

TREND SPOTTING:

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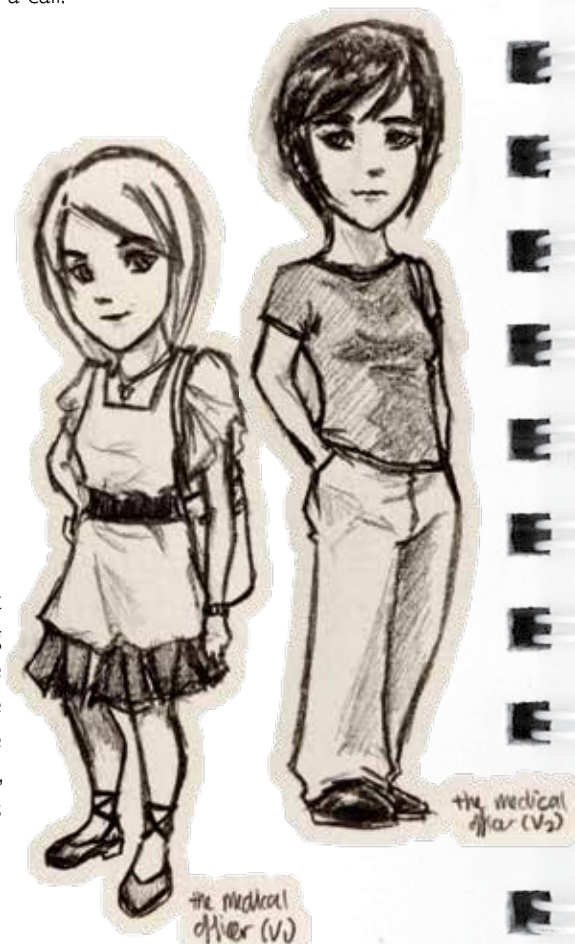
As the year draws to a close, let us look back on 2013's fashion trends through the seasons, adapted to suit the humidity and bustle of the general ward and clinic in Singapore.



Best exemplified by the house officers, Spring was well represented by this youthful troupe fresh out of school in cool cotton dresses and fuss-free two-piece outfits (T-shirts with slacks or skirts), in a variety of youthful shades. They covered the kilometres in a busy hospital daily with feet often comfortably shod in the latest sneakers, colourful ballet flats, or breezy sandals. Bags toted ranged from a small sling bag with just the essentials, to a sizeable satchel with everything needed to survive a call.



This was a time of experimentation and fun, perfectly embodied by our most diverse population of doctors, the medical officers. Looks were more stylised – ranging from hyper-feminine dresses to androgynous shirts and pants, loosely adapted from the latest on *Women's Wear Daily* (<http://www.wwd.com>). This was also the perfect chance to try out fast fashion and accessories. Inexpensive statement jewellery – diamante necklaces, bling rings and oversized watches were not an uncommon sight. Meanwhile, an unobtrusive shoulder bag was du jour. And for footwear, there was a trend towards a gentle heel, or smart court shoes. Or the occasional polka-dotted sneakers.



FASHION IN THE WARDS 2013



One usually associates this period with richer fabrics and deeper tones. And our registrars did not disappoint. Smarter ensembles comprising well-pressed shirts and skirts, often paired with vertiginous heels and leather bags, were status quo. Alternative looks included fitted trousers with twinsets and polished ballet pumps. Accessories were elegant and understated – simple charm bracelets, slim necklaces or wedding bands.



The stately grace of our senior doctors epitomised what one adores most about this season – warmth, cheer and luxury. An increasingly rare sight in the wards, but more frequently spotted in clinics, were the beautifully dressed senior consultants, often in chic blazers and outfits in quietly elegant prints paired with precious jewellery. But their best accessory is still powerful confidence, which takes centre stage and adds a certain je ne sais quoi to any outfit. **SMA**

