

The Editors' Musings

DR TINA TAN

Editor

Dr Tan is a psychiatrist in private practice and an alumnus of Duke-NUS Medical School. She treats mental health conditions in all age groups but has a special interest in caring for the elderly. With a love for the written word, she makes time for reading, writing and self-publishing on top of caring for her patients and loved ones.



This month's issue was intended to update our readers on the Government's proposed Health Information Bill and changes to the National Electronic Health Record. However, that has been tabled for a later issue while the Ministry of Health (MOH) consolidates feedback on the bill following a recent public consultation. Nevertheless, in preparation for pending announcements from MOH, we thought it timely to feature Dr T Thirumorthy's contribution on medical confidentiality in the digital age. It is a difficult balance

to achieve, and we are all navigating this complex landscape together.

We have also published a slew of heartwarming articles on various local endeavours by our colleagues. These include efforts to reach out to seniors by a trio of medical students, the National University Health System's (NUHS) GENIE and NUHS@Home programmes, and KK Women's and Children's Hospital's project to enhance perinatal mental healthcare for women, especially those from socially disadvantaged families.

Happy reading.

A/PROF GUTHBERT TEO

Guest Editor

A/Prof Teo is trained as a forensic pathologist, with a special interest in family violence and child abuse. He volunteers in the social service sector, and also sits on the Boards of the Singapore Children's Society and the National Council of Social Service in his personal capacity. When visiting other countries, he always tries to plan multiple long hikes. The views expressed in this article are his personal opinions.



This issue contains an article on Project Sukacita written by three participating medical students. The Indonesian word *sukacita* expresses joy – not only feeling joy and happiness, but also bringing joy, happiness, relief and compassion to others.

In 2015, I was part of the disaster victim identification team that Singapore sent to Bhayangkara Hospital in Surabaya following the Indonesia AirAsia Flight QZ8501 crash. After one particularly emotionally exhausting day, an Indonesian police officer brought us out for *spikoe* (Surabaya layer cake), which cheered us up a lot. As we laughed at unfunny jokes, he said to us, "*Dari kehancuran menuju sukacita*" – from disaster to joy.

Healthcare workers (HCWs) can find *sukacita* by exercising good leadership, using what we learn to empower others to manage things within our control, and to manage ourselves when things are beyond our control. For leaders, understanding the multi-faceted drivers of healthcare provision and resource allocation can bring *sukacita* to ourselves, our patients and society.

Separately, two students share their experiences engaging seniors in health and digital literacy. Advanced age, disability and poverty are the biggest predictors of social isolation stemming from digital exclusion.^{1,2}

The rapid advancement of technology has brought both unprecedented opportunities and challenges.³ Healthcare leaders must consider and ethically address concerns on the deployment of artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare (eg, data privacy, algorithm bias and AI's resulting societal impact).^{4,5}

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted concerns on seniors' digital isolation.⁶ The younger generation of HCWs must come forward as leaders to study how we can improve the digital inclusion of our seniors and lead dialogues and collaborations with stakeholders at all levels. ♦

References

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