

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH & OCCUPATIONAL PHYSICIANS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE DR MATTHIAS TOH

During the COVID-19 pandemic, our Public Health and Occupational Physicians have worked tirelessly to synthesise and evaluate the latest scientific evidence, and formulate practical population-based policies for the management of COVID-19 in Singapore. This is testimony to the tremendous grit our Fellows have as we ride through successive waves of the SARS-CoV-2 virus with sheer resilience. I am grateful that the Public Health and Occupational Medicine fraternity has continued to engage actively in lifelong professional education and invest in the training of our younger colleagues in the specialties of Public Health, Occupational Medicine and Aviation Medicine.

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 that was 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 College's mission is to promote and protect the health and well-being of everyone in society by:

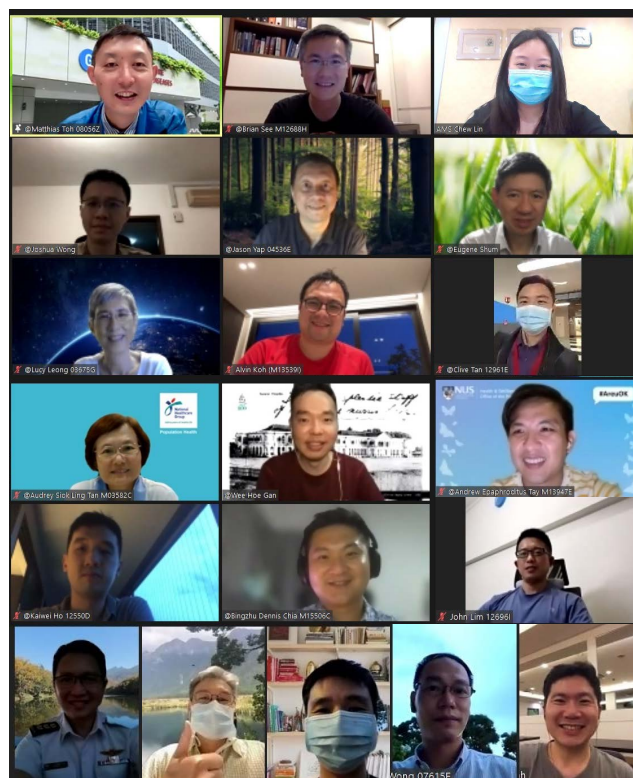
- Equipping the practitioner
- Enriching our community
- Exemplifying excellence
- Engaging public health challenges

COLLEGE COAT OF ARMS AND MOTTO

The crest represents the core focus of public health, occupational medicine and aviation medicine; from taking up responsibility and gaining the knowledge required to ensure good health and workplace safety practices, to the learning of our Fellows. The motto of the College is '*Populi Salus Summa*', which is Latin for "Advancing the Health of Populations".

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 8th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the College of Public Health and Occupational Physicians was held on 5 May 2021 via electronic means. It was attended by some 19 Fellows who came to support and witness the 8th Council of the College take office virtually.



Screen capture of the attendees at the 8th College AGM.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the College stood at 152 as of 31 December 2021. It consisted of 129 Local Fellows, 11 Overseas Fellows, 11 Ordinary Members and one Associate Member.

THE 2021 – 2022 COUNCIL



DR MATTHIAS TOH
President



DR GAN WEE HOE
President-Elect



DR CLIVE TAN
Vice-President



DR MELVIN SENG
Honorary Secretary



DR DENNIS CHIA
Honorary Treasurer



DR BRIAN SEE
Council Member



DR JOSHUA WONG
Council Member



DR BENJAMIN TAN
Co-Opted Member



DR LIU JIAMING
Co-Opted Member



DR MARC HO
Co-Opted Member

The following were admitted as Fellows of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore (FAMS) and welcomed into the College:

- Dr Lim Andrea Su En
- Dr Lim Dwee Wee
- Dr Soh Feng Wei
- Dr Tan Aidan Lyanzhiang

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

- Dr Mas'uud Samsudin

MAKING AN IMPACT: OUR WORK IN 2021



STRENGTHENING ADVOCACY TO SHAPE AND INFLUENCE HEALTHCARE POLICIES

Professional Opinion Requests

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

DATE	TOPIC	ORGANISATION
21 April	Ministry of Manpower's Consultation Session on Measures to Enhance Protection of Migrant Domestic Workers from Abuse	MOM
3 June	Criteria for Work-Relatedness of Heart Attack from Acute Triggers	MOM

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Bulletin

The College published the CPD Bulletin for Public Health issue in January 2021.



ADVANCING PROFESSIONALISM AND UPHOLDING COMPETENCY STANDARDS

Inaugural André Wansaicheong Lectureship and Visiting Academician

Visiting Academician Professor Gabriel Leung, Dean of Medicine of the University of Hong Kong, and Helen and Francis Zimmern Professor in Population Health, kicked off the 15th Singapore Public Health and Occupational Medicine Conference on 10 November with the inaugural André Wansaicheong Lecture on 'Back to the Future: Revisiting Key Epidemiological Insights of COVID-19'.

Professor Leung traced the development of the COVID-19 pandemic from its first discovery in Wuhan to the present day. For each major milestone amidst the pandemic, he explained the data sources and epidemiological tools used, pertinent findings analysed, and the public health principles that shaped Hong Kong's policies amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.



Screen capture of Visiting Academician Professor Gabriel Leung during the inaugural André Wansaicheong Lecture.

15th Singapore Public Health & Occupational Medicine Conference

The 15th annual Singapore Public Health and Occupational Medicine (PHOM) Conference was held virtually for the first time on 10 November, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The conference, themed 'Emerging Stronger as a Community', was chaired by Dr Brian See. It attracted close to 300 participants from a wide variety of backgrounds including healthcare professionals, policy-makers, researchers, industry leaders and experts.



Screen capture of the College Council and members of the 15th PHOM Conference Organising Committee having a candid conversation with distinguished guests Prof Teo Eng Kiong, Master of the Academy of Medicine, A/Prof Kenneth Mak, Director of Medical Services, Ministry of Health, and Prof Teo Yik Ying, Dean of the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health before the start of the conference.

Our Guest-of-Honour Mr Ong Ye Kung, Minister for Health, spoke on the value of health and the pandemic's role in raising the profile and importance of public health and occupational medicine. The pandemic had also highlighted how evidence-based public health came into play where research, data, analytics, modelling and simulation were used to guide policy decisions. While a lot of attention seemed to go into managing the pandemic, public health and occupational medicine, practitioners will have to continue addressing the social determinants of health to keep the population healthy, and work with primary care providers to prevent the onset of serious illnesses, especially in our rapidly ageing population.



Screen capture of Minister Ong Ye Kung, Guest-of-Honour, delivering the opening remarks at the 15th PHOM Conference.

This year's PHOM conference included three sessions covering COVID-19, the transformations in work and health, and population health.

In the segment titled 'COVID-19: Pandemic to Endemic', speakers Prof Vernon Lee, A/Prof Alex R Cook and A/Prof Angela Chow shared on Singapore's shift from pandemic to endemic COVID-19, the utilisation of models in shaping policy change and the management of the COVID-19 outbreak in Tan Tock Seng Hospital.

As the speakers for the session on 'Rethinking Work and Health', Dr Lam Meng Chon, Dr Gan Wee Hoe and Mr Adrian Toh shared about the care for migrant workers, the challenges and opportunities in occupational health in the COVID-endemic era and on thriving through uncertainties.

Finally, speakers Adj Prof Lee Chien Earn, Dr Mok Yee Ming and A/Prof Jason Yap shared their insights during a segment titled 'Towards Healthier Populations'. This segment touched on the road ahead for population health and the collaborations required to facilitate the shift to the population health approach, as well as the meaning of mental health.



Screen capture of the esteemed speakers from each of the three sessions taking questions from conference participants after their sharing.

All in all, the 15th PHOM conference was a unique and exciting opportunity for the public health and occupational medicine community to gather virtually despite the pandemic restrictions. It offered everyone the chance to connect, share their work and engage one another in building the future of preventive medicine. Such collaboration is especially important as public health and occupational medicine continues to play a prominent role during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.



Members of the 15th PHOM Conference Organising Committee with CPHOP President.
Front row (from left to right): Dr Joshua Wong, Dr Matthias Toh, Dr Brian See, Dr Clive Tan.
Back row (from left to right): Dr Gary Ang, Dr Leonora Liu, Dr Li Zongbin, Dr Lim Wei Xiang.

CME Session: 'Re-Telecast of Recorded Webinar- Dengue in Singapore 2020'

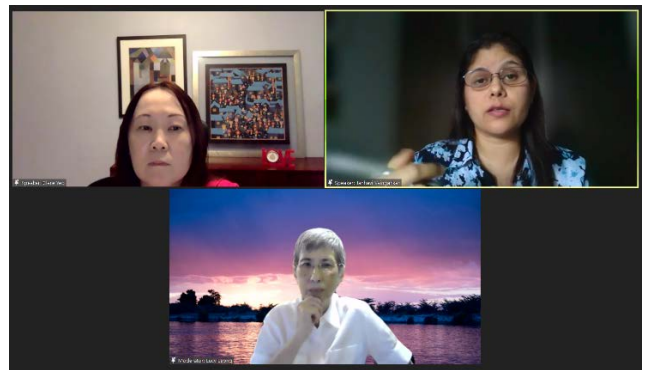
On 28 January, the College organised a re-telecast of a recorded webinar on 'Dengue in Singapore 2020', which had been held on 1 December 2020, via electronic means.



Screen capture of the moderator and speakers during the 'Dengue in Singapore 2020' webinar.
Top row (from left to right): Dr Ooi Eng Eong, Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, NUS; Dr Dennis Chia, Honorary Treasurer.
Bottom row: Dr Leong Hoe Nam, Infectious Disease specialist, Mount Elizabeth Novena Hospital.

CME Session: 'Thriving at the Workplace'

The College organised the CME talk on 'Thriving at the Workplace' on 17 July virtually. It was chaired by Dr Lucy Leong. We were honoured to invite Dr Clare Yeo, Senior Principal Clinical Psychologist at the Institute of Mental Health, Singapore (IMH) and Ms Janhavi Vaingankar, Deputy Director of the Research Department at IMH to share their insights.



Screen capture of the moderator and speakers during the 'Thriving at the Workplace' CME session on 17 July.

Year-End De-Centralised CPHOP Fellows 'Makan' Gathering 2021

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the College allowed a decentralised 'makan' gathering from 1 December 2021 to 31 January 2022. This was to promote and foster a sense of community amongst College Fellows and Members, in lieu of our annual Fellows' Lunch. The gathering was self-organised, funded by the College and eligible for all CPHOP Fellows, Ordinary and Associate Members in good standing.



Enjoying a plant-based omakase meal together.



Seeking wisdom from the Founding Dean of the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, Prof Chia Kee Seng, over a sumptuous meal.



All smiles at dinner and drinks.



Multi-generational OMers' dinner at Spring Court Restaurant, Chinatown.



Having excellent discussions on the latest developments in public health and healthcare financing, as well as negotiations for private practice through highly commissioned brokers.



Catching up over dinner.



Discussing Occupational and Aviation Medicine topics at the Social Place.



Two ministries trading COVID-19 war stories over seafood and ginger beer.



Exploring Spain through its cuisine.



College Fellows and members bonding over insightful conversations during their respective 'makan' sessions.

College of Public Health and 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 aimed to develop ties and collaboration with public health colleges in other countries, as well as promote the College's annual Public Health and Occupational Medicine conference. Funding could include meeting registration fees, return economy class airfare and accommodation. There were no applications submitted in 2021.

College of Public Health and Occupational Physicians Newsletter

The College newsletter provides Fellows with updates on its activities bi-annually. Issue 18 was published in February 2021.

Subsequently, after reflecting on how the COVID-19 pandemic had catalysed many changes in 2020, it was decided that this was an opportunity to innovate the communication and sharing of information. To improve communications to all College Fellows, the Council supported a proposal to re-profile the 'Newsletter Team' to the College's 'Communications Team'. The team, comprising doctors Clive Tan, Jason Yap, Dennis Chia, Alvin Koh and Kyle Tan, would reach out through more frequent email #Snippets instead of the bi-annual newsletters.

Following this decision, a total of four Snippets and two Features were published in 2021.

APPRECIATION

The College wishes to record its thanks to all Fellows and friends who have supported the various activities throughout the year. The College also places on record its appreciation of the Secretariat.



Dr Matthias Toh
President