



Issue 179 February 2022

PSS E-BULLETIN

To maximise the contribution of Pharmacists to the healthcare of Singaporeans

ELECTION OF 116TH COUNCIL AND OFFICE BEARERS

**CAST YOUR
VOTES AT OUR
ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING**

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SAVE THE DATE
PSS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

26th March 2022

PSS HIGHLIGHTS

YPC SANDBOX- SUSTAINABLE PHARMACY IN SINGAPORE

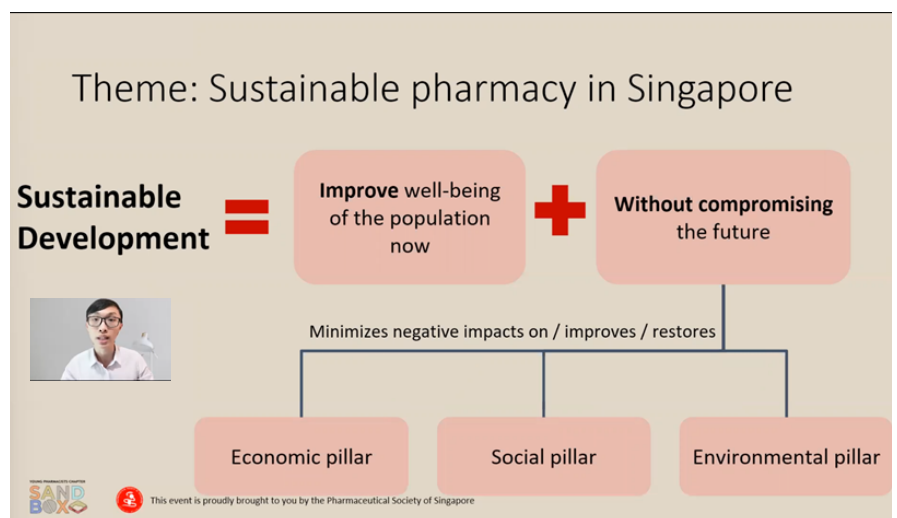
Written by Mr Jay Chong Jin Jian, Director of YPC Sandbox

What does it mean to have sustainable pharmacy in Singapore? Buzzwords such as “eco-friendliness”, “burnout reduction”, and “patient empowerment” immediately come to mind. How can pharmacists make an impact in this journey? What if you have a project idea but lack the resources to develop it?

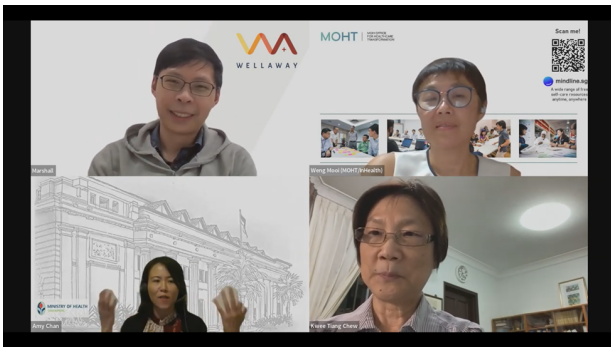
YPC Sandbox is a platform to encourage innovation and collaboration in pharmacy nationwide. Open to all PSS members, YPC Sandbox is able to tap into the vast PSS network to connect pharmacists with innovative ideas to the relevant expertise, and help secure resources for project development.

The theme for YPC Sandbox 2022 is Sustainable Pharmacy in Singapore. Participants are invited to share their proposals which will be assessed by a panel of experts, on the viability and impact of the project. The winning project will be supported with seed funding, professional support, and publicity from PSS. To kickstart creativity and strengthen project management skills for our participants, we have hosted a series of activities to guide them in this process.

Our opening session for YPC Sandbox 2022 was held on 14th Jan 2022, where discussions on the three pillars of sustainable development, namely economic, social, and environmental were made. Challenges and opportunities were discussed, and interesting examples were shared on how our overseas colleagues played their part in sustainable pharmacy.

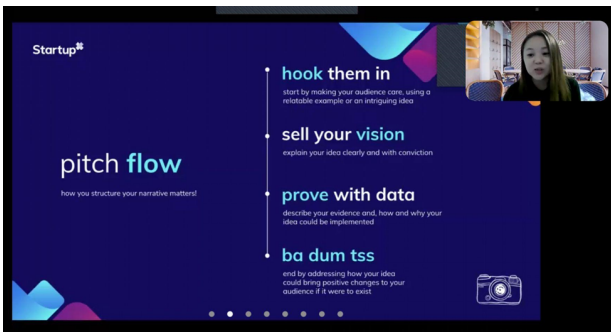


To gain further insights on how sustainability can be applied to pharmacy, we invited Ms Min Na Eii (Vice Chair of Sustainability for Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists, Co-Founder of Pharmacy Declares) to elaborate on her experience in advocating for sustainable pharmacy practices in UK, such as reducing plastic consumables usage in medication rounds and recycling schemes for inhalers.



We also had a panel discussion featuring Ms Amy Chan (Chief Pharmacist Office), Dr Tan Weng Mooi (MOH Transformation Team), and Mrs Chew Kwee Tiang (National Healthcare Group), who shared their insights on building a sustainable pharmacy and healthcare in Singapore.

There was a lively discussion on the patient's journey in Singapore's healthcare system, with opportunities for pharmacists to establish closer relationships with patients, and empowering the public to improve their health. We also touched on topics of managing pharmacy staff burnout, as well as environmental friendliness in the pharmacy supply chain.



Not forgetting the importance of project proposal writing and pitching skills, we invited Ms Joyce Tay (Chief Strategy Officer at StartupX) to share her expertise in startup skills with our participants, where she highlighted the importance of addressing market needs and marketing of products' benefits beyond their features.

Sustainability is not a want or a desire, it is a need, and a collective responsibility of humanity. As individuals, we start small, changing our own lifestyles and consumption. As a group, we can start bigger, to work on innovative ideas and projects, to collaborate and develop something new.

YPC Sandbox aims to facilitate the realization of this idea, and we hope that with our push to develop novel projects, pharmacists like yourself will be inspired to jumpstart your innovation and join us to work towards sustainable pharmacy in Singapore.

Follow us at [instagram.com/pssypcsandbox](https://www.instagram.com/pssypcsandbox)
and learn more about YPC Sandbox.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

26th Mar 2022

116th Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The AGM is a time for members to exercise their right to vote for the upcoming Council and Office Bearers of the society. The financial statements and annual report of the organization will also be presented. Registration will be closed on the 25th March 2022, 4pm.

- **Where:** Zoom
- **Time:** 2pm
- **Who should attend:** PSS Life / Fellow / Ordinary Members*



Click [here](#) to register! Sign up now!

*Please note that only valid members who have renewed their membership for year 2022 will be qualified to attend the AGM. If you are unable to attend the Annual General Meeting and wish to nominate a proxy to vote on your behalf, please complete the [Proxy Nomination Form](#) and fax it to 62592393 or email to admin@pss.org.sg by 11th March 2022.

Agenda of 116th Annual General Meeting (AGM)

1. Confirmation of minutes of the 115th Annual General Meeting held on 13th March 2021 and discussion of matters arising
2. Review of Annual Report of the Council for FY2021*
3. Review of duly audited Financial Statements for FY2021*
4. Updates by PSS President, Ms Yong Pei Chean
5. Appointment of scrutineers for election of the 116th Council
6. Election of 116th Council and Office Bearers of the Society
7. Appointment of Honorary Auditors for FY2022
8. Discussion of any other business, notice of which must be given to the Honorary Secretary at least 14 days before the AGM
9. Address by President of the 116th Council, Pharmaceutical Society of Singapore

FACES OF PSS: MS VIVIAN CHIN

by Media & Communications Committee

In Faces of PSS, we feature the remarkable individuals who keep the organisation running. Meet Vivian! She is an active member of PSS, and is constantly contributing to the pharmacy profession here in Singapore.

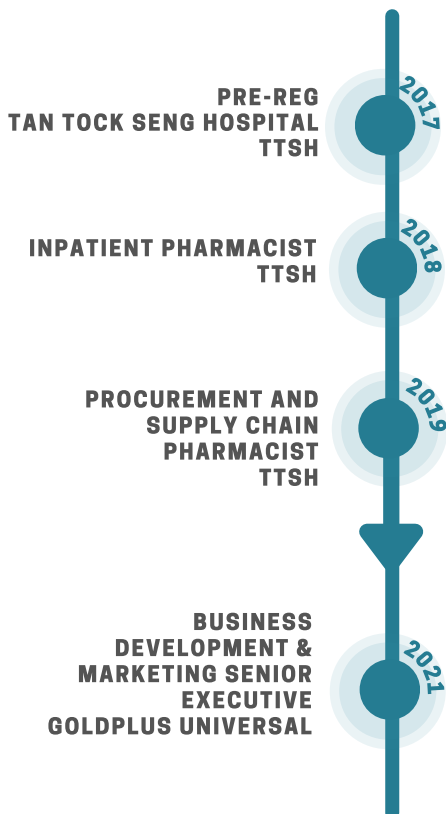


As a student, Vivian served as the 54th president of NUS Pharmaceutical Society (NUSPS).

Today, she is the Vice-chairperson of the PSS Young Pharmacist's Chapter (YPC) and the co-chairperson of the upcoming 31st Singapore Pharmacy Congress 2022.

She was awarded the PSS Student Overseas Enrichment Award in 2016 and has been an active volunteer for the Singapore Pharmacy Week since 2015.

In 2020, Vivian was also the co-chairperson of Singapore Pharmacy Week, which won the FIP's (International Pharmaceutical Federation) 2021 Health Promotion Campaign Award.



As Vivian reflected on what drives her to serve the pharmacy community
"Naturally, we'd prefer to stay in our comfort zones. . . . As we all would have heard many times, change is the only constant, and change will not come if we wait for someone else or some other time.

I felt that I had something to contribute and change in NUSPS and the pharmacy profession, then I should also step up to be the change I hope to see."



Pharmacy Week 2019
at Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH)

HER PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY THUS FAR

Vivan started her journey as a pharmacist in TTSH Inpatient Pharmacy which laid the foundation and eased her transition to a back-end role as a Procurement and Supply Chain Pharmacist. During her time in Procurement, Supply Chain & Manufacturing Department (P&SCM), she was the Drug Master Team Lead and supported Unit Dose Repackaging projects and P&SCM Medication Safety.

In 2021, Vivian then started a new career in Goldplus Universal doing Business Development and Marketing. With a keen interest in digitalization of healthcare and supply chain, she has taken on responsibilities to oversee the digitalization projects in the company.

1) You have been actively involved in the NUSPS since your undergrad days, what motivated you to join and also later serve as president despite the rigorous pharmacy schedule?

I was initially hesitant. It was a difficult decision to make as it was not a popular choice. However, as mentioned, change will not come if we wait for someone else or some other time. I felt that I had something to make a change in NUSPS and the pharmacy profession, therefore I should also step up to be the change I hope to see. Looking back, it greatly enriched my university and pharmacy experience and I hoped the 54th NUSPS Committee has inspired our juniors and left a legacy.



Vivian (President) and Leslie (Vice-president) of the 54th NUSPS EXCO with Prof Chui Wai Keung (middle)



54th Pharmacy Week 2019 with my batchmates!

2) What was the most memorable experience in PSS so far?

The most memorable experience was organizing Pharmacy Week 2020 at the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was an uphill task organizing our 1st virtual event during the pandemic. I really appreciated our committee members who tirelessly helped to make Pharmacy Week a huge success in spite of their heavy workload at the frontline tackling COVID-19 and expanding Medication Delivery Services. It was an honour and a much needed encouragement having won the FIP Health Promotion Campaign Award. I hope as graduate committee members of Pharmacy week, we can continue to shine for the profession in our own ways.

3) How do you think the roles you have taken on in PSS had contributed to your development?

They have definitely honed my leadership and communication skills. I got to work with many pharmacists from various sectors for the first time and had to manage multiple stakeholders. Being a relatively junior pharmacist, I was exposed to many opportunities and problems which I likely would not face 3-4 years into my career. Yet these experiences allowed me to gain a more holistic perspective of the pharmacy profession (even beyond Singapore).



Asian Young Pharmacist Group (AYPG) Leadership Summit 2019

4) What changes do you hope to see in the pharmacy profession?

I do think there are many opportunities for pharmaceutical companies, insurance providers and care providers to collaborate for the future and improvement of healthcare. After all, we play different roles yet wish to achieve similar outcomes for the local/global community. We may also embrace and acknowledge other skillsets and learn from other industries such as data analytics, supply chain and computer science, business management. These will value add to our current skillsets. We may even need to work with professionals beyond pharmacy to improve and transform the profession. We need to act fast; the world does not wait for us. Ultimately, I hope for a more globally connected pharmaceutical network of supply chain and information transfer, lead by innovative and transformative solutions to achieve better health literacy and of course better health.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: MR PANG HOW TZE

by PSS Hospital Chapter

In The Spotlight is a PSS initiative that features individuals working in the hospital setting for their extraordinary work.

In this issue we shine the spotlight on Mr Pang How Tze , an Information Technology (I.T.) Pharmacist from Sengkang General Hospital (SKH).



How Tze graduated from the National University of Singapore (NUS) with a Bachelor of Pharmacy degree in 2007. He then completed his pre-registration pharmacist training at the Singapore General Hospital where he continued to practice as an outpatient pharmacist until 2016. His passion in data analysis and problem solving led him to his current role as an I.T. pharmacist at Sengkang General Hospital (SKH).

As an I.T. pharmacist, How Tze's main area of expertise is in the management of the pharmacy operation system. Over the past few years, he has been involved in the implementation of several valuable I.T. projects for SKH's pharmacy department such as:

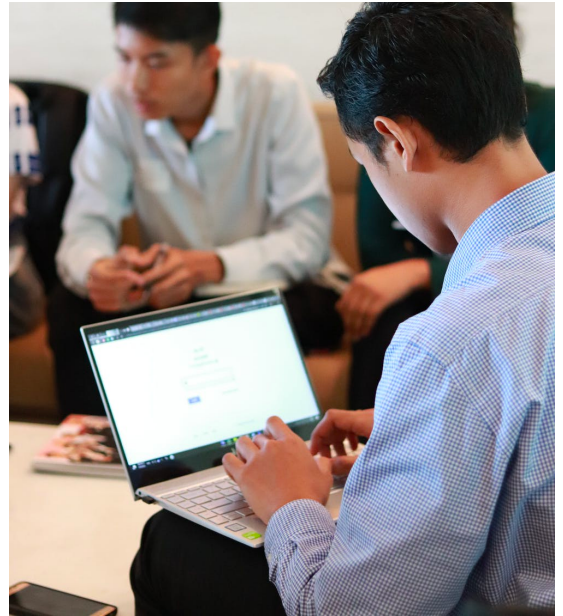
- the establishment of the drug database for dispensing
- setting up of an automated drug dispensing robot for efficient medication packing

In addition to the above mentioned projects, his contribution for the initiation of electronic prescriptions not only optimized the pharmacy processing workflow, but also enhanced the patients' overall experience at the SKH Pharmacy.

Currently, he is focusing on designing the next generation pharmacy dispensing system; which might be a total game changer for the pharmacy operation system in the future!

Describe the most satisfying/fulfilling day in your life as a pharmacist

Most of the time, I will be engaged with queries or issues relating to I.T. system from pharmacy colleagues. During any unplanned I.T. disruptions to the department's operations, I will represent the pharmacy end users and work with the technical support team to resolve the problems. I would say that my day is most satisfying or fulfilling when I am able to resolve the technical issues, restore the pharmacy daily operations and ensure that all required follow-up actions have been cleared.



Who would you say is your role model, whom inspired you to excel in the pharmacy field that you chose?



Ms Kam Huey Min, who is an I.T. pharmacist from Singapore General Hospital, is my role model who inspired me to excel in this field. Her ability to analyse and plan in detail has allowed her to resolve problems without being affected by the volatile environment; this drives me to reflect and improve my problem-solving skills and my adaptability to work-related pressure.

What would your best advice be for the younger pharmacists, especially when faced with challenges to motivate them and keep them going?

Always have the following attitude:

- Keep cool!
- Seek help when needed, without hesitation.
- Treat every mistake you've made as an opportunity to reflect, learn and improve.
- Appreciate different ideas from your colleagues or peers and work with them to achieve the best result.

PROFESSIONAL UPDATES

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Welcia-BHG (Singapore) Pte. Ltd.

Pharmacist



We are looking for a community pharmacist with a entrepreneurial attitude and a strong desire to continuously learn and grow.

Click [here](#) for more information.

National Cancer Centre Singapore

Pharmacist



We are looking for a pharmacist to provide pharmaceutical care of patients, implement departmental policies, and provide support in training and research.

Click [here](#) for more information.

ST Logistics

Quality Assurance Pharmacist /
Manager



We are looking for pharmacists who share our mission in providing quality healthcare supply chain solutions to grow with us.

Click [here](#) for more information.

ST Logistics

Production Pharmacist / Manager



We are looking for pharmacists who share our mission in providing quality healthcare supply chain solutions to grow with us.

Click [here](#) for more information.

An initiative under the PSS Media & Communications Committee
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