

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH & OCCUPATIONAL PHYSICIANS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE DR GAN WEE HOE



I would like to thank everyone from our College for your support of my Council members and I, who were elected in the second half of 2022. We took over a College with a strong foundation built and consolidated by successive cohorts of leadership, including the immediate past Council led by Dr Matthias Toh. We are extremely grateful and will do our utmost to provide collaborative leadership and strong stewardship in our term.

This year, we welcome the Year of the Rabbit. The rabbit is known for its thoughtful, curious and sociable nature, characteristics which we hope to reify when planning for our College's activities this year.

A key event in our College's 2023 calendar is the 3rd Singapore International Public Health Conference, which we are bringing back after the hugely successful 1st and 2nd editions in 2012 and 2016, respectively. I thank Dr Benjamin Ng for representing the College in leading the organisation of this international conference with Prof Chia Kee Seng from the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health.

The other signature activity currently being planned is the College's overseas study trip, tentatively scheduled for the 3rd quarter of 2023. I am grateful to Dr Marc Ho, our co-opted Council member, for volunteering to lead in the planning of this highly anticipated event. We had earlier conducted a poll among College Fellows to get your inputs on the focus of the trip. More details will be shared with everyone soon.

Dr Clive Tan served as the Deputy Editor of our College's Communications Team since 2016 and took over the reins as Editor in 2019. On 1 December 2022, he has passed the baton of Editor to Dr Kyle Tan. I thank Clive for his steadfast contributions in the Communications Team over the years. The Council will continue to support and work with Kyle and his team to bring timely news in an engaging format to our Fellows and Members.

2023 heralds a new chapter for Singapore and the healthcare sector as we transition to living with COVID-19. There are opportunities which abound, both in advancing the College's mission as well as fostering closer ties amongst Fellows and Members. My Council and I look forward to engage you in this exciting journey of re-discovery.

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

The College of Public Health and Occupational Physicians was inaugurated on 1 February 2013, from the Chapter of Public Health and Occupational Physicians founded in 1980. As part of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore, the College is a professional institution of Public Health, Occupational Medicine and Aviation Medicine specialists to advance the art and science of Preventive Medicine in Singapore through postgraduate specialist training, maintenance of high standards and ethical integrity through continuous professional development. The College provides professional leadership and makes recommendations to the Academy on respective specialist qualification and training. The College engages challenges related to the health and well-being of the population, and its Fellows serve on many national academic, training and intervention programmes.

Vision and Mission

The vision of the College is to be an Entrusted Profession for a Healthy Population. The mission of the College is to promote and protect the health and well-being of everyone in society by:

- Equipping the practitioner
- Enriching our community
- Exemplifying excellence
- Engaging public health challenges

THE 2022-2023 COUNCIL

President	Dr Gan Wee Hoe
Immediate Past President	Dr Matthias Toh
Vice President	Dr Clive Tan
Honorary Secretary	Dr Liu Jiaming
Honorary Treasurer	Dr Joshua Wong
Council Member	Dr Brian See
Council Member	Dr Kyle Tan
Council Member	Dr Melvin Seng
Co-Opted Member	Dr Benjamin Tan
Co-Opted Member	Dr Marc Ho

9TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 9th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the College of Public Health & Occupational Physicians was held on 17 August 2022. It was attended by some 26 fellows who came to support and witness the 9th Council of the College take office.





Standing (left to right):

*Dr Joshua Wong (Honorary Treasurer), Dr Brian See (Council Member), Dr Melvin Seng (Council Member),
Dr Liu Jiaming (Honorary Secretary)*

Seated (left to right):

Dr Clive Tan (Vice President), Dr Gan Wee Hoe (President), Dr Matthias Toh (Immediate Past President)

Absence with apologies:

Dr Kyle Tan (Council Member), Dr Benjamin Tan (Co-Opted Member), Dr Marc Ho (Co-Opted Member)

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the College stood at 155 as at 31 December 2022.

The College membership consists of 133 Local Fellows, 10 Overseas Fellows, 10 Ordinary Members and 2 Associate Member.

The following were admitted as Fellows of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore (CPHOP) in 2022:

- Hwang Yi-Fu Jeff
- Kitikiti Nokuthula Sikhethiwe
- Young Adelina Shuan

The following was admitted as Associate Member of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore (CPHOP) in 2022:

- Choong Yee Hui Benjamin

The following was admitted as Ordinary Member of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore (CPHOP) in 2022:

- Lim Wei Xiang

The College would like to take this opportunity to welcome all who joined in 2022.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: STRENGTHEN ROLE IN ADVOCACY TO SHAPE AND INFLUENCE IMPORTANT HEALTHCARE POLICIES

PROFESSIONAL OPINIONS

The College provided professional opinions on various topics at the request of various external parties. The professional opinions provided are listed below:

SN	Date	Topic	Organisation
1.	11 March 2022	Ozone Therapy	MOH
2.	28 June 2022	Advice On Use Of Hyperbaric Oxygen For Wellness Program	MOH

ADVANCING PROFESSIONALISM AND UPHOLDING COMPETENCY STANDARDS

ANDRÉ WANSAICHEONG LECTURESHIP 2022

We were honoured to have Senator Dr Sania Nishtar delivered the André Wansaicheong Lecture for the 16th Public Health and Occupational Medicine Conference on 9 September 2022 at One Farrer Hotel. Senator Dr Nishtar served as the former Chairperson of several multilateral initiatives such as WHO's High Level Commission on Non-Communicable Diseases. Despite having to manage the response to floods back home in Pakistan, she was still able to join us live from Islamabad, Pakistan on the morning of the conference. She spoke on Post COVID-19 Health Systems Imperatives, highlighting the importance of collaboration amongst ministries, nations and civil society to work towards a common goal.



CME SESSION: 'FIRESIDE CHAT: HEALTHIER SG AND POPULATION HEALTH DEVELOPMENTS IN SINGAPORE'

The College organised a virtual CME talk on 30 March which included the sharing and discussion with Dr Kenneth Mak, Dr Philip Choo and Dr Wong Tien Hua on '*Healthier SG and Population Health Developments in Singapore*'. The fireside chat was facilitated by Dr Clive Tan and Dr Dennis Chia.



CME SESSION: 'STAFF WELL-BEING: A STRATEGIC ASSET'

The College organised a virtual CME talk on '*Staff Well-Being: A Strategic Asset*' on 17 May 2022, which was chaired by Dr Andrew Epaphroditus Tay. We were honoured to have Adj A/Prof Maleena Suppiah Cavert, Adj A/Prof Habeebul Rahman and Clin Assoc Prof Phua Ghee Chee to share their insights at the session.



16TH SINGAPORE PUBLIC HEALTH AND OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE CONFERENCE

This year's PHOM organising committee kicked off with conference planning in May over a flurry of email exchanges and zoom meetings. Between petitioning prospective sponsors and stitching together the day's programme, our team successfully brought the concept into reality, culminating in our event day.

The 9th of September marked the 16th iteration of the PHOM conference and the first in-person event after the COVID pandemic resulted in a hiatus of two years. It saw an attendance of 182 attendees and 16 speakers and panellists at the One Farrer Hotel, with the theme of '*Reinventing Health for All*'.

Our Guest-of-Honour was Ms Rahayu Mahzam, Senior Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Law. She spoke about the impact of COVID-19 on the population's mental health and highlighted healthcare workers and migrant workers as two groups of concern. Ms Rahayu reaffirmed the Government's commitment to safeguard the mental health and well-being of healthcare workers and migrant workers. She also spoke about the importance of the conference theme – '*Reinventing Health for All*' – both in the workplace and for the wider population and touched on the upcoming healthcare reforms envisioned through Healthier SG.



Guest-of-Honour Ms Rahayu Mahzam delivering her opening speech.

Following her speech, SMS Rahayu Mahzam presented the prestigious College of Public Health and Occupational Physicians Lifetime Achievement Award to the late Dr Jarnail Singh. This prestigious award is presented to exceptional individuals who have made significant and impactful considerations to the fields of Public Health, Occupational Medicine and Aviation Medicine. Dr Benjamin Tan delivered the citation for the late Dr Jarnail Singh and Dr Gurpal Singh, son of Dr Jarnail Singh received the award on behalf of his father.

SMS Rahayu Mahzam also presented the Past President Medal to Adj Prof Vernon Lee, who took office as the College President for the term 2016-2020.



Dr Gurpal Singh, son of the CPHOP Lifetime Achievement Award 2022 recipient, Dr Jarnail Singh, delivering his speech.



Members of the 16th PHOM Conference Organising Committee with the President of the College of Public Health and Occupational Physicians

[Front row, from left]: Prof Tikki Pangestu, Dr Melvin Seng, Dr Gan Wee Hoe, Dr Andrew Green, Dr Joshua Wong.

[Back row, from left]: Dr Priya Jayaprakash, Dr Elliot Eu, A/Prof Jason Yap, Dr Dennia Chia, Dr Leonora Liu, Dr Zeenathnisa Aribou.

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH & OCCUPATIONAL PHYSICIANS TRAVEL ASSISTANCE FUND

The College has a travel assistance fund to sponsor its Fellows to attend overseas meetings and conferences. Through participation in these activities, the College aims to: (a) develop ties and collaborate with public health colleges in other countries and (b) promote the College's annual Public Health and Occupational Medicine conference. Funding may include registration fee for the meeting, return economy class airfare and accommodation. For the year 2022, there was no application submitted.

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH & OCCUPATIONAL PHYSICIANS NEWSLETTER

The College published a total of 5 Snippets and 1 Feature in 2022.