

A Vista of Possibilities

Text by Benjamin Ong, Editorial Executive
Photos by TriMedSoc Alliance



Medical school is but the first step on a branching journey which can take one to unexpected places. With the many possible specialties and subspecialties, it can be daunting for medical students to plan for their future. To help students with this, SMA and the TriMedSoc Alliance hosted the SMA 6th National Medical Students' Convention (NMSC) with the theme of "Career Canvas and Connections: Painting our path in Medicine".

The TriMedSoc Alliance is a coming together of the three local medical schools' student representative bodies, the Duke-NUS Student Council, the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKC Medicine) Students' Medical Society and the NUS Medical Society. The Alliance was founded for the purpose of unifying and representing the voices of the local medical student community, while providing opportunities for medical students to connect with one

another. The SMA NMSC is the Alliance's flagship event and was hosted this year on Saturday, 17 August 2024, boasting a total of 134 participants.

Painting the career canvas

Participants arrived bright and early at the Clinical Sciences Building on the LKC Medicine campus, and the day's activities began with a welcome address by Guest of Honour Prof Benjamin Ong, Chairman of Health Sciences Authority. Prof Ong shared about his own journey in medicine, emphasising the importance of having a strong community for support, and that learning continues throughout one's lifetime. Following Prof Ong's speech, the presidents of the TriMedSoc Alliance's societies signed the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding, solidifying their ties and reaffirming the Alliance as the official student representative body in the three medical schools.

Following the renewal ceremony, participants dispersed for their selected electives, which covered a wide array of topics. From learning about how one can enter the field of medical research to getting insider perspectives into various specialties, and even learning about investing and entrepreneurship, the tracks provided participants plenty of exposure to the potential lives they might lead. With each track headed by seniors, educators and professionals, there was a wealth of firsthand experiences and practical insights to learn from.

Over the course of the day, participants mingled convivially, getting to know

“ Today’s orthopaedics sharing by Dr Angel Lim was thoroughly insightful – I appreciated her frankness and openness when sharing her journey beyond medical school, into her house officer and medical officer years and finally entering residency. The hands-on backslab session was also a breath of fresh air, and as an incoming M3 with very little prior clinical experience, the variety of techniques imparted by the doctors was incredibly valuable.

– Jaden Rabind Charles, M3, LKCMedicine (SMA 6th NMSC participant)

one another and building inter-school connections. Many participants expressed that they were glad to have this chance to meet those from the other medical schools, sharing that there were few platforms to get to know these peers who would eventually be their colleagues.

The instructive day rounded off with a dinner and social night, during which a lucky draw was held, with prizes such as an Apple Watch SE, a pair of AirPods (3rd Gen) earpieces and a JBL Clip 5 speaker up for grabs. We would like to thank all participants and guests for making this event fun and memorable, and especially the TriMedSoc Alliance for their hard work in putting together the SMA NMSC 2024. We would also like to congratulate the TriMedSoc Alliance on the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding and wish the Alliance continued success in its mission. ◆

Legend

1. Case study diagnostic images at the radiology masterclass
2. Participants having a lively discussion after a talk by *Medicins Sans Frontieres*
3. Putting new suturing skills into practice
4. The backslab session begins with a hands-on demonstration
5. Group photo of the MedTech workshop participants



We thank the many educators and professionals who made time to share with participants their wisdom.

Prof Benjamin Ong	Dr Huang Juncheng	Dr Bryan Loh	Dr Tan Weichuan
Khym Chan Pei-Jin	Dr Deborah Khoo	Dr Ivan Low Jinrong	Tan Zhi En Winifred
Danny Chang Liang Sheng	Dr Patcharapee Kulteeratawat	Dr Ng Wei Xiang	Dr Coeway Thng
John Chao Yuan Yu	Dr Kwan Yu Heng	Dr Nicholas Png	Dr Jessica Thor
Chen Junjie Chester	Dr Lee Bing Howe	Nicholas Rachmadi	Dr Toh Ying Jie
Dr Chen Qin Ting	Dr Lee Hai Quan	Rayhan Erlangga Rahadian	Dr Joel Wong
Dr Cheong Hui Shyuan	Dr Leong Kwong Fei, Eugene	Nasrul Hadi bin Said	Wong Baoling, Pauline
Peter Choong Sze Mun	Dr Angel Lim	Dr Nicholas Soh	Dr Michael Yam
Dr Ken Chua	Dr Desmond Lim	Dr Charles Stacey	Dr Yap Hong Wan
Jireh Foo	Dr Lim Yi Ting	Nicholas Matthias Tan Zhi Wei	Dr Shaun Yeo

