

# COLLEGE OF PAEDIATRICS AND CHILD HEALTH

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE DR CHUA MEI CHIEN

2023 has been a busy year for most of us as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to recede. The World Health Organisation declared an end to COVID-19 as a global health emergency on 5 May 2023. Borders have reopened and face-to-face meetings and conferences have returned with a vengeance. Virtual meetings are still very much part and parcel of life, and the College has leveraged on both in-person and virtual platforms to continue in our mission to improve the health and well-being of children through advocacy, and promote professional standards in child health through education.

The **11<sup>th</sup> Singapore Paediatric and Perinatal Annual Congress (11<sup>th</sup> SiPPAC)** was held from 28 – 30 July 2023 with the theme “Shaping Child Health for the Future”. The **16<sup>th</sup> CPCHS College Lecture** was delivered by Clin Prof Victor Samuel Rajadurai on the topic “Lessons Learned from Randomized Controlled Trials in Neonatology”. A highlight of the congress was the **official launch of the CPCHS Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG) on Autism Spectrum Disorder in Children and Adolescents**, which will provide valuable guidance for professionals and community partners working in this space. This was followed shortly after by a CPG Symposium with highlights of various sections on 12 August 2023. The College also organised a number of webinars with topics ranging from challenges of growth to sleep issues.

With the upcoming compulsory requirements on **Continuing Medical Education (CME) on medical ethics**, the College will be organising a series of activities centred on ethical issues relevant to paediatric and neonatal practice. In particular, we are very excited about the **inaugural SiPPAC 2024 pre-congress ethics colloquium**, held in conjunction with the Asia Pacific Ethics Conference 2024, organised by the Centre for Biomedical Ethics, National University of Singapore. We believe the topics of the pre-congress ethics workshop are not only interesting and thought-provoking but also highly relevant to daily clinical practice.

Paediatric care is evolving. This generation of children lives in a world which is highly volatile, uncertain, complex and plagued with ambiguity. This is well reflected in the theme of the upcoming **12<sup>th</sup> edition of SiPPAC - “Navigating Paediatric Care in an Uncertain World”**. The conference, to be held from 7-9 November 2024, provides the perfect platform for us to gather as a fraternity to look into these challenges so as to better support our patients and their families.

The College also endeavours to lead and create an ecosystem to advance maternal and child health in alignment with Healthier SG. We hope to forge strong links within the paediatrics community and look forward to working closely with everyone to improve the health and well-being of our children in Singapore.

## ABOUT THE COLLEGE

The College of Paediatrics and Child Health, Singapore was incorporated under the Companies Act (Cap 50) (Registration No. 200410329W), on and from 17 August 2004 as a Public Company Limited by Guarantee.

Registered address : 81 Kim Keat Road NKF Centre, #11-00, Singapore 328836  
Company Secretary : RSM Stone Forest  
Auditors : Geetha A & Associates

The College was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the College and is governed under its Articles of Association. As at 31 December 2023, the College does not employ any staff. The staff supporting the College's work is employed by the Academy of Medicine, Singapore.

## VISION AND MISSION

### Vision

The vision of the College is to be the recognised leader in training, education, advocacy and enhancement of professional standards for paediatrics and its subspecialties.

### Mission

The mission of the College is to promote and maintain the highest professional and ethical standards in paediatrics and its subspecialties.

## OBJECTIVES

1. To advance the art and science of paediatrics and neonatology and its subspecialties
2. To promote study and research into medical and scientific problems
3. To sustain and foster postgraduate education
4. To conduct higher professional examinations and to award diplomas

## COLLEGE COUNCIL 2023 – 2024



*Front row from left to right: Dr Fu Xinghan Kristy, Dr Tay Kiat Hong Stacey, Dr Chua Mei Chien, Dr Lee Yung Seng and Dr Jonathan Choo*

*Back row from left to right: Dr Lim Ching Wen Darryl, Dr Daisy Chan Kwai Lin, Dr Ng Kar Hui, Dr Yeo Wee Song, Dr Lam Ching Mei Joyce, Dr Low Kah Tzay and Dr Ooi Pei Ling*

### Elected Council Members



**Dr Chua Mei Chien**

President

**Date of Appointment**

19 May 2018

*Head & Senior Consultant Neonatology  
KK Women's and Children's Hospital  
Director, KK Human Milk Bank,  
KK Women's and Children's Hospital*



**Dr Lee Yung Seng**

Immediate Past President

**Date of Appointment**

14 May 2016

*Head  
Khoo Teck Puat-National University  
Children's Medical Institute, National  
University Hospital  
Senior Consultant  
Division of Paediatric Endocrinology  
National University Hospital*



**Dr Tay Kiat Hong Stacey**

Vice-President

**Date of Appointment**

19 August 2021

*Senior Consultant  
Division of Paediatric Neurology and Division  
of Paediatric Genetics and Metabolism,  
Department of Paediatrics  
Khoo Teck Puat-National University Children's  
Medical Institute, National University Hospital*



**Dr Choo Tze Liang Jonathan**

Honorary Treasurer

**Date of Appointment**

19 August 2021

*Head & Senior Consultant  
Cardiology Service  
KK Women's and Children's Hospital*



**Dr Fu Xinghan Kristy**  
Honorary Secretary

**Date of Appointment**  
20 August 2022

*Consultant*  
*Division of Paediatric Critical Care,*  
*Department of Paediatrics*  
*Khoo Teck Puat – National University*  
*Children's Medical Institute, National*  
*University Hospital*



**Dr Yeo Wee Song**  
Council Member

**Date of Appointment**  
16 May 2020

*Consultant Paediatrician*  
*KidsNexus Paediatric Centre*



**Dr Lam Ching Mei Joyce**  
Council Member

**Date of Appointment**  
3 June 2023

*Senior Consultant*  
*Haematology/Oncology Service*  
*KK Women's and Children's Hospital*



**Dr Ng Kar Hui**  
Council Member

**Date of Appointment**  
3 June 2023

*Senior Consultant*  
*Division of Paediatric Nephrology, Dialysis*  
*and Renal Transplantation, Department of*  
*Paediatrics*  
*Khoo Teck Puat – National University*  
*Children's Medical Institute, National*  
*University Hospital*

## Appointed Council Member



**Dr Daisy Chan Kwai Lin**  
Chairman, Chapter of Neonatologists

**Date of Appointment**  
19 August 2021

*Senior Consultant*  
*Neonatal and Developmental Medicine*  
*Singapore General Hospital*

## Co-Opted Members



**Dr Low Kah Tzay**

*Consultant Paediatrician  
Anson International Paediatric & Child  
Development Clinic*



**Dr Lim Ching Wen Darryl**

*Consultant Paediatrician  
Kinder Clinic Pte Ltd  
Mount Alvernia Hospital*



**Dr Ooi Pei Ling**

*Paediatrician and Paediatric Rheumatologist  
International Child & Adolescent Clinic*

## SPECIALTY CHAPTER

The elected board members of the Chapter of Neonatologists are:

| NAME                       | DESIGNATION        |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Dr Daisy Chan Kwai Lin     | Chairman           |
| Dr Khoo Poh Choo           | Vice Chairman      |
| Dr Krishnamoorthy Niduvaje | Honorary Secretary |
| Dr Lee Le Ye               | Board Member       |
| Dr Ong Eng Keow            | Board Member       |
| Dr Low Kah Tzay            | Board Member       |
| Dr Abdul Haium Abdul Alim  | Board Member       |
| Dr Ikshuvanam Malathi      | Co-opted Members   |
| Dr Suresh Chandran         | Co-opted Members   |
| Dr Lian Wee Bin            | Co-opted Members   |

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The College held its 19<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting on 3 June 2023, Tuesday, via Zoom. The AGM was attended by 32 Fellows.

The Council expressed its appreciation to Dr Lee Yung Seng for his service as President of the College and Dr Ng Chin Yuen Steven for his contributions as Council Member; and welcome Dr Lam Ching Mei Joyce and Dr Ng Kar Hui to the Council.

The College approved the formation of the Section of Paediatric Allergy and Immunology (PAI) during its 19<sup>th</sup> AGM. The Pro tem Section Committee members of the Section of Paediatric Allergy and Immunology are as follow:

| NAME               | DESIGNATION   |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Prof Lee Bee Wah   | Chairman      |
| Dr Liew Woei Kang  | Vice-Chairman |
| Dr Chiang Wen Chin | Secretary     |
| Dr Chong Kok Wee   | Member        |
| Dr Anne Goh        | Member        |
| Dr Elizabeth Tham  | Member        |
| Dr Soh Jian Yi     | Member        |

## COUNCIL MEETINGS

In 2023, the Council held six (6) meetings on 1 April, 25 April, 12 May, 12 July, 30 August and 15 November 2023.

| NAME                           | DESIGNATION              | ATTENDANCE |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| <b>Elected Council Members</b> |                          |            |
| Dr Chua Mei Chien              | President                | 5          |
| Dr Lee Yung Seng               | Immediate Past President | 4          |
| Dr Tay Kiat Hong Stacey        | Vice-President           | 5          |
| Dr Fu Xinghan Kristy           | Honorary Secretary       | 5          |
| Dr Choo Tze Liang Jonathan     | Honorary Treasurer       | 4          |
| Dr Yeo Wee Song                | Council Member           | 5          |

|                                 |                                     |   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Dr Ng Kar Hui                   | Council Member                      | 3 |
| Dr Lam Ching Mei Joyce          | Council Member                      | 3 |
| Dr Ng Chin Yuen Steven*         | Council Member                      | 2 |
| <b>Appointed Council Member</b> |                                     |   |
| Dr Daisy Chan Kwai Lin          | Chairman, Chapter of Neonatologists | 6 |

\*Retired on 3 June 2023

\*\*Joined on 3 June 2023

## MEMBERSHIP

As of 31 December 2023, the total membership of the College is **247**, comprising **240** Fellows (Local), **5** Fellows (Overseas), **1** Fellow (International) and **1** Associate Member. There are 49 members in the Chapter of Neonatologists.

In 2023, 11 members were admitted as Fellows of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore, (FAMS) and welcomed into the College:

|                            |                       |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Dr Chan Ng Poh Lin Pauline | Dr Lee May Ping       | Dr Tan Yi Hua   |
| Dr Chew Chu Shan Elaine    | Dr Loh Wenyin         | Dr Wee Chun Yen |
| Dr Chia Suyin Moira        | Dr Lu Liangjian       | Dr Zhong Youjia |
| Dr Goh Si Hui              | Dr Tan Liling Lynette |                 |

## MAKING AN IMPACT: OUR WORK IN 2023

### STRENGTHENING ADVOCACY TO SHAPE AND INFLUENCE HEALTHCARE POLICIES

#### Professional Opinion Requests

The College provided professional opinions on various topics requested by external parties. The professional opinions are listed below:

| S/N | DESCRIPTION                                                  | REQUESTED BY |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1   | MOH Gender Dysphoria treatment guidelines engagement session | MOH          |

|   |                                                               |     |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 2 | 2023 Call for topic submissions - Ace Clinical Guidance (ACG) | ACE |
| 3 | Botox injection at forehead by non-medical practitioner       | MOH |

### Independent Medical Expert

The College provided 3 independent medical expert advice for court cases in 2023.

## ADVANCING PROFESSIONALISM and UPHOLDING COMPETENCY STANDARDS

### Formation of Section of Paediatric Allergy & Immunology

The College of Paediatrics and Child Health, Singapore approved the formation of the Section of Paediatric Allergy & Immunology (PAI) during its 19<sup>th</sup> AGM on 3 June 2023. The Pro tem Section Committee members are Prof Lee Bee Wah (Chairman), Dr Liew Woei Kang (Vice-Chairman), Dr Chiang Wen Chin (Secretary), Dr Chong Kok Wee, Dr Anne Goh, Dr Elizabeth Tham and Dr Soh Jian Yi.

With the formation, the Committee hopes to:

- Establish the training and credentialing requirements needed for PAI specialists with the eventual goal of formal recognition and accreditation of PAI in Singapore.
- Serve as a neutral body to advocate for PAI matters in Singapore as well as to provide objective expert opinion and professional advice to the Ministry of Health on all PAI-related matters.
- Establish standards and guidelines for PAI practice.
- Foster and sustain continuous professional development education in PAI.

### 11<sup>th</sup> Singapore Paediatric and Perinatal Annual Congress (SiPPAC)

The 11<sup>th</sup> Singapore Paediatric and Perinatal Annual Congress (SiPPAC) 2023 was a three-day event held from 28 – 30 July 2023 at the PARKROYAL on Beach Road.

The theme was “Shaping Child Health for the Future”. This Congress was organised by the Singapore Paediatric Society (SPS) with support from the College and the Perinatal Society of Singapore (PSS). This event attracted close to 300 delegates comprising paediatricians, neonatologists, medical students, nurses, allied health staff, residents and trainees as well as overseas delegates.

The scientific programme comprised 10 symposia (Paediatric, Perinatal and Neonatal tracks), 2 nursing symposia and 4 lunch symposia. The CPCHS Clinical Practice Guidelines on Autism Spectrum Disorder in Children and Adolescents was also officially launched at the Congress.

A total of 57 abstracts were accepted, of which 9 were selected for Oral Presentations and 5 were selected for Poster Presentations. A total of 43 abstracts were displayed on poster panels at the event.

The prizes awarded:

| ORAL PRESENTATION    |                                                                                                                            |                                  |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Best Free Oral Paper | Meta-Analysis of The Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers, Revised/Follow-Up for Screening for Autism                 | Author: Dr Ramkumar Aishworiya   |
| 1st Runner Up        | Neurodevelopmental Outcomes of Very Preterm Infants at 2, 5 and 8 Years of Age                                             | Author: Ms Lee Mun Ying Gigi     |
| 2nd Runner Up:       | Predictors for GI Endoscopic Yield in Children with Gastrointestinal-bleeding (GIB)                                        | Author: Ms Gerard Gheslynn       |
| POSTER PRESENTATION  |                                                                                                                            |                                  |
| Best Poster          | Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices of Healthcare workers on Water-Less Care at a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in Singapore | Author: Dr Buvaneswarran Santosi |
| 1st Runner Up:       | Prevalence of Antibiotic Resistance Among Preterm Infants with Sepsis: A Population-Based Cohort Study                     | Author: Dr Goh Guan Lin          |
| 2nd Runner Up:       | Comparison of KBIT-2 and Wechsler Intelligence Scales in Children with Developmental Disabilities                          | Author: Ms Cheng Alison          |

## 16<sup>th</sup> College of Paediatrics and Child Health Lecture

In conjunction with the 11<sup>th</sup> SiPPAC, the 16<sup>th</sup> College Lecture was held on 29 July 2023 at the PARKROYAL on Beach Road. Clin Prof Victor Samuel Rajadurai, Emeritus Consultant, Department of Neonatology, KK Women's and Children's Hospital delivered this year's lecture which was titled "Lessons Learned from Randomized Controlled Trials in Neonatology: KKH Experience".

In recognition of his contributions, Clin Assoc Prof Chua Mei Chien (College President) presented a plaque and honorarium to Clin Prof Victor Samuel Rajadurai.



## Launch of the CPCHS Clinical Practice Guidelines on Autism Spectrum and Disorder in Children and Adolescents

The CPCHS Clinical Practice Guidelines on Autism Spectrum Disorder in Children and Adolescents was successfully launched on 29 July 2023 at the 11<sup>th</sup> Singapore Paediatric and Perinatal Annual Congress (SiPPAC) 2023. Member of Parliament Denise Phua and Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health of Singapore, Ms Rahayu Mahzam graced the occasion.

Under the guidance of co-leads Dr Wong Chui Mae and Dr Aishworiya Ramakumar, the 2023 guidelines have been carefully developed following extensive and systematic review of the current research literature over the past 24 months by a 37-member workgroup of professionals working in various fields supporting children and adolescents on the autism spectrum in Singapore, followed by an external review and public consultation exercise conducted from 15 May to 15 June 2023.





*CPOCHS President Dr Chua Mei Chien (Front Row 6<sup>th</sup> from left), SPS Ms Rahayu Mahzam (Front row 7<sup>th</sup> from left) , MP Denise Phua (Front row 8<sup>th</sup> from left), SPS President Dr Alvin Chang (Front row 9<sup>th</sup> from left) with the workgroup members of the CPOCHS Clinical Practice Guidelines on Autism Spectrum Disorder in Children and Adolescents*

## 2023 Clinical Practice Guidelines On Autism Spectrum Disorder In Children And Adolescents Symposium

The Symposium on the Clinical Practice Guidelines on Autism Spectrum Disorder in Children and Adolescents was held on Saturday, 12 August 2023 at the KKH Auditorium.

Guest of Honour Prof Ho Lai Yun

12 August 2023 (Saturday)

Time : 2:00pm – 5:30pm

Venue : KKH Auditorium  
KK Women's and Children's Hospital

## Continuing Medical Education Activities

| ACTIVITY            | MANAGING THE PAIN PANDEMIC IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date                | : 1 April 2023, Saturday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Chairperson         | : A/Prof Chua Mei Chien                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Topics and Speakers | <b>Headache Management in Children and Teenagers</b><br>Dr Furene Wang<br>Consultant, Division of Paediatric Neurology,<br>Department of Paediatrics,<br>Khoo Teck Puat – National University Children's Medical Institute, National University Hospital |

## Topics and Speakers

### **Managing Musculoskeletal Pain in Children and Teenagers**

Dr Ooi Pei Ling

Paediatrician

Paediatric Rheumatology Specialist

International Child and Adolescent Clinic

### **Journeying with Chronic Pain – A Multidisciplinary Approach**

Ms Joanne Ferriol Especkerman

Principal Psychologist, Psychology Service,

KK Women's and Children's Hospital

## ACTIVITY

### **[LIVE WEBINAR] THE CHALLENGES OF GROWTH**

Date : 3 June 2023, Saturday

Chairperson : A/Prof Chua Mei Chien

## Topics and Speakers

### **Faltering Growth**

Dr Daniel Chan Wei Keong

Consultant, Paediatric Endocrinology

(Hormonal and Growth Problems),

KK Women's and Children's Hospital

### **Case Studies in Growth Disorders**

Assoc Prof Loke Kah Yin

Head and Senior Consultant, Paediatric Endocrinology Division, Department of Paediatrics NUHS/NUS

| ACTIVITY            | 2023 CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES ON AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS SYMPOSIUM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date                | : 12 August 2023, Saturday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Venue               | : KKH Auditorium                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Guest of Honour     | : Professor Ho Lai Yun                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Topics and Speakers | <p><b>Guidelines Development Process</b><br/> Dr Wong Chui Mae<br/> Senior Consultant, Dept of Child Development and Neonatology,<br/> KK Women's and Children's Hospital</p> <p><b>Screening and Diagnosis of Autism</b><br/> Dr Koh Hwan Cui<br/> Principal Psychologist, Department of Child Development,<br/> KK Women's and Children's Hospital</p> <p><b>Investigations in Autism</b><br/> Assoc Prof Daisy Chan<br/> Senior Consultant, Dept of Neonatal and Developmental Medicine, Singapore General Hospital</p> <p><b>Intervention</b><br/> Dr Goh Tze Jui<br/> Principal Clinical Psychologist, Dept of Developmental Psychiatry,<br/> Institute of Mental Hospital</p> <p><b>Complementary and Alternative Treatment</b><br/> Dr Aishworiya Ramkumar<br/> Consultant, Child Development Unit KTP-National University Children's Medical Institute, National University Hospital</p> <p><b>Co-occurring Conditions in Autism</b><br/> Dr Lian Wee Bin<br/> Paediatrics and Neonatal Specialist<br/> SpecialKids Child Health and Development Clinic Singapore</p> <p><b>Other Key Recommendations from the CPG</b><br/> Dr Aishworiya Ramkumar<br/> Consultant, Child Development Unit KTP-National University Children's Medical Institute, National University Hospital</p> |

| ACTIVITY [LIVE WEBINAR] TOSSING AND TURNING.....ADDRESSING SLEEP ISSUES IN CHILDREN |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date                                                                                | : 4 November 2023, Saturday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Chairperson                                                                         | : Dr Kristy Fu Xinghan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Topics and Speakers                                                                 | <p><b>Healthy Growth and Development – Don't Just Sleep on it</b><br/> Dr Teoh Oon Hoe<br/> Senior Consultant, Respiratory Medicine Service,<br/> KK Women's and Children's Hospital</p> <p><b>Psychologist's Perspective on Navigating Sleep Difficulties in Childhood</b><br/> Ms Ng Siau Hwei<br/> Senior Principal Psychologist, Dept of Paediatrics,<br/> National University Hospital</p> <p><b>Parasomnias in Childhood</b><br/> Dr Phuah Huan Kee<br/> Paediatrician, Gleneagles Hospital</p> |

## Chapter Activities

The Chapter of Neonatologists organised/supported the following activities in 2023:

| Date       | Activity                                |
|------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 9 May 2023 | 11 <sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting |



*Front row from left to right: Dr Krishnamoorthy Niduvaje, Dr Daisy Chan Kwai Lin and Dr Khoo Poh Choo*

*Back row from left to right: Dr Lee Le Ye, Dr Abdul Haium Abdul Alim, Dr Ong Eng Keow and Dr Low Kah Tzay*

## LOOKING AHEAD: OUR COMMITMENT

The College is committed to further and enhance continuing medical education for the paediatric fraternity in Singapore, by organising workshops, annual scientific meetings and courses that will benefit paediatricians at large. A particular focus of the College in the coming years will be provision of educational activities centred around ethical issues relevant to paediatric and neonatal practice, in light of the upcoming compulsory CME requirements on Medical Ethics.

## APPRECIATION

The College records its note of appreciation to all Fellows for their unfailing support and efforts rendered in the past year for ongoing projects and activities. The College also places on record its appreciation of the Secretariat.