

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.

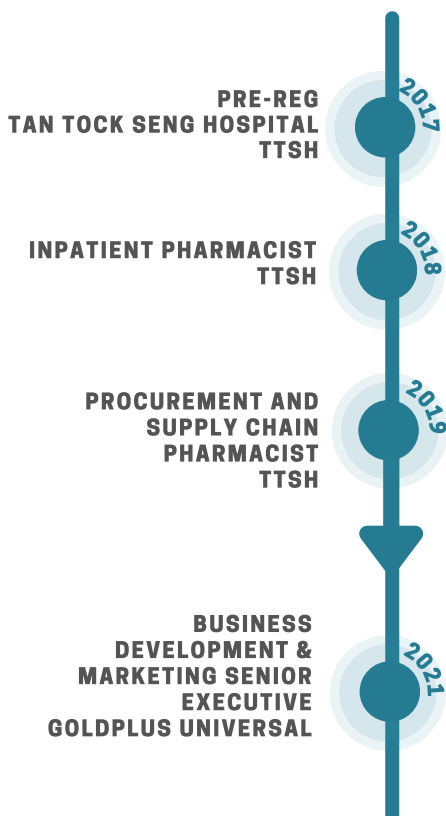


As a student, Vivian served as the 54th president of NUS Pharmaceutical Society (NUSPS).

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

Vivian 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.