



NATIONAL
SKIN
CENTRE
National Healthcare Group

CORPORATE REVIEW FY2022

To GREATER Heights



CONTENTS

- 02 VISION AND MISSION
- 03 BOARD AND KEY COMMITTEES FY2022
- 05 EXECUTIVE MESSAGES
- 07 SPECIAL FEATURE: THE BIG MOVE TO THE NEW NSC
- 13 PATIENT CARE
- 19 RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
- 31 EDUCATION
- 37 OUR STAFF
- 44 MEDICAL STAFF LISTING

MISSION

To improve and advance the skin health of the population by setting the highest standard of excellence in dermatological care, education and research.

VISION

To be a beacon for world-class dermatological care, research and education, a centre of choice for our patients, staff and partners in advancing skin health for current and future generations.

PATIENTS

We treat patients with respect and dignity and provide them with a comprehensive range of dermatological care that is up-to-date, high in quality and cost-effective. We provide expert management of complex skin diseases and achieve the best value-based outcomes.

STAFF

We create an organisation that is anchored by a deep sense of purpose and has a progressive, inspiring, trusting and collaborative work environment that we are proud to work in.

PARTNERS

We engage our partners proactively in a positive synergistic, collegial relationship, ensuring a win-win outcome, in an empowering, innovative and sustainable environment.

STEWARDS

We optimise our resources to provide value-driven dermatology services at the tertiary level, leveraging on partnerships to provide care beyond the hospital to community and build a centre of excellence in education and research to improve health outcomes.



BOARD AND KEY COMMITTEES FY2022



Mr Tan Tee How
Chairman, NSC Board
Chairman,
National Healthcare Group



Prof Philip Choo
Director, NSC Board
GCEO,
National Healthcare Group



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Top row, from left:

- 1 **Mr Johnny Foo**
Clinic Operations Manager
- 2 **Ms Theresa Soon**
Care & Counselling and
Department of STI Control
Manager
- 3 **Ms Lui Sook Yin**
Laboratory Manager
- 4 **Mr Eric Goh**
Clinical Governance,
Quality and Data
Management Manager

- 5 **Ms Brenda Lim**
Head of Nursing

- 6 **Mr Benny Li**
Head of Pharmacy

Bottom row, from left:

- 7 **Mr Koh Teck Chee**
Head of Human Resources
and Medical Affairs
(Until September 2023)

- 8 **A/Prof Chua Sze Hon**
Deputy Director

- 9 **Prof Tan Suat Hoon**
Director

- 10 **Ms Loo Swee Cheng**
General Manager

- 11 **Mr Lawrence Quek**
Facilities Management
Senior Manager

MEDICAL STAFF COMMITTEE

Top row, from left:

- 1 **Adj A/Prof Lim Yen Loo**
Head of Subspecialty Division I;
Senior Consultant
- 2 **Adj A/Prof Leow Yung Hian**
Head of Clinical Governance,
Quality, and Data Management;
Senior Consultant
- 3 **Adj A/Prof Chong
Wei Sheng**
Head of Subspecialty
Division II; Senior Consultant

- 4 **Dr Eugene Tan**
Chief Clinical Informatics Officer;
Senior Consultant

- 5 **A/Prof Steven Thng**
Deputy Head of Medical
Education; Senior Consultant

- 6 **Dr Benson Yeo**
Head of DSC Clinic;
Consultant

- 7 **A/Prof Tey Hong Liang**
Head of Research Division;
Senior Consultant

Bottom row, from left:

- 8 **A/Prof Chua Sze Hon**
Deputy Director; Head
of Medical Education;
Senior Consultant

- 9 **Prof Tan Suat Hoon**
Director

- 10 **Ms Loo Swee Cheng**
General Manager,
Ex-Officio

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES

FY2022 has proven to be a year of transformation for the National Skin Centre (NSC) and a defining chapter in the trajectory of dermatology in Singapore.

As a nascent specialty in post-war Singapore, dermatology services were once sited within Middle Road Hospital, supported by a small pool of formally trained specialists. The establishment of NSC in 1988 was a pivotal turning point that allowed dermatology to flourish to what it is at present. Today, Singapore is advancing the field at the forefront, with some of the best purpose-built specialist facilities and research innovation.

This past year marked the Centre's 35th anniversary too and yet another milestone – NSC moved into its new building, which is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and resources to better address the diverse and evolving skin health needs of our population.

With Singapore's projection towards an elderly majority by 2035, it is imperative that NSC scales up its commitment to serve the needs of this vulnerable segment where the incidence of chronic skin diseases would inevitably rise. The new building will afford enhanced capacities for these seniors who are more likely to experience co-morbidities and require complex care. For example, with more rooms dedicated to supporting beneficiaries, NSC's Skin Aid for the Vulnerable and Elderly (SALVE) programme is strengthened in its mission to reduce preventable readmission into acute care hospitals by helping patients to be compliant to their topical skin treatment plans.

The new NSC building is designed with the needs of our patients and residents at its core. It incorporates barrier-free features that improve accessibility and the patient experience, such as being wheelchair-friendly and having Universal Design accessible counters. There are designated rooms for non-ambulant patients, offering greater privacy and comfort. Our hearing-impaired patients would be further reassured when they visit as there are clinic counters equipped with hearing loop enhancement. These thoughtful implementations reinforce NSC's dedication to inclusivity and comprehensive care, to ensure that all who walk through its doors feel valued and supported, regardless of their physical abilities.

On the research front, I would also like to commend NSC for aligning its work to achieve sustainable healthcare. More than just clinical and scientific transformation, NSC

is taking a holistic approach comprising environmental, psychosocial, and physical wellbeing in its aim to deliver more seamless and integrated care, augmented by sound planning, creative foresight, and strategic collaboration with partners and the community. Beyond these synergistic efforts to better understand skin health, NSC researchers are also pushing ahead to develop innovative new products that can empower patients in self-care.

Patient empowerment is a vital enabler as Singapore charts its path towards a Healthier SG where championing preventive health and keeping chronic diseases at bay are key. In this vein, I am heartened that NSC is playing an integral role to alleviate disease burden and boost the overall health and wellbeing of our residents.

The move to the new building signals a new era of opportunities and breakthroughs for NSC. It is my hope that NSC leadership and staff will continue to forge ahead with the rest of the NHG Family, to steer the cluster to new frontiers and greater heights in our journey to better health for our population.

Prof Philip Choo

Director, NSC Board
Group Chief Executive Officer,
National Healthcare Group,
Singapore



FY2022 was an exciting year for NSC. We have made breakthroughs on many fronts, cementing new capabilities and innovative care models to bolster our readiness and capacity to take on the myriad challenges in healthcare. We have pushed through the crucial last mile of our move to the new building, marking a milestone in our 35-year journey. To witness our decades of hard work coming to fruition, I am reminded again of the collective passion and purpose that have driven us thus far.

We have come a long way since we started out in 1988 as Singapore's first dermatological institution with just eight subspecialties. Now with 20 subspecialties, NSC has become one of the largest dermatology specialist centres in the world. Spanning 25,300 square metres across 10 storeys, the Centre is more than double the size of its previous premises. We have increased capacity by nearly 75 per cent, with 69 consultation rooms. This is taking place at an opportune time in view of the increasing demand for dermatology care in Singapore's ageing population.

To keep pace with the evolving healthcare landscape, we continue to cultivate sustainable care models to integrate care for our patients and optimise the allocation of healthcare resources. The new Skin Allergy and Therapy Clinic is a one-stop centre, complete with Infusion Services, where our patients can receive intravenous infusion treatment for autoimmune or chronic skin diseases in NSC, allowing the seamless treatment of patients in a one-stop centre. The new facility also strengthens our capabilities for drug allergy testing to achieve better treatment outcomes and safety standards. To facilitate multidisciplinary team-based care and ease patient navigation, we have incorporated adjoining rooms in our new building design thereby encouraging doctors, residents, nurses, and pharmacists to co-manage our patients more effectively, and holistically.

Such transformational care models have reaped rewards. Our new Pharmacist Clinics have reduced patients' out-of-pocket expenses by 45 per cent and have freed up consultation slots for those with more complex needs. Research also plays an important part in enhancing the delivery of care. After spearheading the development of microneedle patches for keloids, NSC is using 3D printing technology to better study the geometry of microneedles with the aim to improve cutaneous delivery.

We remain committed to our role as a teaching institution, to raise the competency of current and future healthcare professionals to manage the diverse and evolving skin health needs of our population. In addition to conducting 18 Medical Education Courses in FY2022 – including undergraduate attachments and a Graduate Diploma programme for General Practitioners – we have stepped up training of Intermediate Long-term Care nurses to provide dermatological expertise across various care settings. Our nurses conduct regular educational talks in the community, which go a long way to promote preventive health and self-care.

As NSC celebrates 35 years of excellence in dermatology care, I am thankful for the dedication, professionalism, and camaraderie that have carried us through the years. While the opening of our new building has ushered in a new phase of progress and care transformation, let us not forget to hold fast to the heart of what we do – to serve our patients and population to bring about better health for all.

Prof Tan Suat Hoon

Director
National Skin Centre



ROAD TO NEW MANDALAY

In 2013, Singapore announced the masterplan for a mega healthcare precinct in Novena. Health City Novena was conceived as a medical hub integrating different components of the healthcare ecosystem – from hospitals and specialist centres to research facilities and hospice care – to bring a more holistic, connected and accessible care experience to residents.

It was then the redevelopment of NSC was mooted as a key part of the masterplan’s first phase, with planning geared towards the common goal of better serving the future healthcare needs of Singapore. Since day one, the NSC redevelopment project has been thoughtfully conceived by a multidisciplinary team to ensure that all aspects, from building design to service enhancements, are patient-centric.

On 18 April 2018, redevelopment works kicked off on the site of NSC’s former carpark, with a Groundbreaking Ceremony graced by then Minister of State for Health,

Dr Amy Khor. Despite the pandemic upending the construction industry, NSC rebounded quickly with yet another project milestone, the Topping Out Ceremony, held virtually in October 2021.

In FY2022, NSC made a strong push in the last mile of this landmark project. NSC’s “move next door” began in June 2023, and was completed in September 2023. The phased relocation was meticulously planned and executed to minimise service disruption to patients.

With the move complete, the new NSC was officially launched on 25 October, during a ceremony graced by Singapore’s Minister for Health, Mr Ong Ye Kung. The event unveiled the result of the years of planning and development: a 10-storey building with more than double the floor area, and enhanced capabilities for dermatological care, research and education. The new building also received the Building and Construction Authority’s (BCA) Universal Design Mark (Gold) for barrier-free access to meet the needs of ageing population.



Dermatology is increasingly important in rapidly ageing Singapore, where co-morbidities and disease burden are growing concerns. Beyond serving the population with specialised dermatology care, NSC aligns its research innovations and sustainable care models to this evolving landscape. NSC also plays an integral role in training and education, maintaining a pipeline of competent specialists to support the nation’s healthcare needs. With the commissioning of its new building, NSC is poised to continue its exemplary work and take on the healthcare challenges of tomorrow.



Mr Tan Tee How
Chairman, NSC Board
Chairman, National Healthcare Group



SOFT OPENING

The new building opened its doors to its first patients on 28 June 2023, marking the beginning of a three-month-long relocation that was deliberately planned to minimise disruptions to services. During this period, median appointment wait time improved, dipping under 50 days, which places the centre well within the 60-day target set by the Ministry of Health.



NEW NSC ON THE WORLD STAGE

On 4 July 2023, NSC welcomed delegates of the World Congress of Dermatology (WCD) to the new Centre. This was the first time WCD – the most widely recognised gathering of the international dermatology community – was taking place in South-east Asia. NSC leaders and dermatologists played a chief role in the bid for Singapore to host WCD 2023, but also in their respective capacities as part of the National Organising Committee.

And with the new NSC soft opened, the international dermatology community had the unique opportunity to tour Singapore's dermatology specialty centre, also one of the largest in the world, on the sidelines of this major international congress.



OFFICIAL LAUNCH

The National Skin Centre (NSC) officially opened its new building on 25 October 2023, with Minister for Health Mr Ong Ye Kung as the Guest-of-Honour. Equipped with enhanced capacity and resources, the redeveloped NSC aims to better address the diverse and evolving skin health needs of our population.

In Singapore, based on the Global Burden of Disease 2019 findings, skin and subcutaneous diseases were the eighth leading cause of non-fatal disease burden for years lived in disability. Professor Tan Suat Hoon, Director, NSC, said: "The incidence of chronic skin diseases would inevitably rise in tandem with our rapidly ageing population. Elderly patients are also more likely to experience co-morbidities and require complex care. Take for instance, Singapore's higher life expectancy would lead to increased cumulative lifetime sun exposure, thus, resulting in an upward trend of skin cancers among those of advanced

age. The new building's expanded facilities will enable NSC to better care for this vulnerable segment of our population."

NSC's new building is more than double the size of its former building, with an expanded floor area of 25,300 square metres and has been operational since June 2023. Standing ten storeys, it has 69 consultation rooms, compared to 40 in the former premises. With over 20 subspecialties available, including adult eczema, skin cancer, and itch, NSC is one of the largest dermatology centres in the world. Such growth is necessary, given that NSC manages about 70 per cent of overall outpatient dermatology attendances among public healthcare institutions. In 2022, it saw some 280,000 outpatient attendances. The new building is expected to accommodate a 30 per cent increase in annual attendance by 2030.

NEW NSC IN NUMBERS

25,300
SQUARE METRES

The floor area of the new building, double that of the former premises

69

The number of consultation rooms in the new building, up from 40 in the previous building

3

The number of clinics dedicated to seeing subspecialty cases, a significant increase from just 1 in the old building



SEAMLESS DESIGN

Clinic areas are designed to ease patient navigation through the building and facilitate multidisciplinary care. For example, all general and subspecialty clinics housed in cohort clinics have a linear, unidirectional flow around a core of treatment rooms and a laboratory. There are designated spaces adjoining consultation rooms for residents, nurses, and pharmacists to co-manage cases alongside doctors, to provide better coordinated care.



NEW IV INFUSION

With NSC's new Skin Allergy and Therapy Clinic (SATC), patients can now receive intravenous (IV) medications without having to be referred to an inpatient hospital. This improves the experience of patients with moderate to severe Pemphigus, for example, who are prescribed medication (Rituximab) that is administered intravenously. The facilities also enable the evaluation of patients with suspected allergies to IV drugs in a safe and comfortable environment.



PHOTOTHERAPY EXPANSION

To better cater to patients who require skin-directed therapies, NSC has expanded its phototherapy resources by some 30 per cent. The introduction of a new Ultraviolet A1 (UVA1) phototherapy cabin reduces treatment time for patients suffering from conditions such as eczema, scleroderma, and mycosis fungoides. Panel devices for localised treatment can be time-consuming if patients attempt to treat multiple sites – the UVA1 cabin addresses this concern by delivering whole-body phototherapy, thereby providing patients with greater time savings and convenience.



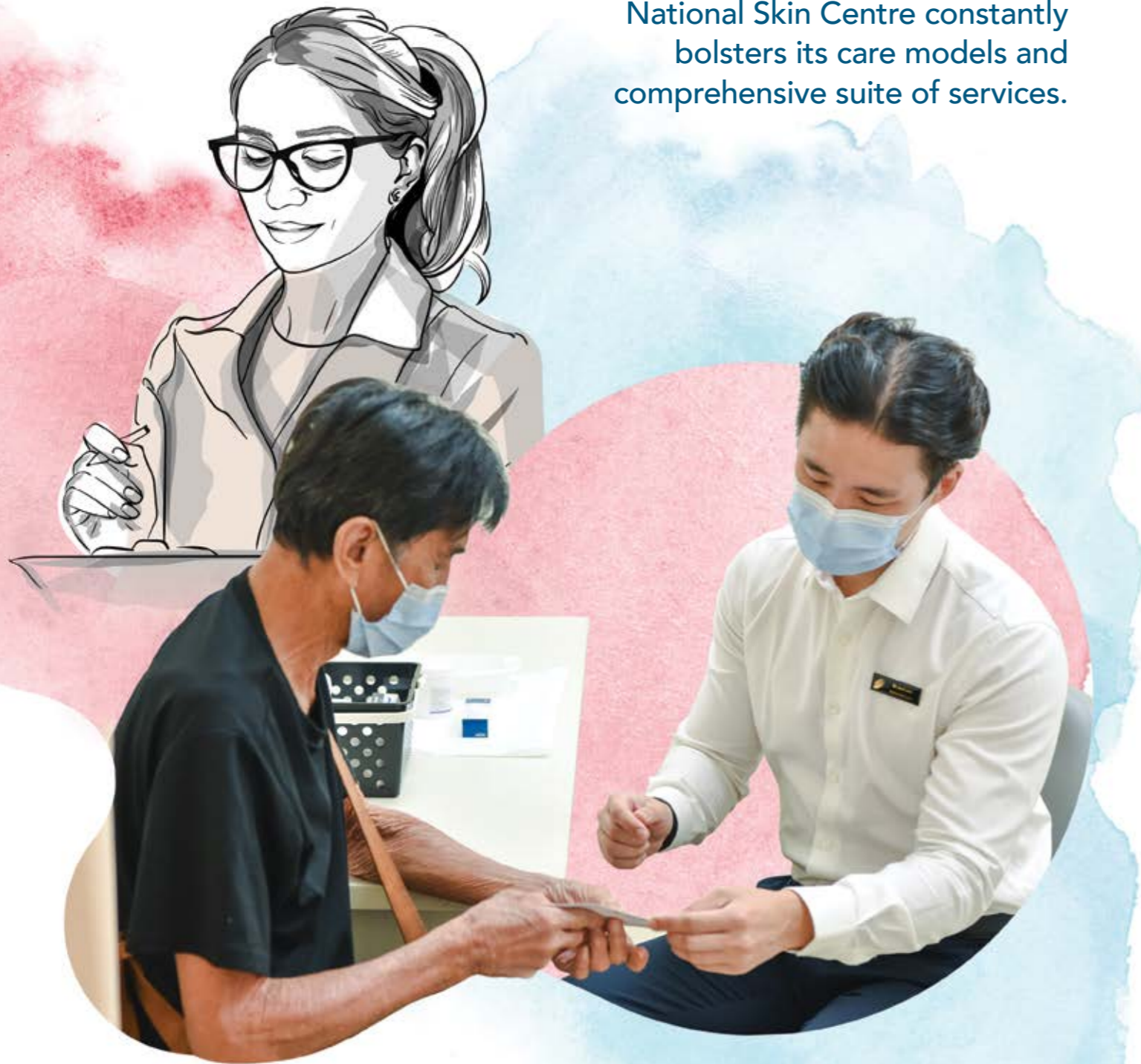
PRIMED FOR RESEARCH

As a national specialty centre, NSC plays a key role in dermatology research. The new Skin Research Clinic is dedicated to patient-involved research, facilitating clinical trials, and providing a private and comfortable experience for patients. There are also purpose-built spaces for bio-banking and cell culture that accord ample room and optimised conditions for specimen storage. These facilities will help catalyse the translational research efforts of clinician-scientists at NSC, bringing about meaningful benefits and health outcomes to our patients and population.



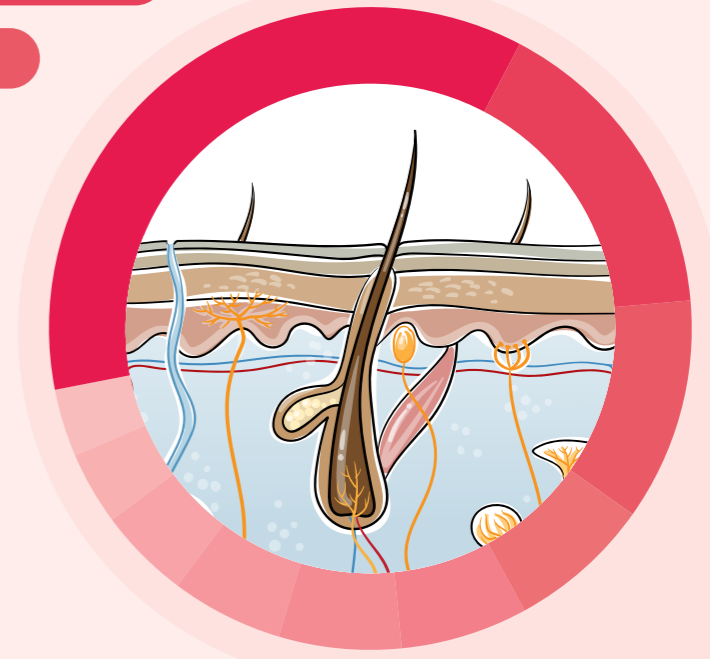
PATIENT CARE

Led by a commitment to improving the scope and quality of patient care, National Skin Centre constantly bolsters its care models and comprehensive suite of services.



TOP TEN NEW DISEASES SEEN AT NSC IN FY2022

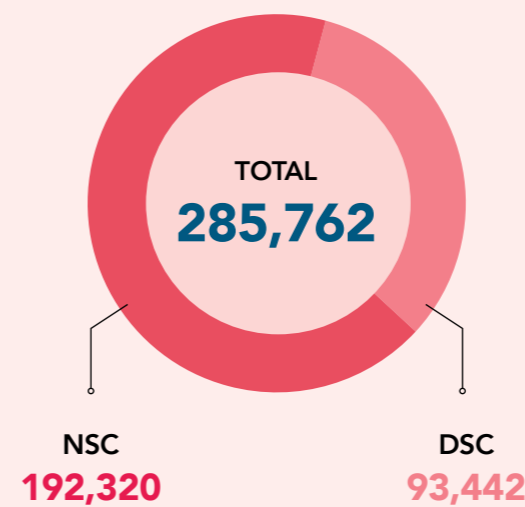
Dermatitis / Eczema	15,506
Benign Skin Tumours	6,902
Acne	4,858
Pigmentary Disorders	3,137
Hair Disorders	2,781
Viral Skin Infections	2,669
Urticaria	2,447
Bacterial Skin Infections	2,001
Fungal Skin Infections	1,589
Naevi	1,483



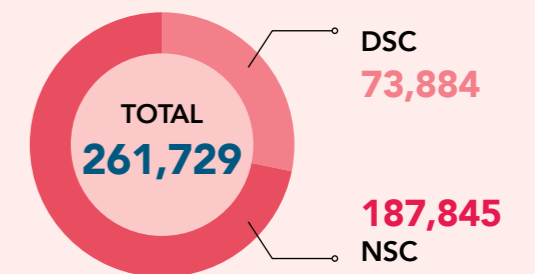
* Number of cases seen

NUMBER OF NURSING TREATMENTS COMPLETED

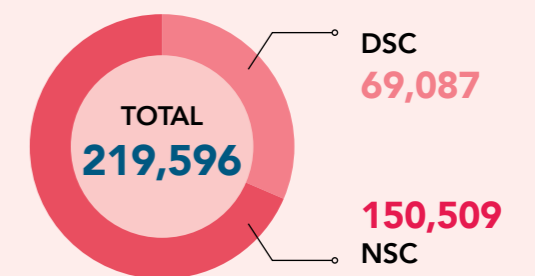
1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023



1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022



1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021



NEW PHARMACIST CLINICS A BOON FOR CHRONIC DERMATOLOGY PATIENTS

NSC's Pharmacist Clinics, which bring together clinical pharmacists and specialists to co-manage chronic dermatology patients, were introduced in 2021 to improve care and optimise healthcare resource utilisation. These clinics review patients who have chronic stable eczema, mild acne, mild urticaria, and mild psoriasis, as well as eczema patients newly-initiated on dupilumab therapy and acne patients stable on isotretinoin treatment. Collaborative practice agreements have been established to ensure consistent, high-quality care delivery.

Since its launch, these Pharmacist Clinics have demonstrated improvements in healthcare manpower resource allocation. Clinical pharmacists assess patients, engage them in shared decision-making on treatments, prescribe medications, and monitor for treatment efficacy and potential adverse effects. As a result, each Pharmacist Clinic consultation avails one dermatology specialist appointment for complex cases. This inter-professional co-management care model has reduced patients' out-of-pocket payments by about 45 per cent.

By the end of FY2022, the clinical pharmacists co-managed a total of 82 patients, with Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROM) at Pharmacist Clinics similar to those at dermatologist clinics. Patient Reported Experience Measures (PREM) – which include patient satisfaction with the care experience – were also positive.

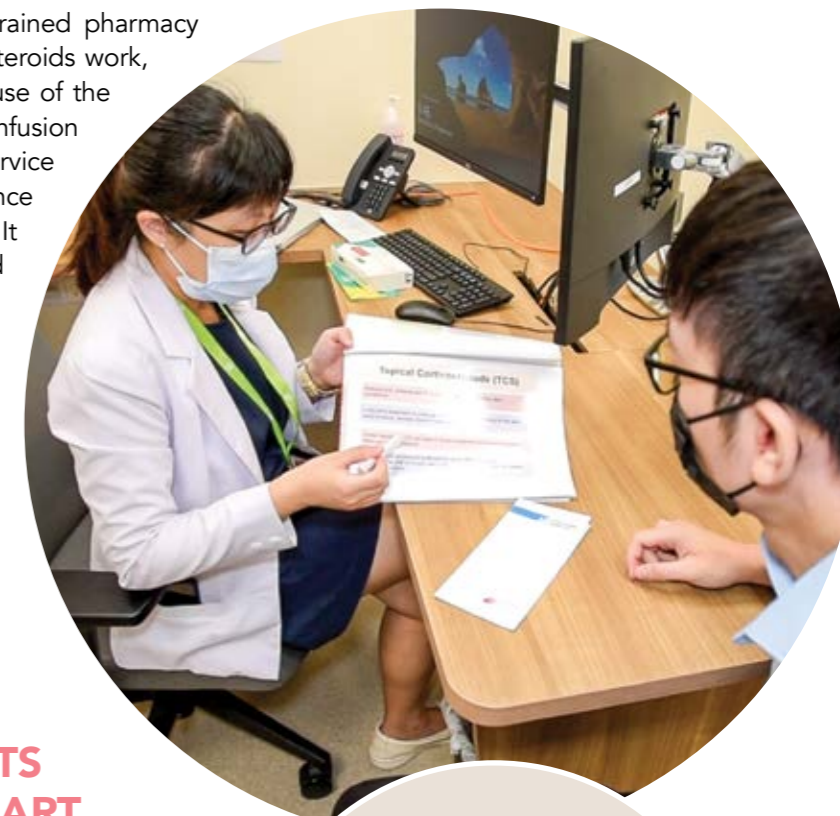


NEW COUNSELLING SERVICE ON TOPICAL CORTICOSTEROID USE

NSC Pharmacy launched the Enhanced Topical Steroid Counselling Service in October 2022 to help patients adhere to their treatment plans amid widespread steroid phobia. Fuelled by misconceptions propagated online and in the media, steroid phobia poses a growing impediment to the proper treatment of skin conditions such as eczema and psoriasis.

Thus, the new service sees pharmacists or trained pharmacy technicians counsel patients on how topical steroids work, as well as on appropriate and inappropriate use of the drugs. By dispelling misconceptions and confusion about the various topical medications, the service helps patients better understand the importance of adhering to prescriptions in their treatments. It also prevents drug-related problems associated with inappropriate topical corticosteroid use in chronic skin conditions.

In addition to tackling steroid phobia, the counselling service also educates patients on how to boost the efficacy of steroids and how these could be used to minimise flares. For further guidance, prescriptions are labelled with coloured stickers to indicate steroid strength.

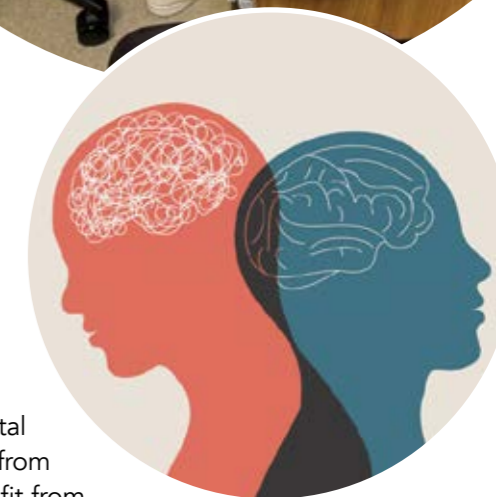


ENHANCED SCREENING PUTS MENTAL HEALTH AT THE HEART OF ECZEMA CARE

Skin conditions are closely tied to mental health. About a third of dermatology patients experience some degree of mental health struggles, which include depression or anxiety. This could in turn worsen patients' skin conditions or affect their compliance with treatment.

Eczema is one such skin condition that imposes a heavy mental health burden. To address this issue, a multidisciplinary team from NSC is working to better identify eczema patients who may benefit from psychodermatology interventions. Enhanced mental health screening for eczema patients was introduced in August 2022, as part of a Clinical Practice Improvement Programme (CPIP) led by Consultant Dr Su Peiqi, supported by a multidisciplinary team comprising members of Pharmacy, Clinic Operations and Care & Counselling.

Following the CPIP initiative, there are plans to incorporate screening for depression into the clinic workflows, so that patients who need help may be detected early and referred to NSC's Psychodermatology Clinic.



LEADERS COMMIT TO CULTURE OF SERVICE IMPROVEMENT

NSC has set the ball rolling on the Ensure Safer Systems (ESS) framework, which was jointly launched by Singapore's Ministry of Health (MOH) and Joint Commission International in 2021. With ESS, healthcare institutions are driven to go beyond international accreditation, and derive standards more relevant to the local context.

NSC's ESS leaders met on 18 August 2022 to evaluate the institution's maturity as part of the "High-Reliability Organizational Assessment" exercise. The session was attended by Director, Professor Tan Suat Hoon, Deputy Director, Associate Professor Prof Chua Sze Hon, Clinical Governance Quality Lead, Adjunct Associate Professor Leow Yung Hian, General Manager, Loo Swee Cheng, Head of Human Resources and Medical Affairs* Koh Teck Chee, and Head of Nursing, Brenda Lim. Together, they developed the common goal to work towards a culture of continuous improvement and to achieve "zero harm" for all. NSC's ESS leaders were joined by local and overseas ORO facilitators and observers representing ESS and the Centre for Transforming Healthcare.

*Appointment accurate as at end of FY2022



UPKEEPING HIGH STANDARDS OF QUALITY AND SAFETY

In its continual commitment to reinforcing patient safety standards, NSC completed a series of quality improvement activities in FY2022: The bi-yearly **Safety Walkabouts** identify areas of improvement in safety, security, environment, and work processes. This is to minimise hazard and risk to patients, visitors, and staff.

The **Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Workshops** involved analysis of case studies and knowledge exchange between different departments. Apart from case studies, doctors and nurses took part in **Emergency Response Team (ERT) Drills in various emergency scenarios** with mock patients, which included recording their reaction time for their responses. These simulations reinforced the best courses of actions to be taken in the event of a real emergency.



Part of a NHG framework, the **Patient Safety Foundation course** encourages participants to review improvement in patient safety by acknowledging problems and errors, and redesigning systems and adopting better practices to achieve improved safety standards.

The **Cybersecurity Resiliency Review and Table-top Exercise (TTX)** tested the preparedness and readiness of the various NSC departments in response to a simulated cybersecurity threat, and helped participants familiarise with their respective departments' Business Continuity Plans.

SUBSIDISED TATTOO REMOVAL EXPANDS TO JUVENILE HOMES

In September 2022, NSC's Tattoo Removal Programme for Youth-at-Risk was expanded to juvenile homes. The programme was first introduced in July 2019 in collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MOE), and champions early intervention in preventing tattoos from negatively impacting the education and employment opportunities of youths at risk. At present, NSC's Care & Counselling team partners with MOE, Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) Integrated Services Providers for Youths-At-Risk programmes, Family Service Centres, Youth Centres, People's Association and Children and Young Persons Homes, to increase outreach to more community nodes to benefit more youth.

Students with tattoos are usually instructed by their schools to cover or remove their tattoos. However, the high cost of tattoo removal can deter parents and students. In this instance, students may be referred to NSC. Supported by the NSC Health Fund, the Tattoo Removal Programme fully subsidises removal if the total cost across all sessions amounts to less than S\$1,200. For cumulative costs that pass the S\$1,200 cap, patients co-pay only 10 per cent of the amount. Each session typically costs S\$300 - S\$500, and several sessions are needed for full removal, subject to the size of the tattoo.

By the end of FY2022, 42 patients were recruited into the programme, with 79 laser treatments completed correspondingly. Patients reported experiencing positive changes in areas of education, employment, and family relationships.



RESEARCH & INNOVATION

The National Skin Centre's passion for research and innovation in dermatological care will ensure we continue to improve our understanding, give new hope and strengthen our healthcare capabilities for the benefit of our patients.



A RENEWED IMPETUS

Atopic Dermatitis (AD), Itch, and Skin Health collectively pose the highest level of healthcare burden in dermatology. With disease prevalence and burden only set to grow in Singapore's ageing population, NSC is strengthening our commitment to develop new treatments that empower patients in self-management and prevention of such diseases.

Leveraging our strengths in skin imaging, we have channelled our focus on novel approaches to 3D and non-invasive in vivo imaging. Such efforts elucidate pathogenesis, diagnose diseases, as well as bolster disease monitoring and management.

Moreover, as a national specialist centre, NSC is well positioned to access large diseases cohorts and make strides in translational research. Working with the Skin Research Institute of Singapore (SRIS) and Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCMedicine), we are able to combine data with information generated from skin molecular and genomic platforms, which allows us to derive disease endotypes for a more targeted approach in clinical management stratified medicine. NSC researchers would then translate these new findings into improvements in clinical management.



RESEARCH GRANTS

Research is key to clinical innovation and advancement. Collaboration and support from partners galvanise translational research and bring us closer to improving patients' lives.

In FY2022, the following new grants were awarded to NSC:

Principal investigator	Collaborating institutes	Name of grant	Grant period
Advancing dermatological healthcare through research, innovation and enterprise			
N/A	NIL	National Medical Research Council Centre (NMRC) Grant Programme	1 April 2022 – 31 March 2026
3D-printed rapidly administrable microneedle patch for acne scar treatment			
Dr Cheng Hui Mei	A*Star Skin Research Labs	NHG Centre for Medical Technologies & Innovations (CMTi) and National Health Innovation Centre Singapore (NHIC) Joint MedTech Grant	4 April 2022 – 3 April 2023

Principal investigator	Collaborating institutes	Name of grant	Grant period
Asian Skin Microbiome Programme 2.0 (ASMP 2.0)			
A/Prof Steven Thng Tien Guan	Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Genome Institute of Singapore (GIS), A*STAR Skin Research Labs	Research, Innovation and Enterprise (RIE) 2025: Human Health and Potential (HHP) Industry Alignment Fund Pre-Positioning (IAF-PP)	1 November 2022 – 31 October 2026
Non-woven tissue regenerative dressings for chronic wound management			
Dr Tan Chee Hian	NIL	NHG Centre for Medical Technologies & Innovations (CMTi) Clinician Innovator Preparatory Programme (CiPP)	15 December 2022 – 14 December 2024
Demonstrating evidence-based value for medical siRNA scar-prevention patch			
A/Prof Tey Hong Liang	NTU	NTUitive Gap Fund	15 January 2023 – 14 January 2025

BACTERIA BUSTER THAT LOVES THE SKIN

Hand contact dermatitis is a common problem among healthcare workers and the public, especially after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

While existing chlorhexidine hand washes are effective as antiseptic products, they also tend to be harsh on the skin.

NSC hence formulated a gentle 4 per cent chlorhexidine hand wash using surfactants and ingredients that are less damaging and more moisturising for the skin. With a prototype in place, a clinical trial was run in FY2022 to evaluate the effects of the new formulation on skin barrier parameters in comparison to the Microshield® chlorhexidine hand wash in hospitals.

The product prototype underwent multiple human studies by a third-party commercial research office, and was certified to be safe, with low potential for irritation. It was also classified as hypoallergenic. The product was sent for additional anti-microbial tests, which revealed that the formulation was bactericidal against *Enterococcus hirae*, *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Staphylococcus aureus*, and virucidal against human coronavirus.



RESEARCH PUBLISHED IN FY2022

S/N	Title	Authors	Publications
1	Pediatric patch testing in a multi-ethnic asian population: A retrospective review	Elis Lee YX, Charlene Wee LP, Tan Chee Hian, Lynette Wee WY, Charmaine Lim EE, Zhao Xiahong, Mark Koh JA, Yew Yik Weng, Anthony Goon TJ	Pediatric Dermatology 2022 Jan;39(1):69-76
2	Axillary web syndrome complicating dermatologic surgery	Derek Lim SY, Suzanne Cheng WN	Dermatologic Surgery 2022 Jan;48(1):150-152
3	Novel transdermal device for delivery of triamcinolone for nail psoriasis treatment	Yew Yik Weng, Crystal Phuan ZY, Zhao Xiahong, Eugene Tan ST, Chong Wei Sheng, Tey Hong Liang	Annals Academy of Medicine, Singapore 2022 Jan 24;51(1):16-23
4	Two cases of dyskeratosis congenita with clinically distinct presentations, seen in National University Hospital, Singapore	Lester Juay KH, Chandran NS	Skin Appendage Disorders 2022 Jan;8(1):53-56
5	Unusual presentations of eccrine porocarcinomas	Lester Juay KH, Ellie Choi CE, Huang Jingxiang, Jaffar Huma, Sue-Ann Ho JE	Skin Appendage Disorders 2022 Jan;8(1):61-64
6	Genetic variation influencing DNA methylation provides insights into molecular mechanisms regulating genomic function	Hawe JS, Wilson R, Schmid KT, Zhou L, Lakshmanan LN, Lehne BC, Kühnel B, Scott WR, Wielscher M, Yew YW, Baumbach C, Lee DP, Marouli E, Bernard M, Pfeiffer L, Matías-García PR, Autio MI, Bourgeois S, Herder C, Karhunen V, Meitinger T, Prokisch H, Rathmann W, Roden M, Sebert S, Shin J, Strauch K, Zhang W, Tan WLW, Hauck SM, Merl-Pham J, Grallert H, Barbosa EGV; MuTHER Consortium, Illig T, Peters A, Paus T, Pausova Z, Deloukas P, Foo RSY, Jarvelin MR, Kooner JS, Loh M, Heinig M, Gieger C, Waldenberger M, Chambers JC.	Nature Genetics 2022 Jan;54(1):18-29
7	A retrospective study of standard series patch test data from a tertiary referral centre in Singapore from 2014 to 2019	Derek Lim SY, Anthony Goon TJ, Leow Yung Hian, Zhao Xiahong, Suzanne Cheng WN	Contact Dermatitis 2022 Feb;86(2):129-131
8	Miliarial gout: Clinical case and a brief review	Wei Lei, Charlene Wee LP, Joyce Lee SS, Wang Ding Yuan	Australasian Journal of Dermatology 2022 Feb;63(1):95-97

S/N	Title	Authors	Publications
9	Persistent perianal “warts”	Rayson Lee RS, Sophie Cai CS, Chia Hui Yi, Hazel Oon HB	Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology, Case Reports 2022 Mar;21:116-118
10	Systemic inflammatory reactions after COVID-19 vaccinations: Consider the diagnosis of ASIA	Derek Lim SY, Tey Hong Liang	ACTA Paediatrica 2022 Mar;111(3):693
11	Temporary exacerbation of pre-existing psoriasis and eczema in the context of COVID-19 messenger RNA booster vaccination: A case report and review of the literature	Crystal Phuan ZY, Ellie Choi CE, Hazel Oon HB	Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology International 2022 Mar;6:94-96
12	Recurrent erythema nodosum after the second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech BNT162b2 COVID-19 messenger RNA vaccine	Wu Xiaotian, Joel Lim HL, Joyce Lee SS, Martin Chio TW	Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology International 2022 Mar;6:107-108
13	Skinny deeping: Uncovering immune cell behaviour and function through imaging techniques	Tan Yingrou, Tey Hong Liang, Chong Shu Zhen, Ng Lai Guan	Immunological Reviews 2022 Mar;306(1):271-292
14	Subsurface detection of hair follicles in alopecia areata using optical coherence tomography	Yow Ai Ping, Wellington Lee ZD, Damon Wong WK, Tey Hong Liang	Skin Research & Technology 2022 Mar;28(2):379-381
15	N-WASP attenuates cell proliferation and migration through ERK2-dependent enhanced expression of TXNIP	Chung Yat Joong, Salvi Amrita, Kalailingam P, Alnawaz Myra, Tan Suat Hoon, Pan Jiun Yit, Tan Nguan Soon, Thanabalu T	Biology (Basel) 2022 Apr 11;11(4):582
16	A case of unilateral focal hyperkeratosis	Tay Woo Chiao, Tee Shang-lan, Suzanne Cheng WN	JAMA Dermatology 2022 Apr;158(4):447-448
17	Lifetime prevalence and determinants of hand eczema in an adolescent population in Germany: 15-year follow-up of the LISA cohort study	Wang J, Tischer C, Standl M, Weidinger S, Berg A von, Herberth G, Yew Yik Weng, Heinrich J, Schmitt J, Apfelbacher C	Journal of The European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology 2022 Apr;36(4):547-556
18	An uncommon case of intermenstrual bleeding developing as a side effect of intralesional triamcinolone injection for the treatment of keloids	Cheong Kah Wai, Yew Yik Weng	Dermatologic Therapy 2022 Apr;35(4):e15352

S/N	Title	Authors	Publications
19	Pattern of contact sensitization in patients with and without atopic dermatitis in an Asian dermatology center	Charlene Wee LP, Tan Chee Hian, Zhao Xiahong, Yew Yik Weng, Anthony Goon TJ	Contact Dermatitis 2022 May;86(5):398-403
20	Psychosocial impact and treatment trends of hidradenitis suppurativa in Singapore	Cheong Kah Wai, Shen Meixin, Wang Ding Yuan, Tey Hong Liang, Ren Ee Chee, Hazel Oon HB	Annals Academy of Medicine, Singapore 2022 May;51(5):318-320
21	Response to “Varicella-zoster virus reactivation after SARS-CoV2 BNT162b2 mRNA vaccination: Report of 5 cases”	Vanessa Lim ZY, Kanagalingam Jee, Heng Yee Kiat	Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology, Case Reports 2022 May;23:141-142
22	International eDelphi study to reach consensus on the methotrexate dosing regimen in patients with psoriasis	van Huizen AM, Menting SP, Gyulai R, Iversen L, ... Warren RB, Spuls PI; SPIN MTX Consensus Survey Study Group, Schejtman AA, ..., Oon HH, ... Gulliver W, Veldkamp W.	JAMA Dermatology 2022 May;158(5):561-572



S/N	Title	Authors	Publications
23	Effect of a popular web drama video series on HIV and other sexually transmitted infection testing among gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men in Singapore: community-based, pragmatic, randomized controlled trial	Rayner Tan KJ, Koh Wee Ling, Daniel Le, Banerjee Sumita, Martin Chio TW, Roy Chan KW, Christina Wong Misa, Tai Bee Choo, Wong Mee Lian, Alex Cook R, Mark Chen IC, Wong Chen Seong	Journal of Medical Internet Research 2022 May 6;24(5):e31401
24	Effect of vitamin D serum levels and supplementation on atopic dermatitis: A systematic review and meta-analysis	Ng Jing Chun, Yew Yik Weng	American Journal of Clinical Dermatology 2022 May;23(3):267-275
25	Generalized blistering and erythroderma in a young girl	Lester Juay KH, Hazel Oon HB	Pediatric Dermatology 2022 May/ Jun;39(3):464-466
26	Successful treatment of a case of recalcitrant recurrent aphthous stomatitis using steroid-embedded dissolving microneedles	Lucinda Tan SY, Ho Chong Yao, Tey Hong Liang	Indian Journal of Dermatology, Venereology and Leprology 2022 May/ Jun;88(4):553-555
27	An intriguing case of persistent facial swelling	Chan Sheng Yao, Tan Chee Hian, Tee Shang-lan, Joel Lim HL	Indian Journal of Dermatology, Venereology and Leprology 2022 May/ Jun;88(4):566-568
28	Regorafenib-associated cutaneous giant keratoacanthoma	Vanessa Lim ZY, Melissa Tan WP, Aaron Tan WM, Joyce Lee SS, Chen Qiping	Skinmed 2022 Jun 30;20(3):234-236
29	Recurrent papular eruption: Challenge	Koh Xuan Qi, Raymond Kwah YC, Tee Shang-lan	The American Journal of Dermatopathology 2022 Jul;44(7):e67-e68
30	Recurrent Papular Eruption: Answer	Koh Xuan Qi, Raymond Kwah YC, Tee Shang-lan	The American Journal of Dermatopathology 2022 Jul;44(7):532-533
31	A 3D-printed transepidermal microprojection array for human skin microbiome sampling	Liang Kun, Cheryl Leong, Loh Jia Min, Nathania Chan, Larissa Lim, Lam Yuen In, Thomas L Dawson Jr, Tey Hong Liang	Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 2022 Jul;119(30): e2203556119
32	Scar prevention through topical delivery of Gelatin-Tyramine-siSPARC nanoplex loaded in dissolvable hyaluronic acid microneedle patch across skin barrier	Chun Yong Yao, William Tan WR, Marcus Ivan Gerard V, Chan Wen Kiat, Tey Hong Liang, Tan Nguan Soon, Timothy Tan TY	Biomaterials Science 2022 Jul;10(14):3963-3971



S/N	Title	Authors	Publications
33	Expression of staphylococcus aureus virulence factors in atopic dermatitis	Poh Si En, Winston Koh LC, Derek Lim SY, Etienne Wang CE, Yew Yik Weng, John EA Common, Hazel Oon HB, Li Hao	JID Innovations 2022 Jul;2(4):100130
34	Machine learning assisted handheld confocal raman micro-spectroscopy for identification of clinically relevant atopic eczema biomarkers	Kapil Dev, Chris Ho JH, Bi Renzhe, Yew Yik Weng, Dinish US, Amalina B Ebrahim Attia, Mohesh Moothanchery, Steven Thng TG, Malini Olivo	Sensors (Basel) 2022 Jul;22(13):4674
35	Global monkeypox outbreak 2022: First case series in Singapore	Koh Xuan Qi, Martin Chio TW, Tan Mingjuan, Leo Yee Sin, Roy Chan KW	Annals Academy of Medicine, Singapore 2022 Aug;51(8):462-472
36	Isotretinoin laboratory monitoring in acne treatment: A delphi consensus study	Eric Xia, Jane Han, Adam Faletsky, Hilary Baldwin, Katie Belezny, Vincenzo Bettoli, Brigitte Dréno, Chee Leok Goh, Linda Stein Gold, Harald Gollnick, Maria Isabel Herane, Sewon Kang, Leon Kircik, Julianne Mann, Alexander Nast, Hazel H Oon, Jo Ann See, Megha Tollefson, Guy Webster, Catherine Zip, Jerry Tan, Elliot B Tapper, Diane Thiboutot, Andrea Zaenglein, John Barbieri, Arash Mostaghimi	JAMA Dermatology 2022 Aug;158(8):942-948
37	Amicrobial pustulosis of the folds with peculiar palmoplantar involvement	Delwyn Lim ZJ, Tey Hong Liang, Joel Lim HL	Australasian Journal of Dermatology 2022 Aug;63(3):e273-e276



S/N	Title	Authors	Publications
38	Prevalence and burden of skin diseases among the elderly in Singapore: A 15-year clinical cohort study	Yew Yik Weng, A H Y Kuan, George P P, Zhao Xiahong, Tan Suat Hoon	Journal of the European Academy of Dermatology & Venereology 2022 Sep;36(9):1648-1659
39	Diffuse planar xanthoma involving the face in a mask-like distribution	Derek Lim SY, Michelle Liang WT, Suzanne Cheng WN	The American Journal of Medicine 2022 Sep;135(9):e321-e323
40	Psoriasis flares and rebound phenomenon following exposure and withdrawal of systemic steroids: A systematic review and meta-analysis	Valencia Long SH, Yew Yik Weng, Nisha S Chandran, Ellie Choi CE	Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology 2022 Sep;87(3):660-661
41	Review of dermatologic medications and impact on male fertility, sexual dysfunction and teratogenicity	Edward Hui Xw, Huang Xiaoling, Hazel Oon HB	Andrology 2022 Oct;10(7):1272-1285
42	Risk of internal malignancies, cutaneous malignant melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancer among patients with vitiligo: A systematic review and meta-analysis	Valencia Long SH, Y X T Law, Yew Yik Weng, Ellie Choi CE	Journal of the European Academy of Dermatology & Venereology 2022 Oct;36(10):e829-e831
43	Hand hygiene and hand eczema: A systematic review and meta-analysis	Enver Loh DW, Yew Yik Weng	Contact Dermatitis 2022 Oct;87(4):303-314
44	Lichenoid drug eruptions	Heng Yee Kiat, Lim Yen Loo	Drug Eruptions 2022 Oct:153-164
45	A practical guide to the evaluation, diagnosis and management of allergic and immunologic diseases	Maxwell A. Fung, Smita Awasthi, Samuel T. Hwang, Joyce Lee SS	Allergic and Immunologic Diseases 2022 Oct;Vol 1:542-578
46	The role of in vivo reflectance confocal microscopy in the diagnosis and management of lichen planus pigmentosus	Chuah Sai Yee, Cheong Kah Wei, Tee Shang-lan, Zhao Xiahong, Steven Thng TG	Australasian Journal of Dermatology 2022 Nov;63(4):e369-e373
47	Manifestation of a cancer-associated TIF-1 gamma dermatomyositis after COVID-19 vaccine	Ooi Xue Ting, Ellie Choi CE, Joyce Lee SS	International Journal of Dermatology 2022 Nov;61(11):1425-1426

S/N	Title	Authors	Publications
48	Generalized bullous fixed drug eruption to iodinated contrast media in skin of color	Denise Ann Tsang, Derek Lim SY, Justin Wong SB, Laura Li Yao Hui	The American Journal of Medicine 2022 Nov;135(11):1326-1329
49	Non-allergic nature of vast majority of cutaneous adverse reactions to mRNA COVID-19 vaccines: Implications on treatment and re-vaccination	T Ju, Derek Lim SY, G Yosipovitch, Tey Hong Liang	Journal of the European Academy of Dermatology & Venereology 2022 Nov;36(11):e861-e862
50	Understanding your creams: Principles of dermatological formulation	Amelia Monteiro YT, Winnie Choo, Edmund Tan WK, Tey Hong Liang	Clinical & Experimental Dermatology and Therapies 2022 Nov;7:192
51	Treatment of bromhidrosis with a 2% glycopyrrolate spray: A retrospective cohort study	Amelia Monteiro YT, Winnie Choo, Edmund Tan WK, Tey Hong Liang	Clinical & Experimental Dermatology and Therapies 2022 Nov;7:190
52	Hidradenitis suppurativa: Racial and socioeconomic considerations in management	Ellie Choi CE, Phillip Phan HC, Hazel Oon HB	International Journal of Dermatology 2022 Dec;61(12):1452-1457
53	Unusual presentation of osteoma cutis as an ulcerated hard plaque over the right cheek	Loh Chee Hoou, Joyce Lee SS, Suzanne Cheng WN	International Journal of Dermatology 2022 Dec;61(12):1559-1560
54	Morphoea following COVID-19 vaccination	Dawn Oh AQ, Tee Shang-lan, Heng Yee Kiat	Clinical and Experimental Dermatology 2022 Dec;47(12):2293-2295
55	Reactive epidermal hyperplasia and angiogenesis of the rear (REAR): A proposed unifying name for senile gluteal dermatosis and pruriform angiomatosis	Michelle Liang WT, Joel Lim HL, Chia Hui Yi, Tee Shang-lan, Joyce Lee SS	Dermatopathology (Basel) 2022 Dec;9(4):343-354
56	Drug interactions between common dermatological medications and the oral anti-COVID-19 agents nirmatrelvir-ritonavir and molnupiravir	Kathleen Quah SE, Huang Xiaoling, Renia Laurent, Hazel Oon HB	Annals Academy of Medicine, Singapore 2022 Dec;51(12):774-786

S/N	Title	Authors	Publications
57	Unilateral vulval edema as the presenting cutaneous manifestation of Crohn's disease	Ling Hua Yen, Derek Lim SY, Joel Lim HL	International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics 2022 Dec;159(3):983-984
58	Notch-dependent cooperativity between myeloid lineages promotes Langerhans cell histiocytosis pathology	Kvedaraite E, Milne P, Khalilnezhad A, Chevrier M, Sethi R, Lee HK, Hagey DW, von Bahr Greenwood T, Mouratidou N, Jädersten M, Lee NYS, Minnerup L, Tan Y, Dutertre CA, Benac N, Hwang YY, Lum J, Loh AHP, Jansson J, Teng KWW, Khalilnezhad S, Xu W, Resteu A, Tey HL, Guan NL, Larbi A, Howland SW, Arnell H, Andaloussi SEL, Braier J, Rassidakis G, Galluzzo L, Dzionek A, Henter JI	Science Immunology 2022 Dec;7(78):eadd3330
59	Facial dermatoses induced by face masks: A systematic review and meta-analysis of observational studies	Justin Lim YS, Yew Yik Weng	Contact Dermatitis 2022 Dec;87(6):473-484
60	Multispectral raster-scanning optoacoustic mesoscopy differentiate lesional from non-lesional atopic dermatitis skin using structural and functional imaging markers	Li Xiuting, M Moothanchery, Kwa Cheng Yi, Tan Wan Ling, Yew Yik Weng, Steven Thng TG, U S Dinish, Amalina B Ebrahim A, Malini Olivo	Photoacoustics 2022 Dec;28:100399
61	Tozinameran (Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine)-induced AGEP-DRESS syndrome	Tay Woo Chiao, Joyce Lee SS, Chong Wei Sheng	Annals Academy of Medicine, Singapore 2022 Dec;51(12):796-797
62	Chapter 12: The promise of cell therapy	Etienne Wang CE, Doucet Y, Abaci HE, Jackow J, Guo Z, Christiano AM	Hair Transplantation 2022 6th Edition



EDUCATION

The National Skin Centre's key role in dermatology training and education helps sustain a pipeline of specialists, as well as raises care competency in varied care settings, to meet the evolving healthcare needs of Singapore.



MEDICAL EDUCATION (FY2022)

S/N	Programme / Partner institution / Participant profile	Date	No. of participants
GRADUATE DIPLOMA			
1	Graduate Diploma in Family Practice Dermatology	1 July 2022 – 30 April 2023	23
UNDERGRADUATE ATTACHMENT			
1	Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine Year 3 clinical posting	9 May 2022 – 24 February 2023	158
2	NUS Medicine (Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine) Final Year clinical posting	11 July 2022 – 3 February 2023	306
3	Duke – NUS Year 4 clinical posting	8 August – 16 December 2022	77
4	NUS Pharmacy Year 4 ambulatory rotation	9 May 2022 – 28 January 2023	6
PRE-ROTATIONAL TEACHING			
1	Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine Year 3 pre-rotational team-based learning	25 August 2022 – 24 March 2023	328
ELECTIVE STUDENTS POSTING			
1	NUS Medicine (Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine)	14 March 2022 – 24 March 2023	22
2	Lee Kong Chian (PhD)	13 June – 8 July 2022	5
3	Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine	17 October – 28 October 2022	1
4	Duke – NUS	13 February – 24 February 2023	1
5	Overseas – Non Bilateral Exchange Agreement	13 February – 17 March 2023	3
GENERAL DERMATOLOGY OBSERVERSHIP ATTACHMENT FOR RESIDENTS (LOCAL)			
1	National Healthcare Group (NHG) Polyclinics, Family Medicine	April 2022 – March 2023	29
2	NHG and SingHealth Infectious Disease	May 2022 – March 2023	8
3	NHG Advanced Internal Medicine	July 2022 – January 2023	6
4	NHG and SingHealth Rheumatology	January 2023	3
5	SingHealth Obstetrics and Gynecology	August 2023	1
GENERAL DERMATOLOGY CLINICAL ATTACHMENT (LOCAL)			
1	Medical Officers from TTSH Department of Internal Medicine	April 2022 – March 2023	16
VISITING CLINICAL FELLOWSHIP (OVERSEAS)			
1	Australasian College of Dermatologists Fellowship (Australia)	February – July 2023	2
SEMINARS			
1	Medical Seminar – Blisters, Contact & Covid Rashes	27 August 2022	60

PHARMACISTS STEP UP AS CLINICAL EDUCATORS AMID EVOLVING HEALTHCARE LANDSCAPE

With the transition of Singapore's undergraduate pharmacy programme from Bachelor of Science (Pharmacy) to Bachelor of Pharmacy (BPharm) under National University of Singapore (NUS), NSC welcomed its first batch of NUS BPharm Year 4 Students in May 2023. The new BPharm curriculum goes beyond didactic lectures and conventional teaching strategies, incorporating a team-based learning methodology and greater emphasis on clinical experiential learning. It encourages students to think critically about the challenges in a dynamic healthcare landscape, and the evolving role of healthcare professionals in disease management and health promotion.

The BPharm programme marks a paradigm shift where pharmacists take on a clinical educator role. Mr Benny Li (Head and Principal Pharmacist, Department of Pharmacy) has been appointed as adjunct faculty to the NUS Pharmacy school in the domains of dermatology, patient safety, and clinical ethics. The new 11-week PECT2 (Pre-employment Clinical Training) Direct Patient Care posting at NSC focuses on training BPharm Year 4 pharmacy students to perform professional activities (e.g. medication review, patient education), and to attain the expected competency level.

NSC began its journey in undergraduate pharmacy education in 2017 where it was successfully accredited as a pre-registration pharmacist training centre by the Singapore Pharmacy Council. NSC received its first batch of NUS Pharmacy Year 4 students in November 2017 for their 12-week Specialty Centre Rotation as part of PECT and pharmacist licensure training requirements. Beyond the ambulatory care pharmacy domains, NSC provides inter-professional experiential attachments to healthcare professionals (e.g. dermatologists, nurses, allied health professionals) and community partners (e.g. Action for AIDS). Besides contributing to undergraduate education, NSC pharmacists are actively involved in tertiary-level pharmacy research projects as supervisors, collaborators, and examiners. This has led to translational research outcomes, such as improved medication formulation and scientific publication.



DEBUT OF DERMATOLOGY COURSE FOR ILTC NURSES



With the ageing population driving new needs for competent dermatology providers across a spectrum of care settings, NSC Nursing in 2022 launched the inaugural Basic Dermatology Nursing Course for Intermediate Long-Term Care (ILTC) nurses, accredited by the National Nursing Academy. In that year, NSC nurses conducted four sessions of the course to upskill a total of 35 participants from ILTC organisations, including Lions Home for The Elders, Apex Harmony Lodge, Sunlove Abode for Intellectually Infirm Ltd, Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital, and National Kidney Foundation.

The one-day course aims to empower ILTC nurses with essential knowledge and skills to provide safe and competent care to residents by developing their competency in managing common skin conditions of mild to moderate severity. The nurses learnt about the basic physiology of the skin, how to differentiate between normal and abnormal changes in the skin and common dermatology terminology. They were also equipped with the skills to perform basic skin assessment, as well as the techniques of topical application, wet wrap therapy, and scabies management.



The training provided by the course is very useful in our care setting. We now feel more confident to perform skin assessments and provide skin care for our residents.

Muthaiah Kalaivani

Registered Nurse
Apex Harmony Lodge

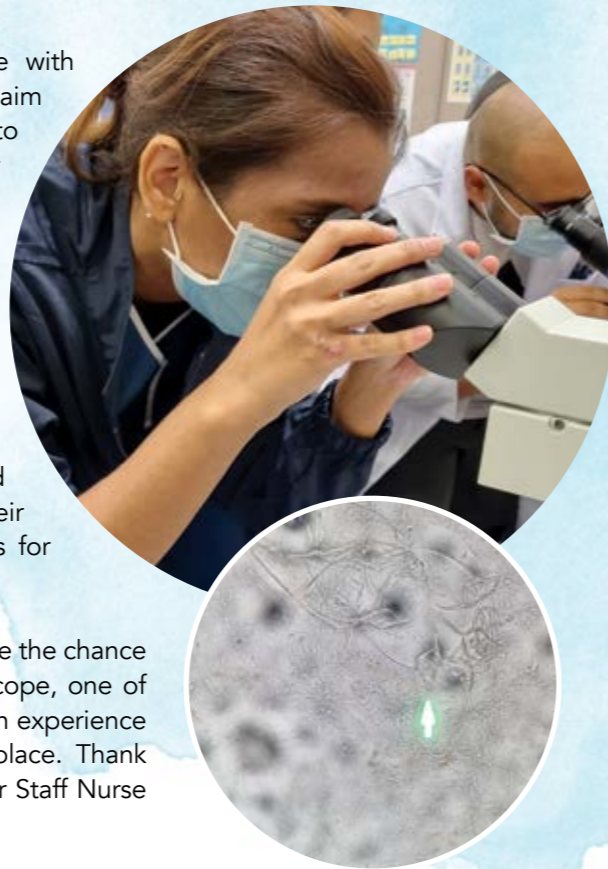
FIRST SCABIES CARE COURSE A MIGHTY SUCCESS

NSC held its first Care Management for People with Scabies Course on 28 March 2023, with the aim of equipping nursing staff with the know-how to correctly identify sampling sites and apply proper scraping techniques.

The course is supported by a multidisciplinary team comprising Consultant Dr Joel Lim, Nurse Educator Kong Kim Yoke, Nurse Clinician Cindy Choi, and Jr Medical Laboratory Technologist Syed Hud Bin Abdul Kader Alkaff.

Participants from Woodlands Health and Lions Home for the Elders performed skin scrapes under close supervision, and were tasked to produce five successful yields as part of their competency assessment. They also checked these samples for mites through a microscope.

“This course surpassed my expectations. Not only did we have the chance to observe live samples at the laboratory through a microscope, one of the samples turned out to be positive. The practical hands-on experience helped us gain confidence and transfer skills to the workplace. Thank you NSC for this enriching learning opportunity,” said Senior Staff Nurse Umamageswary Paramasivam from Woodlands Health.



SKIN EDUCATION IN THE COMMUNITY

SKIN CARE EDUCATION MEETS ACTIVE AGEING

On 25 February 2023, NSC Nursing supported Toa Payoh West –Thomson Active Ageing Committee to organise a skin care education session for its residents at the Meeting Point @ Block 128, Toa Payoh Lorong 1.

A total of 29 residents attended the Mandarin session, where Staff Nurse Wang Danling highlighted the importance of self-care in addressing common skin conditions in the elderly. During the hands-on segment, residents learnt the proper technique to apply emollients, as well as to identify the signs and symptoms of different skin conditions.

NURSING OUTREACH AT MUHAJIRIN MOSQUE

On 3 September 2022, NSC’s Nurse Clinician Norlaila Kamarudin gave a skin care talk organised by the Toa Payoh West-Thomson Citizen’s Consultative Committee at Muhajirin Mosque on Braddell Road. Speaking to 30 participants, Kamarudin shared about skin conditions frequently seen in the elderly and provided practical tips on skin care. She also advised them to consult a dermatologist, where required, to prevent skin issues from becoming complex. In addition to Kamarudin’s talk, six NSC nurses volunteered at the event to give skin care advice and perform blood pressure measurements for the participants.



OUR STAFF

People maintain our high levels of service delivery. Staff well-being, recognition and development pathways form the foundation of National Skin Centre's holistic approach to optimising human capital.



CLINICAL PATHWAYS EMPOWER MORE PHARMACISTS

NSC's Clinical Pharmacist track, established in February 2022, sets pharmacy talents on a path towards holistic patient care encompassing inter-professional collaboration with physicians and/or health systems to carry out a comprehensive range of chronic disease management, medication therapy management, and shared decision-making for dermatology patients. In NSC, clinical pharmacists review patients who have chronic stable eczema, mild acne, mild urticarial and mild psoriasis. They also monitor eczema patients who are newly started on dupilumab and stable acne patients on isotretinoin.

In a short span of time, this professional development pathway has produced four Board Certified Pharmacists, most recently Germaine Chua, Senior Clinical Pharmacist, who was accredited as a Board Certified Ambulatory Care Pharmacist (BCACP) by the US Board of Pharmacy Specialties in 2022. As the team lead of the Pharmacist Eczema Clinic, she collaborates with the Consultant-in-Charge Dr Yew Yik Weng to provide team-based care to chronic eczema patients under the collaborative practice agreement. She plays an important clinical role to co-manage the chronic eczema patients, initiating appropriate eczema care plans, as well as to identify and address drug-related problems to prevent medication-related harm.



Germaine joins three other Clinical Pharmacists in NSC, namely Dr Ruki Wijesinghe (Board Certified Psychiatric Pharmacist), Huang Xiaoling (Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist), and Chen Weiyu (Board Certified Ambulatory Care Pharmacist). Dr Ruki is also a Psychiatric Specialist Pharmacist in Singapore Pharmacy Council's Register of Specialists. The team of clinical pharmacists continues to collaborate with dermatologists, nurses, and allied health professionals to improve patient care outcomes via the inter-professional team-based care model.

QUALITY DAY CELEBRATES SERVICE EXCELLENCE

In celebration of service excellence, NSC held its Quality Day on 19 October 2022. This was the first time the event was held in a hybrid format, with a total of 228 in-person and virtual attendees. It introduced new initiatives such as the Ensure Safer Systems (ESS) framework, and the Good Catch Initiative, and awards were presented to service role models in recognition of their exemplary work. There were 10 winners of the NHG Excellence in Action Award (EIAA) 2022 and 39 NSC Service champions. The event concluded with a video presentation of a recorded guest keynote speech from the National Healthcare Group (NHG)'s Quality Day.

GOOD CATCH!

The Good Catch Initiative is a new award introduced at NSC that seeks to encourage staff to identify potential incidents and take proactive action to prevent harm, thereby strengthening safety culture and quality improvement within the institution.

Nominations for Good Catch are judged based on several criteria, namely: the level of harm if the potential incident had not been highlighted; how challenging it was to detect the potential incident and to speak up about it; and whether the positive impact of detection could have an extended effect on the department or institution. Shortlisted nominations are evaluated by a multidisciplinary panel, and the winners would be announced during NSC's Quality Day.

NSC TAKES HOLISTIC VIEW OF STAFF WELL-BEING

Workplace well-being is a multi-faceted concept that goes beyond physical health to also encompass mental, emotional, and social aspects. A holistic approach to workplace well-being recognises that employees' productivity, engagement, and satisfaction are influenced by a range of factors, such as work-life balance, stress management, supportive relationships, professional growth opportunities, and a positive organisational culture. By addressing these diverse facets, organisations can create an environment that fosters the well-being of their employees, leading to improved performance and a thriving workforce. As such, the Human Resource Department (HR) organised NSC's first well-being week which offered staff a range of restorative activities from 28 February to 3 March 2023.

- At the Sensory Activity Booths, staff were treated to complimentary ice cream, kacang puteh, and custom tea blends. They were also able to interact with colleagues from the other departments.
- HR partnered with the Health Promotion Board to conduct a lunch-time health talk on sleep management, where staff were treated to complimentary lunch.
- To cap things off, HR engaged the Mobile Massage Team from the Singapore Association of the Visually Handicapped to provide therapy for staff. The auditorium transformed into a therapeutic space, with soothing music and inspirational quotes onscreen to complete the relaxing experience. Massage therapy has the purported benefits of reducing stress and improving blood circulation, energy, and alertness.



STAFF AWARDS (FY2022)

* Designations are accurate as at 31 March 2023.
 ** Former staff are identified by their most recently held designation at NSC.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION MEDAL (BRONZE)

This National award celebrates individuals who made outstanding contributions in the fight against COVID-19, providing significant leadership to efforts that have contributed to the successful management of the impact of COVID-19 in Singapore.



Dr Benson Yeo Koon Wee
Consultant



A/Prof Steven Thng Tien Guan
Senior Consultant

COMMENDATION MEDAL

This Medal rewards individuals who have performed outstandingly in their roles, displayed tremendous courage and dedication, and gone beyond the call of duty while maintaining a high level of professionalism at all times.



Mr Daniel Seah Chin Guan
Nurse Clinician



Ms Goh Ah May
Senior Nurse Manager



Mr Koh Teck Chee
Head, Human Resource and Medical Affairs



Ms Mavis Tan Bee Hong
Senior Patient Service Associate



Mr Mohd Adnan Bin Mahmud
Nurse Clinician



Ms Tan Kim Lian
Senior Nurse Manager



Ms Winnie Quek Ching Hua
Senior Staff Nurse

EFFICIENCY MEDAL

Instituted by the government of Singapore in 1969, the medal is conferred to officers who have demonstrated exceptional efficiency, devotion to duty, or to work of special significance.



Mr Cephas Low Boon Tar
Senior Executive, Corporate Communications



Ms Kong Kim Yoke
Nurse Educator



Ms Roslinda Binte Mohamad Noor
Senior Counsellor



Mr Thomas Quek Chin Seng
Assistant Manager, Medical Affairs

LONG SERVICE MEDAL

This long-standing award instituted in 1962, is conferred to any officer deemed to be of irreproachable character, and who has completed at least 25 years' service.



Ms A. Malathy
Senior Patient Service Associate



Mr Muhammad Faizal Bin Zainal
Senior Executive Assistant, DSC



Ms Pearlyn Chua Poh Choo
Senior Patient Service Associate



Ms Rosalia Wang Sock Kiang
Senior Patient Service Associate



A/Prof Steven Thng Tien Guan
Senior Consultant



Ms Wong Jok Wan
Executive Secretary

NHG EXCELLENCE IN ACTION AWARD

The Excellence in Action Award is given out to individuals and teams who:

- Consistently demonstrate NHG 4P7R values and/or NHG Core Values
- Provide exceptional service to both internal and external customers
- Contribute significantly to work practices that have improved customer service or patient safety



Ms Cher Zi Xin
Retail Executive



Dr Eugene Tan Sern Ting
Senior Consultant



Mr Foong Choon Keat James
Senior Executive, DSC



Ms Joanne Pang Geok Kim
Senior Patient Service Associate



Adj A/Prof Joyce Lee Siong See
Senior Consultant



Ms Kaseh Binte Supari
Executive Assistant, DSC



Ms Kirubakaran Kalashinii
Senior Patient Service Associate



Adj A/Prof Leow Yung Hian
Senior Consultant



Ms Tay Chui Lan
Healthcare Assistant



Ms Than Shu Yun
Pharmacy Technician Executive



Ms Zheng Yilan
Senior Pharmacy Technician

DISTINGUISHED SENIOR CLINICIAN AWARD (MOH/NHG)

This award recognises top performing senior clinicians who have made outstanding contributions in clinical, education, and research practice. These stalwarts have had a long and fulfilling career in the public sector, and serve as role models to inspire younger doctors.



Adj A/Prof Leow Yung Hian
Senior Consultant

NHG YOUNG ACHIEVER AWARD

This award celebrates aspiring young leaders who have made organisation-wide contributions, and gone beyond their day-to-day functions to support their institution's strategic objectives.



Dr Benson Yeo Koon Wee
Consultant



Mr Li Kaihui Benny
Head, Pharmacy

NHG TEACHING AWARD FOR SENIOR DOCTORS

To exemplify the culture of teaching and collaborative education practices in NHG, this award recognises clinicians for their passion, commitment and efforts in teaching students, juniors, and fellow colleagues.



Adj A/Prof Leow Yung Hian
Senior Consultant

MOH NURSES MERIT AWARD

Launched in 1976 by the Ministry of Health, the Nurses' Merit Award celebrates nurses who have displayed noteworthy and exceptional performance, participated in professional development as well as contributed to the promotion of the nursing profession.



Ms Winnie Quek Ching Hua
Senior Staff Nurse

MOH IN-SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP (ISS) AWARD

Aimed at upgrading Nursing and Allied Health Professionals through identified formal programmes, this award offers funding support to defray course fees.



Ms Ang Xue Wen
Senior Staff Nurse



Ms Leong Hui Hui
Senior Staff Nurse



Ms Khoo Wan Ting, Diana
Staff Nurse

NHG TEAM RECOGNITION AWARD-COVID-19 (CONSOLATION)

Covid-19 significantly impacted the way we work and deliver healthcare to patients. In that time of crisis, it was imperative that healthcare workers come together with partners and stakeholders across the primary, acute and step-down care sectors and even beyond.

The NHG Team Recognition Awards (TRA) – Covid-19 is a nod to how teams have come together and worked tirelessly to brave the Covid-19 storm through projects and initiatives.

Special congratulations to the **NSC Vaccination Operations Team!**

TEAM LEADERS

Dr Benson Yeo Koon Wee
Consultant

Ms Loo Swee Cheng
General Manager

CORE MEMBERS

Ms Brenda Lim Bee Khim
Head, Nursing

Mr Lawrence Quek Cheng Liang
Senior Manager, Facilities Management

Mr Daniel Seah Chin Guan
Nurse Clinician

Dr Pan Jiun Yit
Senior Consultant

Mr Johnny Foo Jong Kiat
Manager, Clinic Operations

Ms Ong Ling Choo Jaclyn
Manager, Human Resources

Mr Koh Teck Chee
Head, Human Resources and Medical Affairs

Mrs Tang Lee Foon
Senior Principal Pharmacist

SUPPORTING MEMBERS

Dr Ellie Choi Ci-En
Associate Consultant, National University Hospital

Ms Sophie Carrie Cai Shan
Associate Consultant

Ms Goh Ah May
Senior Nurse Manager

Ms Tan Kim Lian
Senior Nurse Manager

Ms Jasmine Neo Kai Qian
Executive, Human Resources

Ms Winnie Li Shu Ning
Principal Pharmacist, ALPS Purchasing

Mr Mohd Adnan Bin Mahmud
Nurse Clinician



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Clinical Interests: Cutaneous Lymphomas, Dermatopathology

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Clinical Interests: Sexually Transmitted Infections & HIV, Hair

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Clinical Interests: Paediatric Dermatology

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Clinical Interests: Photodermatology, Psoriasis

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Clinical Interests: Immunodermatology, Inpatient Dermatology, Drug Eruption

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Clinical Interests: Cutaneous Lymphomas, Dermatopathology, Urticaria

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Clinical Interests: Neurodermatology

A/Prof THNG Tien Guan Steven

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Clinical Interests: Pigmentary Disorders

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Clinical Interests: Hair

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Clinical Interests: Eczema, Psoriasis

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Clinical Interests: Sexually Transmitted Infections

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Clinical Interests: Dermatopathology, Wound/Ulcer Management

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Clinical Interests: Eczema, Psychoderm

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MBBS

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