners, stakeholders, friends and our secretariat for their support and contribution. Let's continue to work together and stay true to our motto "Not for self but for all".

Thank you very much.

Asst Professor (Ms) Christine Teng
President
105th Council
Pharmaceutical Society of Singapore

Community Practice Chapter

Ex-officio : Ms Seow Siew Ngor, Serene

Chairperson : Mr Chew Yong Chia

Community Chapter Components:

Community Chapter (Main Committee)

Ms Chua Siew Wei
Ms Mariam Bte Alkhatib
Mr Edmund Soon
Ms Corrinne Tan
Mr Tham Wen Chen
Ms Cai Zi Qin
Ms Chang Yung Yung
Ms Jamie Lim
Ms Jaclyn Lee
Ms Lam Cai Hong
Mr Loh Yew Meng
Ms Melinda Chiew
Ms Nelly Toh
Ms Tan Ming Ming
Ms Yeang Siew Fong
Ms Christine Teng
Dr Kelvin Xu
Dr Vivianne Shih
Ms Lim Wan Peng
Mr Joshua Wong
Ms Esther Bek
Ms Tan Beng Li
Mr Tan Jian Ming

Community Chapter (Committee member)

Reclassification Education Support Subcommittee

Mission:

We aim to influence professional practice of community pharmacists to improve health outcome for our patients. We also aim to increase the awareness of community pharmacists as important members of the healthcare system, in the view of the public, government-linked agencies and other stakeholders.

Progress & Challenges:

In 2011/2012, key areas/ projects pursued by Community Chapter were

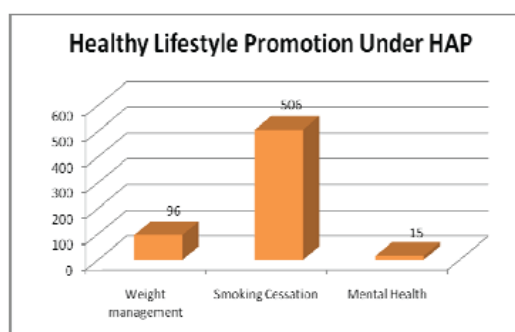
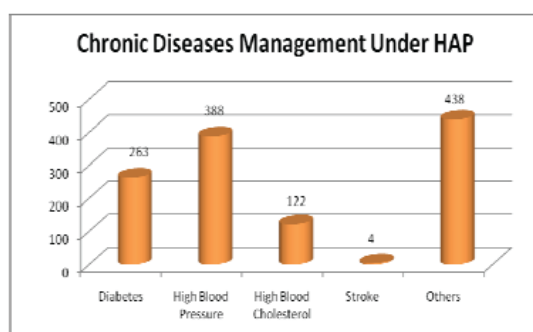
- Health Ambassador Programme,
- Reclassification of prescription medicines
- Sharing of best practice with regional partners

Below are the details of progress made by various Community Chapter components.

Community Practice Chapter

Health Ambassador Programme (HAP)

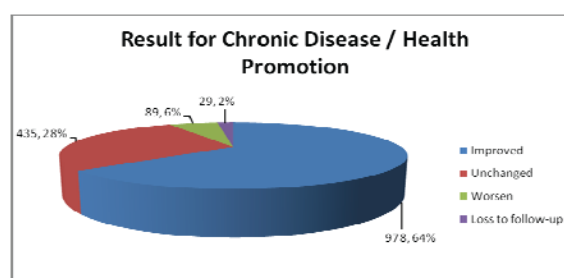
Between Oct 2010 to Dec 2011, 1622 patients were documented to have counselling sessions on chronic disease management and health promotion by community pharmacists. 2687 recommendations were given to patients, and 1591 follow-up were conducted. This gave an excellent follow-up rate of 98.1%. The outcome of pharmacist work remained encouraging.



Majority of patients (64%) reported improved outcomes due to pharmacist advice. Since the change of focus in 2010 is to encourage patient follow-up (instead of brief counselling), community pharmacists have continuously produced great results.

Top Five Beneficial Outcomes Reported

Benefits	No of cases with the specified outcome
Symptoms reduced	264
Reduced Nicotine Consumption	233
Blood Pressure normalised	104
Blood Glucose normalised	60
Patient become Smoke free	56



Top contributors were once again recognised for their excellent effort during the community event "Healthy Living" at South West CDC. The awards were presented by the Mayor of South East CDC, Minister of State for Health, Dr Amy Khor.



Community Practice Chapter

With pharmacists as pioneers, Health Promotion Board has developed increasing interest in Health Ambassador Programme and rolled out the similar structure to other sectors.

The newly formed General Practitioners and Allied Health Network (set up by Health Promotion Board) also provided an excellent platform for community pharmacists to showcase our excellent work in Health Ambassador Programme.



Health Ambassador Day Dinner at Suntec City (10 Feb 2012)

Future initiatives include:

- E-learning for health ambassador training
- Incorporating health promotion in pre-registration training
- Health Choice (Patient Counselling Aid) Pilot Programme

Update on Reclassification of Prescription medicines

PSS works closely with the Health Sciences Authority (HSA) in the reclassification of medicines. The main role of PSS is to produce patient information leaflets (PILs) for the reclassified medicines. These PILs are prepared by the Reclassification Education Support Subcommittee and are made available on the HSA website. Pharmacists are encouraged to provide these to the patients upon recommendation and dispensing of these P-only items.

In 2011, PSS produced the PILs for acyclovir 5% dermatological, beclomethasone nasal spray, budesonide nasal spray, cimetidine oral preparations, oral domperidone, famotidine, ibuprofen, omeprazole and ranitidine. These preparations were reclassified before 2011 but PILs were not available. In addition, PSS also produced PILs for medicines that were reclassified in July 2011 including oral ambroxol, bromhexine, desloratadine, fexofenadine and triamcinolone oral paste and medicines reclassified in Jan 2012 including ketotifen eye drops and oral desloratadine/pseudoephedrine and fexofenadine/pseudoephedrine.

In addition, as part of quality assurance and building greater confidence in driving more reclassification, mandatory documentation of all P medicine dispensing was introduced on 1 Feb 2012.

Community Practice Chapter

Sharing of best practices with regional partners

As part of our efforts to promote exchange of ideas and sharing of best practice, Community Chapter has hosted various visitors, presenting update on community practice in Singapore.

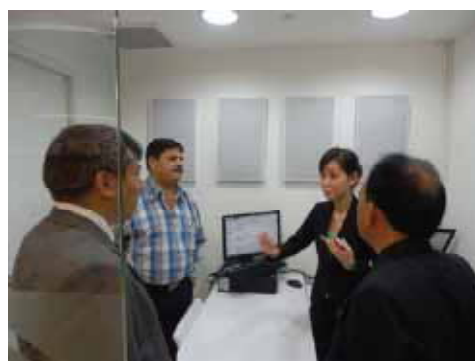
Sogo Mission Visit 18 Oct 2011



Chinese Drug Authority Visit 10 Nov 2011



Nepal Pharmacy Council Visit 15 Dec 2011



Reported by:
Ms Seow Siew Ngor, Serene
Ex-Officio

Hospital Chapter

Ex Officio : Dr Vivianne Shih

Members : Ms Fan Wei Shan
Ms Law Hwa Lin
Ms Mallery Leong
Ms Liew Yixin
Ms Lin Huimin
Ms Phebe Si
Ms Tan Yuen Ming
Dr Kelvin Xu

Objectives

To raise the profile of hospital pharmacists in Singapore, the hospital chapter aims to provide a platform for all hospital pharmacists to network and build upon one another's strengths.

Activities

The chapter's main focus this year was to enhance avenues for continuing education for pharmacists.

(1) Pharmacist Letter

This is an online resource that enables pharmacists to keep abreast of current developments in healthcare. It was made available to our PSS members since December 2010. As of November 2011, there are 107 subscribers.

(2) Online case studies

Pharmacists who are experts in their respective fields are invited to contribute case studies that will be posted online. This series of case studies will help to provide pharmacists with the latest developments in the respective fields and they can claim CPE credits at the same time.

(3) New 2-hour Continuing Education (CE) Sessions

In collaboration with the Education subcommittee, we will be providing a series of 2 hour CE sessions that is scheduled to start in April 2012. Participants will not only be able to gain CE credits but these sessions will be beneficial for pharmacists planning to take the U.S Board Certification in Pharmacotherapy.

(4) "In the Spotlight"

Pharmacists who have excelled in their areas of practice will be featured under "In the Spotlight". This serves to inspire young pharmacists and to allow pharmacists with the same interest for networking opportunities.

Reported by:
Dr Vivianne Shih
Ex-Officio

Professional Education Committee: Continuing Pharmacy Education Committee

Ex-officio	:	Mr. Ng Boon Tat
Chairperson	:	Mr. Ng Boon Tat
Members	:	Ms Michelle Tan

The committee is responsible for organizing Continuing Education for pharmacists, re-entry to practice training and pre-registration training.

Objectives

- To provide Continuing Pharmaceutical Education to pharmacists, thereby raising professional standards
- To develop and expand continuing education
- To accredit CE achievements
- To provide pre-registration training
- To organize relevant courses and accreditation programmes for Pharmacy staff

The PSS CPD Calendar Mar 2011 – Feb 2012

Date	Title	Speaker
30-Mar-11	Common Female Gynecological Cancers	A/Prof Yam Kwai Lam, Philip
06-Apr-11	Complementary Medicine Module 1	Ms Catherine Cooling
07-Apr-11	Complementary Medicine Module 2	Ms Catherine Cooling
21-May-11	Workshop on Good Distribution Practices (GDP) for Health Products and Medical Devices	Mr. Darren Freestone
06-Jul-11	Treatment of Vaginitis: Over-the-Counter or Evidence-Based Medicine?	Dr. Tan Thiam Chye
31-Aug-11	Drug Allergies	Dr. Leong Khai Pang
17-Sep-11	Workshop (rerun) on Good Distribution Practices (GDP) for Healthcare Products and Medical Devices	Mr. Darren Freestone
31-Oct-11	Emergency Medications & Updates in Paediatric Resuscitation	Dr. Lee Khai Pin
25-Nov-11	Informed Consent - Is it Enough to Protect the Patient?	Mr. James Cheong & Assoc. Prof Catherine Tay
29-Feb-12	Management of Common Sports Injuries in the Community	Dr. Darren Leong

Future talks or workshops coming up next year

- Pharmacotherapy Review Series:
 - Refresher on Biostatistics; Cardiology Series; Overview of Infectious Diseases; Oncology Supportive Care
 - Other therapeutic areas: Endocrine, Metabolic Disorders and Ambulatory Care; HIV; Nephrology; General Neurology and Psychiatry

Reported by:
Mr Ng Boon Tat
Ex-officio

Professional Education Committee: Pharmacy Assistant Course (WSQ) Certified Pharmacy Technician Course (WSQ)

Course co-ordinator

:

Mr Ng Cheng Tiang

Upon attaining the Approved Training Organisation status accorded by the Workforce Development Agency (WDA), the Pharmaceutical Society of Singapore has embarked into provision of the fully WSQ-compliant training courses. With the ATO status, eligible trainees who were citizens or permanent residents would receive funding for the training which they have completed successfully.

So far, the Certified Pharmacy Technician Course (CPTC) has recruited its 20th intake and the PA Course has started its maiden intake under the WSQ competency framework. Demand for CPTC remained relatively healthy with the 21st intake being planned despite the similar courses which all the 5 local polytechnics were offering at diploma level.

Response to the new PA Course has started to pick up momentum and more and more trainees were being added to the programme with the commencement of new modules.

As for the training facilitator, PSS has identified and recruited more practising pharmacists who have been trained to qualify as the approved trainers and assessors under the WSQ requirement. We anticipate by the middle of 2012, we would have built up a pool of 10 fully qualified trainers to ensure that both the CPTC and PA Courses continue to run smoothly to ensure that our pharmacy practice landscape have adequately trained support staff to complement the various initiatives pharmacists have been undertaking to move into higher value-added functional roles.

Reported by:
Mr Ng Cheng Tiang
Course Co-ordinator

Professional Education Committee: Pre-registration Pharmacists' Training Committee

Chairperson	:	Ms Oh Su Fen, Claudine
Vice-Chairperson	:	Mr Lim Wee Heng
Members	:	Mr Hie Szu Liang Ms Nelly Toh Ms Law Hwa Lin Ms Emily Liew Ms Lim Li Ching Mr Loh Yew Meng Ms Ng Hong Yen Mr Lew Kaung Yuan Dr Vivianne Shih Mr Peter Yap Ms Chua Siew Wei Mr Tan Soo Tong Mr Yong Keng Woh Ms Tan Ling Eng, Gloria Ms Fung Kar Yen

The PSS Pre-Registration Pharmacists' Training Committee organises a structured and comprehensive training programme for pre-registration pharmacists annually. This training programme, spanning a period of 9 months, aims to provide pre-registration pharmacists with the relevant practice-related training to enhance their competency preparing them for practice as registered pharmacists. The committee is made up of training co-ordinators representing all the training institutions in Singapore.

This year, we have a total of 128 pre-registration pharmacists from both the hospital and community sectors. Of these, some are graduates from overseas universities seeking a Pharmacy career in Singapore.

The training curriculum is designed to complement the training programme of each individual institution, and to equip every pre-registration pharmacist with knowledge and skills to meet the Competency Standards set by the Singapore Pharmacy Council. The training programme also aids in the preparation for the Singapore Pharmacy Council Competency Examinations.

Objectives

- To facilitate the application of academic knowledge of pre-registration pharmacists into practice;
- To promote Pharmacy values, principles and ethics to build impetuses in every pre-registration pharmacist for fostering professionalism;
- To co-ordinate the training efforts of all training institutions to ensure the delivery of a well-rounded and comprehensive training to all trainees.

Key Activities/Information given in FY2011/2012

The opening ceremony was jointly organised by PSS and Singapore Pharmacy Council (SPC). Ms M K Fatimah (Immediate Past President, PSS) and Mr Wu Tuck Seng (President, SPC) gave welcome speeches to the pre-registration pharmacists. During the ceremony, Ms Felicia Ling (Executive Secretary, SPC) shared on the general objectives of the pre-registration training programme, and Mr Ian Wee (SPC Board of Examiners) gave more insights into the SPC competency standards and examination. Lastly, an overview of the training programme including the rules and regulations was presented.

Professional Education Committee: Pre-registration Pharmacists' Training Committee

To ensure the relevance of the programme, the topics covered were reviewed and revised, based on feedback on training co-ordinators as well as previous batch of pre-registration pharmacists. For the batch of 2011/2012, an extra session was requested to be conducted by Health Promotion Board, titled Pharmacist Health Ambassador Programme. This session was included due to its focus on promoting health and opportunistic counselling in customers in contact with pharmacist, which was definitely relevant in the day to day work of any pharmacist in the front line. Another change made was to the Smoking Cessation training which will be running for the 4th year this year. This full day session is jointly run by PSS and HPB and this year sees the launch of the e-learning courseware and accreditation of the session. With this accreditation by HPB, all pre- registration pharmacists attending this year's session would be considered as having completed Level 1 of the Certified Quit Smoking Consultant training and can subsequently move on to Level 2 training and the final assessment to be a Certified Quit Smoking Consultant.

Towards the end of the training programme in March 2011, each training institution will select one pre-registration project to be presented at the PSS session. The projects will be graded by a panel of invited judges. This serves as a platform for all trainees to learn about the different research projects being embarked on in the various institutions.

To mark the completion of the pre-registration training programme, a closing ceremony will be held where certificates are presented to the graduating pre-registration pharmacists. Preceptors from the various training institution will be invited. This year, the closing ceremony will be held in conjunction with a social event with a very interesting and engaging talent contest, complemented with a sumptuous high tea. This will provide an excellent opportunity for the pre-registration pharmacists to interact and network not only with each other, but with their preceptors and practising pharmacists from other institutions.

With the closing ceremony, it marks the beginning of a whole new journey for our pre-registration pharmacists as they take their first steps as registered pharmacists, serving patients in the community and hopefully making a difference to patient care in their own ways.

Reported by:
Ms Oh Su Fen, Claudine
Chairperson
Pre-registration Pharmacist Training Committee

Public Education Programme Committee

Ex-Officio	Ms Chua Siew Wei
Chairperson	Ms Chua Siew Wei
Members	Ms Bella Wang Pei Mr Chieng Lee Dee Ms Chua Lean Yen Ms Hong Yu Wen Ms Jasmine Koh Li Yong Ms Jasmine Ong Chiat Ling Ms Kimberly Yap Huay Sean Ms Lee Min Huey Ms Lee Jye Chyi Mr Ong Pin Chien

The committee was formed in Aug 2011 with a good mix of pharmacists from both hospital and community sectors.

Objectives

- Empower members of the public with appropriate information to be better informed about their own health management.
- Establish pharmacists' role in public health promotion including promotion of health awareness and well-being, disease prevention and identification of ill health.
- Promote and encourage the public to practice safe and effective self-care in the area of self-medication for minor ailments and playing an active role in the management of chronic diseases.
- Organize Pharmacy Week events and other nation-wide Pharmacy campaigns to promote the above goals.

Activities

The Pharmacy Week was held from 8th to 15th October 2011. It is an annual initiative from the Pharmaceutical Society of Singapore to help the general public in understanding their medications and to take a pro-active approach towards health management.

Last year's theme "Know Your Medicines, Get It Right" was a continuation from our campaign in year 2011. We would like to highlight to the public the importance of understanding and using their medications correctly to ensure safety and efficacy.

For pharmacy week this year, various new concepts and activities were explored to create awareness. A weeklong nationwide medication review was provided free of charge in 106 participating pharmacy stores located island-wide for the convenience of the public. The public can visit any participating pharmacies with their medications for a pharmacist-led medication review on an appointment basis. An inaugural PSS quiz for the public was leveraged as a platform to educate the public on the role of a pharmacist and to promote awareness of useful resource e.g. the PSS website where they can find out prices of commonly prescribed drugs.

Public Education Programme Committee

Communications to promote awareness of the pharmacy week included the traditional press advertisements and distribution of flyers, as well as the novel radio advertisement via radio channel.

Close to 400 medication reviews were conducted by our pharmacists island-wide for patients taking 4 or more medicines and/ or health supplements.

A poster for Singapore Pharmacy Week. At the top, it says "Singapore Pharmacy Week" with a red circular logo containing a white caduceus, and the dates "8th October to 15th October 2011". Below this, the text "NEED HELP?" is written in large white letters. Underneath, in smaller white text, it says "Medicines are not sweets" and "They can be dangerous when used incorrectly". The central image shows a hand reaching up from a large pile of various colorful pills and capsules. At the bottom, it says "Go to a nearby pharmacy store and ask your pharmacist right away!". Below that, in smaller text, it says "Goodie bags will be given to first 10 participants in participating pharmacy outlets" and "Please call PSS hotline: 6221 1136 from 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday, to find out the participating pharmacy store near you!". At the bottom right, there is a logo that says "Know Your Medicines Get It Right!" and "Ask Your Pharmacist". At the bottom left, there is a section for "Sponsors:" with logos for guardian, PHARMACY, unity, and Watsons.

Preliminary data showed that majority of patients still do not know the indications or use of their medications. There is a continuous need to educate the public on medications safety and that they can visit a pharmacist to get their medications reviewed regularly.

Reported by:
Ms Chua Siew Wei
Ex-Officio

Membership Committee

Ex-Officio : Mr Lim Mun Moon

In the year 2011, there is an increase in membership. Membership rose from 1,346 in 2010 to 1,423 in the year 2011.

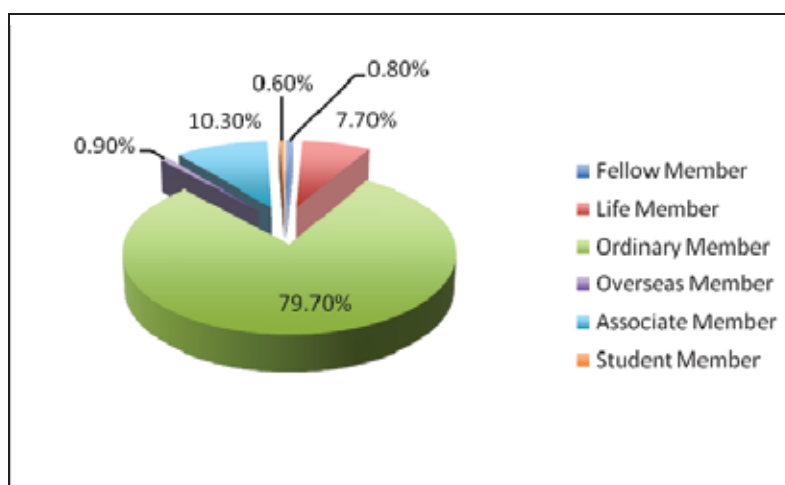
Membership by section is summarised in the table and chart below:

- **Honorary Member** – No candidate was nominated throughout 2010 and 2011.
- **Fellow Members** – No candidate was nominated throughout 2010 and 2011.
- **Life Members** – 10 New Life members have been designated. This membership section recognises the long-serving contribution of these members to the society. This is a 10% increase compare to 2010.
- **Ordinary Members** – There is an 11.5% increase in ordinary membership, in the year 2011.
- **Overseas Members** – In 2011, membership in this category dropped by 6.
- **Associate Member** – This category of membership experienced a decline of 22% when compared to 2010.
- **Student Members** – This section experienced a decreased membership in 2011.

Membership growth in total and by sections

Category	As at end 2010	As at end 2011	% change
Fellow Member	11	11	0%
Life Member	100	110	10%
Ordinary Member	1017	1134	11.5%
Overseas Member	19	13	-31.5%
Associate Member	187	146	-22%
Student Member	12	9	-25%

Make-up of Membership by Sections by end 2011



Membership Committee

Objectives

- To drive membership for the society, with the aim of PSS representing all the registered pharmacists in Singapore and fostering an active and motivated membership and leadership.
- To organise social events for members.

Activities

In 2011, we observed a continual growth in the ordinary membership cohort, which can be attributed by PSS positioning as the leading provider of Continuous Education activities for Pharmacists in all areas of practice.

This year, PSS held its membership and volunteer recruitment drive at the 21st SPC meeting. Through this drive, PSS managed to engage 14 volunteers for the various PSS chapters. In conjunction with this drive, PSS also handed out a survey to find out the nature of activities that members would like to see PSS organize. A total of 125 responses were obtained and PSS will continue to study and plan activities according to these suggestions.

The membership committee's strategy continues to co-opt young pharmacists into the Society as early as possible in view of the fact that enticing members to re-join was a difficult task.

We continue to encourage subscription collection via GIRO or the Diners Club Affinity Card. This approach has saved administrative costs to PSS in terms of reminder mailings and printing costs of mailers.

The committee would like to thank our members for their continual support of PSS. Your support is our Society's strength.

Reported by:
Mr Lim Mun Moon
Ex-Officio

Communications Committee

Ex-officio	:	Ms Fatimah Moideen Kutty
Members	:	Mr Ng Cheng Tiang Mr Goh Ann Chuan, Raymond Ms Agnes Lee Mr Wong Leong Hui Mr Raymond Liew Mr Adrian Wong

Objectives

- To serve as the sounding board and communication conduit for the Society
- To maintain a constant updates for the website and e-Bulletin
- To coordinate media activities

Activities

The main activities comprised the regular web based tasks and the newspapers publication initiatives and ad-hoc media and publication relations.

Last year, the website was revamped. Phase 1 of the revamp included changes to the website to allow for easy navigation and added features for PSS members only. This year we have embarked on phase 2 of the revamp and the website is expected to change by Jun 2012.

While we pursue constant upgrading of our website, current regular update continues. We have already published 77 eBulletin issues to-date, providing the latest updates in the pharmaceutical scene and job industry and have been a regular and indispensable monthly read for PSS members.

We also engaged the media at various levels, newspapers, and radio interviews as well as TV media in the Good Morning Singapore programme. These mediums have been a good opportunity for us to update the general public on issues related to medication management, medication safety and the affordability of medication.

Reported by:
Ms Fatimah Moideen Kutty

Transparency important in drug billing

PATIENTS should know how much they are paying for each medicine ("How much does that pill cost? Tell the patient"; March 25). When cost is an issue, they should discuss their concerns with the health-care providers and be able to seek out cheaper alternatives.

Government guidelines require every patient to get an itemised drug bill, which must show each and every drug dispensed and the

amount charged when they visit a doctor. A patient who finds a cheaper alternative must be allowed to get a prescription to buy the medicine from any pharmacy.

Together with the Consumers Association of Singapore, we began a list which compared the prices of 300 most commonly prescribed medications for chronic diseases from community pharmacies. We will continue to update this list on our website <http://pss.org.sg/pss/> to promote more transparency.

Assistant Professor Christine Teng
President
Pharmaceutical Society of Singapore

Comments from PSS to Straits Times Forum on 9 April 2011

Young Pharmacists Chapter

Ex-officio	:	Ms Christine Teng Mr Tham Wen Chen Ms Miko Thum
Members	:	Ms Goh Li Fang Ms Shannon Ng Yan Lam Mr McVin Cheen Hua Heng Ms Chong Mui Fong Ms Hong Yu Wen Ms Ho Ying Shi Mr Lai Yi Feng Ms Jasmine Ong Chiat Ling Ms Song Jie Lin Ms Wee Xue Ting

Objectives

- Engage the younger pharmacists
- Encourage the voice of young pharmacists in PSS
- Harness the energies, drive and interests to bring about positive changes
- Identify needs and organize programs for young pharmacists
- Have a Young Pharmacists group to represent Singapore/PSS in the international young pharmacist arena
- Build capacities and develop leaders for our profession

The idea to form the Young Pharmacists Chapter was first proposed by the President of PSS, Ms Christine Teng, on the basis that young pharmacists needed a channel to get together, voice their concerns and bring about positive changes. This idea was echoed and approved by Council.

The criteria for admission into this chapter is that the pharmacist must be aged 35 or under. A volunteer recruitment drive at the SPC 2011 introduced the chapter to PSS members and attracted a group of young pharmacists who subsequently formed this new chapter. The first meeting of the Young Pharmacists Chapter was held in November 2011.

The talentime in conjunction with PSS's Annual General Meeting to be held on 17th Mar 2012 is the brainchild of the Young Pharmacists Chapter. Look out for more to come from these young and energetic new pharmacists!

Reported by:
Ms Miko Thum
Ex-Officio

21st Singapore Pharmacy Congress Partnering Community, Optimising Care



Chairperson:	Dr. Priscilla How
Scientific Chair:	Ms. Wendy Ang
Advisors:	Asst. Prof Lita Chew Asst. Prof Christine Teng
Committee Members:	Dr. Alexandre Chan Ms. May Cheah Ms. Pearlyn Chen Mr. Lew Kaung Yuan Ms. Adeline Lim Ms. Lim Paik Shia Ms. Ng Ying Ru Ms. Oh Wan Lin Dr. Simeon Tang Mr. Parry Zhang

Approximately 600 pharmacists and colleagues from various pharmaceutical professions gathered in the 21st Singapore Pharmacy Congress (SPC) held in the Sheraton Towers, Singapore, on 16-17 July 2011. The theme for the Congress was “Partnering Community, Optimizing Care”. The program included pre-congress workshops, keynote and plenary lectures, as well as concurrent symposia that focused on the importance of integration of care and partnerships that pharmacists must forge with the community.



The Guest-of Honour for this year's Congress was Dr. Jason Cheah, CEO of the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC), who delivered a keynote lecture on “Transforming Care Through Integration”. Mr. Liak Teng Lit (CEO, Alexandra Health) and Dr. Jenny Gowan (Consultant Pharmacist, NEVDGP & MediCom) were the two invited plenary speakers.

21st Singapore Pharmacy Congress Partnering Community, Optimising Care



An important highlight of the Congress was the official launch of PSS-AIC collaboration. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between PSS & AIC, represented by the PSS President Christine Teng & AIC CEO Jason Cheah, respectively. The MOU marked the beginning of PSS-AIC one-year alliance to pilot and improve pharmaceutical care of nursing homes run by voluntary groups.

This Congress would not have been possible without the dedication, commitment and tireless efforts of the organizing committee. I would like to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge each and every one of them, as well as all the distinguished speakers, corporate sponsors, PSS colleagues and advisors, and the congress secretariat.

Reported by:
Dr Priscilla How
21st SPC Chairperson

PSS Pharmacist Volunteers Service For Dover Park Hospice (DPH) And Hospice Care Association (HCA)

Chairperson: Mr Wu Tuck Seng

Volunteers: Ms Lita Chew
Ms May Kwan Yin Mee
Ms Irene Quay Siew Ching
Ms Miko Thum Chui Mei
Ms Wong Huan Yan
Ms Yeo Soo Lam

Briefly, the PSS pharmacist volunteer service for DPH started in 1998 with the aim of helping to ensure safe medication use through proper storage and handling of medicines. In 2000, the service was extended to HCA. Volunteers review donated medicines and see if they can recycle them safely to reduce cost. They pre-pack medicines for inpatient use at DPH and pack ready to use packs of medicines for home visits by the HCA doctors and nurses. The volunteers take turns to provide this service every Saturday for about 2 – 3 hours each time.

For 2011, Ms Chang Chia Yang requested to be taken off the roster due to her pregnancy and arrival of her baby. We are ever grateful of her contribution and wish her all the best. Ms Vivianne Shih requested to be off the roster for 1 year due to her PharmD course commitment at the National University of Singapore requiring an overseas attachment. In all, PSS pharmacist volunteers conducted a total of 52 medication review and repackaging sessions at DPH and HCA.

There was one meeting between the volunteer pharmacists and DPH staff on 29 January 2011. At the meeting, DPH management presented individual plaques of appreciation to all the PSS volunteer pharmacists for their commitment and dedication all these years. The present medication room at DPH has been moved to a new renovated location but still at level 2. The DPH formulary listing of drugs as well as the par levels were reviewed and discussed. High alert medications for example, KCL injection to be moved to a high alert medication shelving. The volunteers were also informed by Dr Angel Lee, DPH Medical Director that DPH will start home service in due course after the renovation but the medication stocks will still be treated as one – i.e. inpatients and home care will share common stocks. Controlled drug stocks, accountability, security and management for inpatients and home care were discussed. The patient process from admission to discharge and donated medications handling was deliberated on to make the process more efficient. There will be a checklist for donated medications. This established process is now the norm.

The PSS volunteer pharmacists continue to work with enthusiasm and dedication earning praises from DPH and HCA doctors.

Pharmacists who are interested to volunteer, please contact Tuck Seng at rlwts7@gmail.com or call 67725007.

Reported by:
Mr Wu Tuck Seng
Chairperson

Collaborations With Local Partners

(I) AGENCY OF INTEGRATED CARE (AIC)

Ex-Officio
Members

Ms Fatimah Moideen Kutty
Ms Chua Siew Wei
Mr Ivan Chew
Mr Tham Wen Chen
Ms Bernadette Lim
Ms Low Suat Fern
Ms Wendy Ang

Medication Safety in Nursing Homes

AIC and PSS jointly launched a pilot programme for pharmaceutical care in the Voluntary Welfare Organization (VWO) nursing homes with the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 16 Jul 2011. The MOU for the two-year programme was signed by Ms Christine Teng, President of PSS and Dr Jason Cheah, Chief Executive Officer of AIC at the opening of 21st Singapore Pharmaceutical Congress, held at Sheraton Towers.

AIC is the agency set up to promote and enhance the integration of Intermediate and Long-Term Care sector, to realize the vision of a more integrated healthcare system in Singapore. The idea for the collaboration was mooted in Sep 2010 and went through a few rounds of discussion before culminating to the signing of MOU.

Both parties seek to collaborate on a “**Pharmaceutical Care Programme**”, which aims to enhance the capability of nursing homes (NH) in managing their residents’ medication needs more effectively. The scope of the Programme includes:

- a) Medication review and reconciliation for residents in the nursing home;
- b) Improve medication use and safety, minimizing any potential errors or near-miss in the nursing homes, by drawing up policies and procedures with the NHs.
- c) Training and support of nursing care staff, to ensure that the staff has a better understanding of the medications being served to residents and safe medication practices in the NH.

As of end Dec 2011, we have 6 NH and 2 Hospices participating in the programme. Community Pharmacists from Guardian, National Healthcare Group Polyclinic Pharmacy, Unity Healthcare and Watsons are providing the services to these NH and Hospices. Each NH or hospice is partnered with one community pharmacy organization, whose pharmacists provides medication reviews and consults two days per month.

As per the scope of programme, 2 runs of trainings for the nurses were planned for the first year. The first run was completed in Nov 2011. The next run is expected to be held in Mar 2012. Each run consist of 10 topics, conducted over 5 half-day sessions.

PSS has also arranged a team of advisors to support these community pharmacists. They are Ms Low Suat Fern, Ms Wendy Ang and Ms Bernadette Lim, who have many years of experience in nursing home medication management.

The results of the above programme might enable AIC and PSS to extend the service to more nursing homes with better funding support.

Reported by:
Ms Fatimah Moideen Kutty
Ex-Officio

Collaborations With Local Partners

(II) NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY (NUSPS)

NUSPS is the student body representing the pharmacy undergraduates in NUS. PSS has been collaborating with NUSPS in their Brown Bagging activity since 2010. Brown Bagging is a student-led medication review event organised by NUSPS E-Med Committee (an external wing of NUSPS specialising in health-related volunteer work) to guide elderly patients on the safe and proper use of medications. This is important as the elderly are often identified to be at a higher risk of taking inappropriate or expired medicines.

Other than helping the elderly to maximize the therapeutic effects of their medication with medication safety in mind, Brown Bagging also strives to reach out to the community to educate the public about the role of pharmacists as the 'drug experts'. At the same time, this event fosters closer relations between pharmacy undergraduates and pharmacists from PSS. Students can benefit from the sharing of experience and knowledge, and overall the interaction helps to create a more cohesive '*Pharmily*'. Last but not least, it allows students to apply their drug knowledge and practise their patient counselling and communication skills, under the guidance of pharmacists.

Collaborations between NUSPS, North West Community Development Council (CDC) and PSS – Launch of “Know Your Medicines, Get It Right! @ North West”

In 2011, the Brown Bagging event was brought to a new height with a formalised collaboration between the NUSPS and PSS in partnership with North West CDC. This is a 3-year programme under North West Youth Care pillar, which aims to harness the energy of NUS Pharmacy undergraduates and expertise of registered pharmacists in making a positive contribution to the community.

Under this programme, NUSPS, PSS and North West CDC will be partnering voluntary welfare organisations, neighbourhood links, senior activity centres and North West Grassroots Organisations in reaching out to more senior citizens in North West District. The “Know Your Medicines. Get It Right!” Brown Bagging events will be roving to different areas in the North West District to benefit at least 700 beneficiaries and caregivers over 3-year period.

At the programme launch on 2 July 2011, about 61 undergraduates and 17 pharmacists provided free talks and consultations to about 120 needy elderly at Sembawang Community Centre.



Launch of “Know Your Medicines, Get It Right! @ North West” on 2 Jul 2011 with (left to right) Mr Ong Kheng Yong (President, NUSPS), A/Prof Chan Sui Yung (Head, NUS Pharmacy), Dr Teo Ho Pin (Mayor, North West CDC), Mr Khaw Boon Wan (Minister, Guest-of-Honour) and Ms Christine Teng (President, PSS).

Collaborations With Local Partners



Pharmacists and Pharmacist-to-be reaching out to the community.

[Home >](#)

SINGAPORE NEWS

A- A+

70% of patients above 50 not using medicine correctly: survey

Posted: 02 July 2011 20:53 hrs

Recommend

You recommend 70% of patients above 50 not using medicine correctly survey - Channel NewsAsia. · Admin

SINGAPORE: About seven in 10 patients aged 50 and above do not use medicine correctly, according to surveys conducted by the Pharmaceutical Society of Singapore.

Together with the NUS Pharmaceutical Society and grassroots leaders, they organised an event to educate elderly and low-income residents and their caregivers in the North West District on appropriate medication use.

About 50 undergraduates and 20 pharmacists provided free talks and consultations to needy elderly and low-income families.

The top-three drug-related problems faced are - not following strictly to the medication as prescribed, not knowing the medication they need, and showing adverse effects towards the medication.

The "Know Your Medicines. Get It Right!" talk and consultation will be roving to different areas in the North West District to reach out to 700 beneficiaries and caregivers over three years.

Dr Teo Ho Pin, Mayor of the North West District, said: "We would like to encourage more youth volunteers and professionals to come to the community to volunteer their services... To reach out to the elderly and the low income elderly, to let them understand how to take medicine and what should they do in order to get the correct prescription."

-CNA/ac



Photos

1 of 1

Pharmacists provide consultations to the elderly

Video



70% of patients above 50 not using medicine correctly, says survey

This is a very meaningful collaboration and we are grateful for all the pharmacists who have come forward as volunteers to serve the community alongside the undergraduates. NUSPS and PSS will continue to collaborate on such community outreach.

Please email Ms Christine Teng (christeng@nus.edu.sg) if you like to volunteer for such Brown Bagging outreach events in the future.

Reported by: Ms Christine Teng
Mr Ng Kwee Haan (Project Director, E-Med, NUSPS)
Mr Ong Kheng Yong (President, NUSPS)

Collaborations With Local Partners

(III) SINGAPORE SPORTS COUNCIL, ANTI-DOPING SINGAPORE (ADS)

Anti-Doping Singapore (ADS), a division under Singapore Sports Council (SSC), was established by the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports as the national anti-doping organization for Singapore. Its roles are to promote and support the eradication of doping in sport in Singapore and to fulfil its commitment to the implementation of the World Anti-Doping (WADA) Code. The Government of Singapore was a signatory to the Copenhagen Declaration on Anti-Doping in Sport in 2003 and had also ratified the UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport in 2005.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Singapore (PSS) has been represented in ADS since 2010 by Ms Lim Wan Peng, who has been serving as an ex-officio member in the ADS Board.

To help clean athletes fulfil their responsibility under WADA's principle of strict liability, ADS has been planning to establish a database of all drugs registered in Singapore, for athletes or even doctors to check the status of medications against WADA's Prohibited List. This will be a tool to help athletes reduce the risk of inadvertent use of prohibited substances and prevent them from being banned from competitive sports.

Ms Christine Teng, President of PSS, has recently signed an MOU with the Singapore Sports Council and HSA to establish a working relationship towards providing the framework for the drug database and a platform for mutual exchange of information between the parties involved.



Signing of MOU on 1st February between (left to right) PSS (represented by Ms Christine Teng, President), SSC (represented by Mr Lim Teck Yin, CEO) and HSA (represented by Dr Christina Lim, Acting Group Director)



This is an interesting opportunity for pharmacists to be involved in the arena of sports and yet accomplish what they do best, i.e. facilitate the provision of drug information to help with decision-making.

Reported by:
Ms Lim Wan Peng

Rapport With Other International/ Regional Organisations

(i) Federation of Asian Pharmaceutical Associations (FAPA)

Society's Representative : Mr Ng Cheng Tiang

Federation of Asian Pharmaceutical Associations (FAPA) was founded in 1964 as a platform for pharmacists in Asia to network and learn from one another. Currently, there are 17 Ordinary Members from pharmaceutical associations/societies collectively forming this pan-Asian federation of pharmacists; with additional 5 organisations completing the list of Associate Members (see [here](#) for membership list).

http://www.fapaasia.url.tw/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4&Itemid=4

The major event in FAPA's calendar has hitherto been the biennial congress which Singapore hosted in 2008. Under the new FAPA Bureau's leadership, there have been increasing efforts to enhance regional and international collaboration, particularly with key international stakeholders. In 2011, the FAPA Bureau put in an additional effort for 2 key initiatives which FAPA has organized:

- FAPA-WHO WORKSHOP IN YOGYAKARTA, INDONESIA
 - This was held on 16 – 17 September, 2011. The objective as to work closely with WHO (represented by Dr. Budiono Santoso of Western Pacific Regional Office), Presidents of member organisations, invited guests from Australia, UK and USA, educators and key pharmacy leaders in the region. From Singapore, Dr. Camilla Wong was invited to speak in the Workshop.
- CONFERENCE ON GENERIC DRUGS IN ASIA, TAIWAN
 - This was held on 20-21 November, 2011 in Taipei. The conference was held jointly by FAPA and Pharmaceutical Society of Taiwan to heighten the importance and contribution of generic drugs to the health system.

In representing Singapore as one of the Vice Presidents to FAPA Bureau, I have attended 2 FAPA meetings in 2011. One was in March 2011 where the Bureau members met in Jakarta to discuss the FAPA operational issues and also discussion on the upcoming FAPA Congress to be held in between 13-16 September, 2012. This would mark the 24th edition of the Congress and the theme of the Congress has been chosen as "Culture and Medicine". The other one was in conjunction with the FAPA-WHO Workshop held in Yogyakarta.

Reported by:
Mr Ng Cheng Tiang
Ex-Officio

Rapport With Other International/ Regional Organisations

(ii) Western Pacific Pharmaceutical Forum

Founded in 2001, the Western Pacific Pharmaceutical Forum (WPPF) was formed with the aim of bringing the Western Pacific regional national pharmacy associations together to increase interaction, dialogue, understanding and activities that will enable the pharmacy profession gain greater impact on improving pharmacy services and health. The executive committee of the WPPF comprises the following members:

President:	Mr John Ware (Australia)
Vice President:	A/Prof Wai Keung Chui (Singapore)
Honorary Secretary:	Mr Reynaldo Umali (Philippines)
Executive Members:	Mrs Myung Suk Park (Korea)
	Dr Tony Yen-Huei Tarn (Taiwan)
	Mr Nobu Yamamoto (Japan)

Some of the objectives of the WPPF are listed as follows:

- (a) To improve the health of the general public by developing and enhancing of pharmacy practices in the Western Pacific region
- (b) To encourage the implementation of pharmacy services and pharmacy practice projects among national pharmaceutical associations
- (c) To support WHO-policies and integrating appropriate WHO policies into undergraduate, postgraduate and continuing education programmes
- (d) To fight against the production and distribution of counterfeit medicine and the sale of medicine by people who are not qualified
- (e) To formulate policy statements on health issues, identified at meetings of the Forum

In the year 2011, the WPPF Executive Committee organized two executive meetings at the following venues and dates:

- (1) Manila, Philippines (18-20 February 2011)
- (2) Melbourne, Australia (6-7 October 2011)

Some of the projects and main activities of WPPF that took place in 2011 include:

- (i) The 2011 FIP Travel Scholarship went to two pharmacists namely Mr Bryan Posadas (Philippines) and Mr Ka Keat Lim (Malaysia). The scholarship allowed them the opportunity to participate at the FIP congress organized in Hyderabad, India.

Rapport With Other International/ Regional Organisations

- (ii) The WPPF executive committee was invited to participate in the Philippines Pharmacists Association Seminar on 19 February 2011. At the seminar, Dr Jenny Gowan from Australia and Ms Jin Hee Baek, hospital pharmacist from Korea, were invited speakers. The seminar was also addressed by Mr John Ware, President of the Western Pacific Pharmaceutical Forum who challenged the audience to look beyond the horizon and look at the changes technology would make to current pharmacy practice and the absolute need for change if there is to be a future for the profession. Dr Chui Wai Keung addressed the education of pharmacists within the region, the need to change and develop as new programs and new schools of pharmacy were established and make sure that curriculum was in fact suited for each country. And Dr Tarn spoke on the development of pharmaceutical care in China Taiwan.
- (iii) Dr Chui Wai Keung was invited to participate at the World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA) workshop on combating falsified and counterfeit medical products on 30 June 2011. The workshop brought together representatives of healthcare professions organizations and relevant national authorities from Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia , the Philippine , Singapore, South Korea, Thailand and Taiwan, to exchange information on the situation of counterfeit medicines and share best practices and measures taken in different countries by the various health professions, namely nurses, pharmacists, physical therapists, dentists and physicians.

Reported by:
A/Prof Chui Wai Keung



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