

MEDIA RELEASE

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NUHS CELEBRATES THE JOURNEY OF NURSING EXCELLENCE

NUHS celebrates Nurses' Day with a health carnival organised in line with Healthier SG; announces new Nurse Researcher Career Framework in support of the evolving profession

SINGAPORE — On 22 July 2023, more than 1,000 nurses across the National University Health System (NUHS) institutions gathered for the first time post-pandemic to celebrate Nurses' Day. The celebratory event was graced by Mr Ong Ye Kung, Minister of Health, as the Guest of Honour. It comprises a health carnival organised in line with Healthier SG.

Themed “Past into Future: An Incredible Journey of NUHS Nurses”, the event paid tribute to the evolving aspirations of the nursing profession and how the dedication and incredible journey of NUHS nurses over the decades have contributed in many ways towards a healthier nation.

NUHS also announced a new Nurse Researcher Career Framework for nurses who are keen to pursue research in nursing.

Nurse Researcher Career Framework to provide greater opportunities for nurses

The Nurse Researcher Career Framework is a new development for nurses who are passionate in advancing nursing knowledge through an academic role in research, innovation, and evidence-based practice to deliver safe and effective care. It comprises an education and development roadmap that broadens the scope of nursing, and complements the existing three nursing career tracks in NUHS, namely the Clinical, Education and Management Tracks.

Dr Catherine Koh, Group Chief Nurse, NUHS, said, “The nursing role has come a long way, evolving into a dynamic profession that undertakes teaching, research, and clinical care. To enable our nurses to advance in a structured and progressive way, we have been redesigning the nursing profession to support our growing, diverse nursing talent and create more opportunities for NUHS nurses.”

“Research in nursing is essential to improve patient outcomes, advance nursing practice and contribute to the growth of nursing as a profession. By strengthening professional development and creating greater opportunities with diverse career tracks, we hope to attract more people to join nursing as their career of choice. NUHS nurses are equal partners in clinical care, together with our doctors and the other job groups, as part of one big healthcare family in looking after patients and the health of the population in the western region of Singapore.”

Shaping the future of nursing together

In July 2022, NUHS launched the Centre for Nursing Excellence, which aims to enable nurses to grow and advance nursing practices, lead partnerships in integrated care, and empower health and wellness in the community. As a one-stop learning hub for nurses, it will drive professional development across all job levels.

“NUHS is unique in that as an Academic Health System, our nurses aspire to do more than just deliver care. We encourage our nurses to acquire new knowledge and capabilities throughout their career. With the NUHS Centre for Nursing Excellence, we are deeply committed to drive nursing development, leadership abilities and nurture the professional growth of our nurses, allowing them to reach their full potential and career aspirations with the help and support of their peers, seniors, management and resources within our academic health system,” added Dr Koh.

To shape the future of nursing together, NUHS will also be developing roles such as informatics nurses with new competencies in information technology (IT) and data analytics. An informatics nurse is the link-bridge between IT and clinical care. In most healthcare innovation projects, a multi-stakeholder community is required for the success of the implementation; this can comprise doctors, nurses, allied health staff like pharmacists.

The informatics nurse seeks to ensure that the end-to-end process of the project is carried out smoothly and the outcome will help to ease the work of nurses and enable seamless care. Working closely with the IT team, the informatics nurse looks for areas where automation and/or smart components can be built and incorporated into clinical care. Informatics nurses can also review and identify gaps using data-driven reports to improve and streamline processes for nurses on a daily basis.

Past into Future: An Incredible Journey of NUHS Nurses

With nurses as advocates of a healthier community at work and at home, the Nurses’ Day health carnival began with a brisk walk on the NUHS Kent Ridge campus. Past, current and future generations of nurses joined in the walkathon, including pioneer and retired nurses who have laid the foundation of NUHS nursing, current practicing nurses from the hospitals, polyclinics and community care under NUHS, as well as faculty members of the NUS Alice Lee Centre for Nursing Studies (NUS Nursing). Nursing students from NUS Nursing, polytechnics and Institute of Technical Education were invited to join the activities. The event was followed by the NUHS Nurses’ Day Award Ceremony and a range of activities such as a mass dance workout, sports-related games, talent competition and booths offering healthier food choices.

Over 110 nurses were recognised with the NUHS Nightingale Award and the Joycelyn Khoo Award for NUHS Paediatric Nursing for their exemplary leadership and commitment in caring for patients and the community. In appreciation of their selfless contributions, especially during the pandemic, family members of the awardees were also invited to join in the festivities that day.

Chinese Glossary

National University Health System (NUHS)	国立大学医学组织（国大医学组织）
NUS Alice Lee Centre for Nursing Studies (NUS Nursing)	新加坡国立大学李陈爱礼护理学中心
Dr Catherine Koh Group Chief Nurse, National University Health System	许晓兰博士 集团首席护理总监， 国立大学医学组织
“Past into Future: An Incredible Journey of NUHS Nurses”	回首过去展望未来：国大医学组织护士的卓越旅程
Nurse Researcher Career Framework	护理研究者职业框架
NUHS Centre for Nursing Excellence	国大医学组织卓越护理中心
NUHS Nightingale Award	国大医学组织南丁格尔奖
Joycelyn Khoo Award for NUHS Paediatric Nursing	国大医学组织小儿科护理邱嘉恩奖

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About the National University Health System (NUHS)

The National University Health System (NUHS) aims to transform how illness is prevented and managed by discovering causes of disease, development of more effective treatments through collaborative multidisciplinary research and clinical trials, and creation of better technologies and care delivery systems in partnership with others who share the same values and vision.

Institutions in the NUHS Group include the National University Hospital, Ng Teng Fong General Hospital, Jurong Community Hospital and Alexandra Hospital; three National Specialty Centres - National University Cancer Institute, Singapore (NCIS), National University Heart Centre, Singapore (NUHCS) and National University Centre for Oral Health, Singapore (NUCOHS); the National University Polyclinics (NUP); Jurong Medical Centre; and three NUS health sciences schools – NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (including the Alice Lee Centre for Nursing Studies), NUS Faculty of Dentistry and NUS Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health.

With member institutions under a common governance structure, NUHS creates synergies for the advancement of health by integrating patient care, health science education and biomedical research.

As a Regional Health System, NUHS works closely with health and social care partners across Singapore to develop and implement programmes that contribute to a healthy and engaged population in the Western part of Singapore.

For more information, please visit www.nuhs.edu.sg.

Annex A – Featured nurses’ profiles

<p>Mdm Loke Wai Chan, Deputy Director, NTFGH</p> <p>陸惠珍, 護理副總監, 黃廷方綜合醫院和裕廊社區醫院</p>	<p>Mdm Loke Wai Chan, 72, is a Deputy Director of Nursing at Ng Teng Fong General Hospital and Jurong Community Hospital (JCH).</p> <p>She joined the nursing profession in 1968 and has served in various public healthcare institutions, including National Neuroscience Institute and JCH.</p> <p>In 2009, she joined NTFGH and JCH to help build the Nursing Division from scratch. 14 years on, Mdm Loke remains an active and passionate leader, imparting her five decades of life experience and wisdom to groom the younger nurses.</p>
<p>Ms Siti Zubaidah Bte Mordiffi, Asst Director Nursing, NUH</p> <p>Ms Siti Zubaidah Bte Mordiffi, 護理助理總監, 國立大學醫院</p>	<p>Ms Siti Zubaidah Bte Mordiffi is an Assistant Director of Nursing, who has been appointed Adjunct Assistant Professor since 2014. Leveraging her primary role which oversees evidence-based nursing in NUH, she is currently the module lead for the Master of Clinical Nursing, helming the Evidenced Based Module where she teaches nurses on how to conduct systematic review and translation of evidence to practice.</p> <p>With her strong perspective of clinical and academic work, she is able to shape the curriculum to keep it abreast of nursing practice while elevating the academic standard of nursing. Her passion in research allows her to share valuable insights and perspectives with her nursing students.</p>
<p>Ms Ellene Lim, Senior Staff Nurse II, NUHCS</p> <p>林堯婷, 高級註冊護士, 新加坡國立大學心臟中心</p>	<p>Ms Ellene Lim continually seeks to positively impact patient care and shape nursing practice.</p> <p>A passionate leader and influencer among her colleagues to engage in research and evidenced-based practice to improve clinical care standards, Ellene worked to establish and contribute to the new Nurse Researcher Career Framework, gathering feedback from nurses to enable it to take flight.</p>
<p>Ms Theresa Samy, Senior Nurse Clinician, Nursing Administration (Nursing Informatics), NUH</p> <p>Ms Theresa Samy, 高級臨床護士 (護理資訊), 國立大學醫院</p>	<p>Ms Theresa Samy is passionate about nursing informatics and has been involved in multiple healthtech projects since 2014, such as the Next Generation Electronic Medical Record (NGEMR).</p> <p>These projects help to enhance nursing processes on electronic platforms and the digitalisation of patient information.</p>
<p>Mr Muhammed Amin Bin Ahmad Basri, Senior Staff Nurse I, RHSO, NUHS</p>	<p>Formerly a nurse at NTFGH Emergency Department (ED), Mr Muhammed Amin Bin Ahmad Basri made the switch to be a Community Nurse when the pandemic made him realise that one of the core issues leading to high attendances in hospital stems from inadequate support and care in the community.</p>

<p>Mr Muhammed Amin Bin Ahmad Basri, 高级注册护士, 区域卫生系统署, 国立大学医学组织</p>	<p>Amin now works alongside over 40 other like-minded community nurses in the NUHS RHSO Community Care Team (CCT), to provide care and support for patients and caregivers in empowering them with knowledge and skills required to ensure they remain well and healthy in the community.</p> <p>With a strong passion in staff wellbeing, Amin was one of the lead for the ED Recreation Team to help staff de-stress especially through the pandemic. He now serves as team lead for the RHSO CCT's team wellness.</p>
<p>Ms Liao Wei Fong, Advanced Practice Nurse, NUP</p> <p>廖伟凤, 临床专科护理师, 国立大学综合诊疗所</p>	<p>A veteran Advanced Practice Nurse with National University Polyclinics (NUP), Ms Liao Wei Fong has been providing consultations for patients with chronic diseases and common acute conditions since 2008. She was the first APN in Singapore to be credentialed as a Collaborative Prescriber in 2018 – enabling her to prescribe certain categories of medication without a doctor's approval.</p> <p>She began the APN-led Atrial Fibrillation Clinic in 2018 to collaborate with cardiologists in the National University Heart Centre, Singapore (NUHCS) to co-manage such patients in the polyclinic setting.</p> <p>Aside from her clinical duties, Ms Liao provides leadership in the area of chronic care and Advanced Practice Nursing in NUP.</p>
<p>Ms Sophia Saw Sern Ning, Assistant Nurse Clinician, NUH</p> <p>苏圣宁, 助理专科护士, 国立大学医院</p>	<p>Ms Sophia Saw is passionate to drive innovation and technology in nursing. She pursued a graduate certificate in innovation from SMU, which she attained in 2022.</p> <p>Above her clinical work at the Emergency Department in NUH, Ms Saw is the co-leader of the NUHS Innovation Workgroup and lends her expertise in innovation and technology to healthtech projects such as Missi, a cloud-based nurse companion robot designed by NUHS to perform basic tasks such as fetching items, conducting routine vital signs monitoring, and keeping a watch on high-risk patients for falls.</p>
<p>Ms Myint Myint Than, Nurse Clinician II, AH</p> <p>Ms Myint Myint Than, 专科护士, 亚历山大医院</p>	<p>A recipient of the Nightingale Award and an experienced nurse in palliative nursing at Alexandra Hospital, Ms Myint Myint Than supports the care of palliative patients from inpatient through to compassionate discharges back to their homes. Despite her initial challenge of a language barrier, she overcame her fears and became confident to relate well with patients who speak different languages and to provide psychosocial support for their caregivers.</p> <p>Her ability to straddle between different cultures places her in a much-valued role to bridge gaps in perspectives and enable care across the continuum. On a few occasions, she went the extra mile to liaise with community partners in Myanmar to coordinate the transfer and handover of care of patients from Myanmar back to hospitals in their own country.</p>

Annex B - NUHS Nightingale Award and the Joycelyn Khoo Award

NUHS Nightingale Award

The NUHS Nightingale Award is an annual cluster level award. It recognises nurses for their excellent performance and significant contributions to the nursing profession.

These nightingales were selected based on these criteria:

- Excel in nursing practice and clinical skills;
- Exude pride and passion in their work;
- Embrace change and make improvements that made a difference to patient care and colleagues;
- Empathise with their patients and deliver outstanding patient care and compassion;
- Exemplary role models for peers and colleagues;
- Engage fellow colleagues and are excellent team players; and
- Exhibit good and sound decision-making, problem-solving and public relations abilities and skills.

Number of Awardees in 2023: 114

The Joycelyn Khoo Award for NUHS Paediatric Nursing

The Joycelyn Khoo Award for NUHS Paediatric Nursing is a gift by the parents of their beloved late daughter, Joycelyn, to express their gratitude for the compassion, faithful and meticulous care provided by our nurses in Paediatric Nursing. The award was first presented in 2021.

Number of Awardees in 2023: 2

Message from Mr & Mrs Khoo Wee Chuan, Joycelyn's parents:

“Our daughter, Joycelyn, was a simple girl who derived joy in simple pleasures. Things such as eating her favourite food, watching drama serials, listening to music, and playing her favourite handphone games would bring her great delight. She was also persistent and hardworking, a silent worker. She understood that she had to put in extra effort to manage her shortcomings, especially in her studies, and she persevered in doing that.

NUH is no strange place to Joycelyn. At the age of five, Joycelyn was diagnosed with portal vein hypertension after a major bleeding episode and was warded for the first time in 2006.

Since then, subsequent follow-ups and even hospitalisations became part of her routine. She accepted her medical condition and persevered in her daily medications and going for continuous check-ups all these years. Yet, her fear for needles was very real. She would cry and even shout whenever any needles were inserted in her, whether for blood tests, for insertion of plugs for IV drips, and such. The nurses and doctors at NUH were aware of her reactions and were extremely patient and comforting towards her. The nurses would try to distract her with TV programmes and rewarded her with stickers after the procedures. She kept these stickers in her drawers and they are still there till this day.

Little did we expect that when Joycelyn was hospitalised on 3 October 2019, it would be her last stay. During that month-long battle in PICU, we witnessed how the nurses tirelessly cared for Joycelyn. They checked and cleaned her well, changing bags and bags of discharged liquids from the machines to ensure that the machines supporting Joycelyn function well. They made sure that she was in comfortable positions on the bed at all times, even though Joycelyn could not express anything herself. Notably on her 18th birthday on 21 October 2019, the nurses cheered Joycelyn on as she was taken off the ECMO machine supporting her... and even decorated the ICU room with a lovely birthday banner and notes of birthday wishes posted on the wall.

To us family members, the nurses have been both encouraging and comforting. They are truly a strong and substantive support to the doctors, to the patients and also to the family members as well.

Joycelyn returned home to the Lord on 6 November 2019. We know that we would see her again and we are sure that she would like to express her unspoken gratitude to these angels in white here at NUH. As such, we have set up this little award and token of appreciation on her behalf, to appreciate all that the nurses have done and what they have exemplified, and also as a remembrance of our daughter Joycelyn Khoo.

To all the nurses in the pediatric department, we could not thank you or say enough for the sacrifices you have made, the care you have given and the tireless work you have done. A salute to all of you, our angels in white! And a big thank you from the family of our beloved Joycelyn Khoo!"