

The EDITORS' MUSINGS



Dr Tina Tan

Editor

Dr Tan is a consultant at the Institute of Mental Health and has a special interest in geriatric psychiatry. She is also an alumnus of Duke-NUS Medical School. Between work and family life, she squeezes time out for her favourite pastimes – reading a good (fiction) book and writing.

Did you collect your NDP fun pack? I stashed away the items I found useful, like the masks, thermometer and hand sanitisers, while my kids played with the handheld flag and stick-on tattoos. Call me sentimental, but it's always nice to see Singapore flags everywhere and hear National Day songs, at least for this period of time.

Readers will notice that this issue is a “feel-good” one, with articles that I hope will encourage each of us in our various settings and roles, and also promote a sense of unity among us in the healthcare community. It is truly in such times that we must remember why we are doing the jobs we do, and not let disagreements divide us.

So, how was your National Day?

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has sent shock waves across global markets and plunged the world's economy into a deep recession. Amid these difficult times, it is heart-warming to see Singaporeans from all walks of life stepping up, in one way or another, to help in this crisis. Our healthcare workers have risen to the challenges and I salute their dedication to provide care and comfort tirelessly for all our patients.

In our August issue “Stand Up for Singapore: Defending the Nation's Health”, in line with National Day, we are privileged to have Prof Low Cheng Hock share with us his thoughts on the SARS epidemic, the Courage Fund and the current COVID-19 pandemic.

As the old saying goes, “Health is wealth”. Only when a nation has healthy people can we achieve economic prosperity and happiness, and live to one's fullest potential.

We also hear from COL (Dr) Lo Hong Yee, CPT (Dr) Russell Lim, MAJ (Dr) Teo Kok Ann Colin and CPT (Dr) Tabitha Ang Xue Qi from

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the Singapore Armed Forces on how they battled COVID-19 in their respective front lines.

Dr Sudesna Roy Chowdhury also shares more with us on her online translation portal to help migrant and healthcare workers communicate effectively during consultations. Last but not least, we are grateful to have various doctors share their personal reflections of how the pandemic affected them.

As we celebrate National Day this year, I feel proud to be a Singaporean and for all that Singapore has achieved as a nation. Wishing Singapore a very happy birthday. *Majulah Singapura!* ◀