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VISION
Adding years of healthy life

MISSION
• To be a centre of excellence in providing high-quality, safe and cost-effective dermatological care to the population
• To be a leading centre for education and training in dermatology
• To be a pivotal centre for clinical and translational research
In the setting of an innovative and nurturing environment
BOARD AND KEY COMMITTEES 2018

LEADERSHIP

Mdm Kay Kuok
Chairman, NSC Board
Chairman, National Healthcare Group

Prof Philip Choo
Director, NSC Board
GCEO, National Healthcare Group

[Image of the leadership team]
MEDICAL STAFF COMMITTEE

Standing (top left to right)
Adj Prof Steven Thng
Deputy Head of Medical Education Division, Senior Consultant
Adj A/Prof Chong Wei Sheng
Head of Subspecialty Division 1, Senior Consultant
Adj A/Prof Tey Hong Liang
Head of Research Division, Senior Consultant

Standing in front (left to right)
A/Prof Chua Sze Hon
Deputy Director & Head of Medical Education Division, Senior Consultant
Ms Loo Swee Cheng
General Manager, Ex-Officio
Prof Tan Suat Hoon
Director, Senior Consultant

Absent from photo
Adj A/Prof Lim Yen Loo
Head of Subspecialty Division 2, Senior Consultant
Adj A/Prof Leow Yung Hian
Head of Clinical Governance and Quality, Senior Consultant
Adj A/Prof Martin Chio
Head of Department of Sexually Transmitted Infections Control (DSC) Clinic, Senior Consultant
Prof Leo Yee Sin
Executive Director, National Centre of Infectious Diseases, Senior Consultant
A/Prof Tay Jam Chin
Department of General Medicine, Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Senior Consultant

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Standing (from left to right)
Mr Lee Sau Chuen
Laboratory Manager
Mr Lawrence Quek
Support Services Senior Manager
Ms Theresa Soon
Department of STI Control (DSC) Manager
Mrs Tang Lee Foon
Head of Pharmacy
Ms Brenda Lim
Head of Nursing
Mr Johnny Foo
Clinic Operations Manager

Seated (from left to right)
Mrs Alice Chew
Head of Medical Affairs
Ms Loo Swee Cheng
General Manager
Prof Tan Suat Hoon
Director
Mr Koh Teck Chee
Head of Human Resource
Mr Eric Goh
Quality Manager
A/Prof Chua Sze Hon
Deputy Director
2018 was a very special year for National Skin Centre (NSC) as we celebrated our 30th Anniversary, a key milestone for us as the National Specialty Centre for Dermatology in Singapore since we opened our doors to serve the public in November 1988. Behind our achievements as the national centre in providing clinical services for skin diseases, leading in education and research capabilities, it has been the dedication and passion of our people and staff that have made it possible, many of whom have spent the greater part of their working lives from the Middle Road Hospital to NSC. To chronicle the growth and development of Dermatology services as a specialty centre in Singapore, we launched a commemorative book titled, Dermatology in Singapore, at the Singapore Health and Biomedical Congress in October 2018.

As we prepare ourselves for a new and bigger centre by 2022, the groundbreaking ceremony in April 2018 was graced by Senior Minister of State for Health Dr Amy Khor. It was a befitting occasion to kick off our 30th Anniversary celebrations for the year as we announced the exciting vision of a new medical facility, which will offer enhanced capacity and capabilities for more comprehensive subspecialty services, as well as holistic care that is well-supported by an efficient and seamless physical infrastructure within the Health City @ Novena.

Patients with complex skin diseases will benefit from NSC’s team-based clinical care, comprising dermatologists, nurses and allied health staff. The new NSC’s enhanced research and education facility will spearhead clinical innovations in dermatology and train more dermatologists and healthcare professionals. The expanded facilities will make way for the projected increment in medical student intake from affiliated medical schools, namely Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University Singapore, Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, Nanyang Technological University and Duke-National University Singapore.

Accessibility to dermatological care in the community has been increased, from right-siting patients through our General Practitioner (GP) partners and Tele-DERM at polyclinics, to public forums organised by NSC for raising more awareness on the importance of good skin care. This will go a long way in fostering a culture of self-care through self-management of their condition, empowering patients and their caregivers to take charge of their health within the community.

As an extension of care, the Pharmacist Eczema Clinic service was launched in August 2018, providing adult patients with stable mild eczema the option to be referred to this clinic for step down care. This quality improvement initiative can improve patient satisfaction with the interaction enhancing medication adherence. As part of enhancing community care and continuing professional nursing education, NSC’s nurses continue to trailblaze dermatological care by training nurses, healthcare providers and the Intermediate and Long-Term Care Setting (ILTC) to increase capabilities in the management of dermatological conditions within the community.

One of NSC’s endeavours is to bring specialist care closer to the community, by upskilling and training the primary care practitioners. Our primary care partners, Family Physicians and GPs are important stakeholders critical to the management of skin conditions for the nation. In October 2018, NSC hosted the Dermatology and Venereology Update conference, providing updates on approaches to clinical problems, future directions in dermatology and venereology to hone the expertise of dermatology specialists, trainees and GPs.

Research is key in driving care innovation through positive translational research outcomes. The microneedles patch for keloids is a transformative treatment procedure that
will benefit patients with keloid conditions, as suitable patients can opt for this painless treatment in the comfort of their own homes. Currently, NSC manages more than 5,000 keloid cases a year.

As a nod to care innovation, Tele-DERM, the e-consultation platform clinched the Excellence Award under the Cost Reduction category in the Asian Hospital Management Awards in Bangkok, Thailand. This accolade is a testament to dermatological excellence at NSC, and the achievement would not have been possible without the invaluable dedication of our staff.

In conjunction with our 30th Anniversary, community outreach efforts were increased through a series of volunteering and fundraising activities for the beneficiary, Ang Mo Kio Family Service Centre (AMKFSC). These included a health fair at Yio Chu Kang Community Club in collaboration with NHGP in April 2018, and a charity walk – Walk-Together, held at Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park in September 2018 that was graced by Guest-of-Honour, Speaker of Parliament Mr Tan Chuan-Jin.

NSC will continue to break new ground towards providing holistic dermatological care for our patients and bringing skin knowledge to the community. We look forward to more partnerships with other healthcare providers and community partners to raise awareness on skin health, as well as early interventions that reduce the risk of skin diseases.

I am grateful to all who have advanced dermatological care over the last three decades and we can only grow stronger as NSC strides forward in the next lap to provide high quality and safe care for the nation.

Together, we continue to pursue excellence in dermatological care.
As Singapore’s healthcare landscape evolves, ensuring the health of the nation requires care to be more integrated and collaborative, expanding networks into the community. NSC continues to strive for dermatological excellence and value-add to patients’ well-being through enhanced care delivery and innovation.

### Patient Care at a Glance

**Patient Attendances (FY2018)**

- **New**: 44,649
- **Repeat**: 138,306
- **Total**: 182,955

#### Breakdown of Patient Attendances — Top 10 Diseases Seen in 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISEASE</th>
<th>FY2016</th>
<th>FY2017</th>
<th>FY2018</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dermatitis</td>
<td>18,775</td>
<td>18,039</td>
<td>15,846</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benign Skin Tumours</td>
<td>7,322</td>
<td>6,804</td>
<td>6,393</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acne</td>
<td>5,786</td>
<td>5,433</td>
<td>4,623</td>
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<tr>
<td>Viral Skin Infections</td>
<td>4,353</td>
<td>4,057</td>
<td>3,626</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pigmentary Disorders</td>
<td>3,798</td>
<td>3,604</td>
<td>3,151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hair Disorders</td>
<td>3,020</td>
<td>2,792</td>
<td>2,611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urticaria</td>
<td>2,787</td>
<td>2,522</td>
<td>2,352</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fungal Skin Infections</td>
<td>2,586</td>
<td>2,442</td>
<td>2,078</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naevi</td>
<td>1,783</td>
<td>1,756</td>
<td>1,698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psoriasis</td>
<td>1,627</td>
<td>1,462</td>
<td>1,665</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total number of procedures performed by nurses**: 295,256
A Nod to Care Delivery Excellence

NSC’s Tele-Dermatology received regional recognition at the Asian Hospital Management Awards 2018 when our submission titled “Tele-Dermatology Collaboration to Improve Patients’ Care in Psychiatric Hospital” clinched the Excellence Award in the Cost Reduction category.

Piloted by NSC at Hougang Polyclinic in 2016, Tele-Dermatology is an e-consult service that enables NHGP family doctors to discuss dermatological cases and treatment options with NSC specialists in a convenient and prompt manner. The service has been scaled up to the Institute of Mental Health, allowing for the collaboration between psychiatrists and dermatologists to provide holistic care that complements mental and dermatological care for psychiatric inpatients. By reducing cost and waiting time for patients, Tele-Dermatology benefits both the public and medical sector with care integration at system-level.

Enhanced Capacity with Dermatology Ward in New NCID Facility

Patients who suffer from severe eczema, psoriasis or immunoderm concerns may need to be warded for inpatient care and intensive topical therapy. This is especially important for patients whose conditions need to be controlled with initiation of immunosuppressive therapy, biologic therapy or require intensive skin treatment of wounds by multidisciplinary dedicated teams.

The opening of the new dermatology ward in the National Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCID) marks the transition from the dermatology ward in Communicable Disease Centre’s (CDC) Ward 72, where inpatients were previously hospitalised since NSC started its operations in 1988.

In December 2018, we bade farewell to the CDC ward and moved to NCID, located next to Tan Tock Seng Hospital. With an increased capacity of 20 beds, dermatology inpatients can now receive higher levels of care and improved facilities.
Eczema Support Group

As part of public education, NSC’s Eczema Public Forum organised by the Eczema Support Group saw a huge turnout and a significant increase in membership for the Eczema Support Group, with over 40 participants signing up as new members.

Held at Raffles City Convention Centre on 27 October 2018, participants spent an insightful afternoon learning more about eczema, while new Eczema Support Group members shared their stories on living with the skin condition.

The Eczema Support Group also provided ongoing support for members which included educational talks and care management tips by Dr Eugene Tan, Consultant, Dr Yew Yik Weng, Consultant, Dr Madeline Ho.

Nurses in Community Care

As part of NSC’s ongoing efforts to enhance community care, NSC’s Nursing Department continues to collaborate with community partners on educating and equipping them with expertise for care continuity. NSC nurses also play an active role in public education, creating more awareness in the community on the care and management of dermatological conditions.

Collaborations with Nursing Homes

• Apex Harmony Lodge
• Bright Hill Evergreen Home
• Institute of Mental Health (IMH)
• Lions Homes for the Elders (Bedok)
• Lions Homes for the Elders (Bishan)
• St Andrew’s Nursing Home

Partnered the Singapore Nurses Association to support ongoing Toa Payoh West Community Club-organised events:

• Monthly outreach (January to May 2018) providing nail-cutting and skin education services to seniors living in rental apartments at Toa Payoh West
• Art painting and health screening for senior citizens on 5 May 2018

NSC doctors and nurses supported the World Psoriasis Day event on 28 October 2018 to raise public awareness on Psoriasis.

Transitional Care for Patients
Pharmacist Eczema Clinic

To provide more accessible care for the convenience of patients, the Pharmacist Eczema Clinic service was launched on August 2018. Adult patients with stable mild eczema who are ready for step down care have an option to be seen at this clinic by pharmacists, when assessed to be suitable by the dermatologists.

Trained pharmacists are on hand to provide clinic consultation to optimise disease management through titration of topical corticosteroids, oral antihistamines and other topical preparations. Through this team-based approach, pharmacists will play an impactful role in improving patient outcomes and enhancing medication adherence.

Sister Wong Bee Yin, Senior Nurse Educator, sharing on skin conditions.

NSC pharmacist providing counsel to patient.
Going Beyond Care

The Department of STI Control launched the Psychotherapy Counselling Services in July 2018, offering professional sexual health counselling by a psychotherapist as part of DSC’s ongoing efforts to expand services and promote sexual health among patients. The psychotherapist provides in-depth counselling and therapy aimed at promoting safe and healthy sexuality.

Counselling topics include:
• Relationship issues with partner
• Coping with life stressors and transitions
• Coping after a Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) diagnosis
• Discussing risk-taking behaviours such as drug use and unprotected sex
• Exploring gender-specific sexual issues
• Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ)-specific issues, etc.

A few sessions with the psychotherapist can help patients gain clarity and work through the issues that affect them. All sessions are fully non-judgmental and supportive.

Care Improvement for Patient Safety

The Clinical Practice Improvement Programme (CPIP) aims to enhance care and patient safety through active review of workflows. Using quality improvement tools from the CPIP, a team of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, as well as a doctor, reviewed the process steps for dispensing and patient administration, successfully implementing interventions, which reduced the number of Prednisolone-related dispensing and administration errors to zero within six months.

Prednisolone, an oral corticosteroid, is typically prescribed in a tapering/reducing regimen over a few days or weeks, to prevent withdrawal symptoms from abrupt discontinuation of the drug. Prednisolone tapering dosing error is one of the most common medication errors reported in pharmacy. This quality improvement initiative demonstrates the commitment to care that underpins NSC’s interprofessional, multidisciplinary care delivery.

Nursing Care Transformation

The NSC Dermatological Nursing Competency Framework serves as a training guide for nurses, to upgrade their skills and promote lifelong learning. Through this framework, nurses are responsible for their individual skills upgrading and career planning to excel as a professional dermatological nurse. NSC nurses trained 1,086 Intermediate and Long-term Care (ILTC) nurses on dermatological care practices to enhance patient skin treatments and care. Nurse-led services in Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI), Warts, MMR Injections, Paediatric and Surgical Reviews have also substituted the demand for medical physicians to perform reviews of stable patients, resulting in shorter waiting time at clinics.
ADVANCING RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

As a pivotal centre for clinical and translational research, NSC strives to improve dermatological treatment through advancing research and care innovation.

Global Translational Impact: Dissolving Microneedles for the Treatment of Keloids

Keloid scars can be unsightly, painful and itchy. A large keloid in the skin over a joint may even interfere with joint function. NSC patients with keloid scars, who are not able to tolerate conventional treatment, now have the option of a painless treatment. Under the Transition Award funding from the Singapore National Medical Research Council conferred on Adj A/Prof Tey Hong Liang, Senior Consultant, Adj A/Prof Tey, together with researchers from NSC, developed an innovative method that uses dissolving microneedles — each about 100 times smaller than the needle used for conventional keloid injections — to administer the medication, triamcinolone, onto the affected area without pain. The triamcinolone-embedded dissolving microneedle patch is a world-first.

NSC manages more than 5,000 keloid cases a year. Patients who wish to shrink their keloid scars make monthly visits to NSC for triamcinolone injections, which require regular doses for the treatment to be effective. However, this treatment is painful and deters some patients, particularly children, who are unable to withstand the pain of injections. The novel dissolving microneedle patch now addresses this unmet clinical need.

In the clinical trial, patients self-administered the triamcinolone-embedded dissolving microneedle patch to one of their keloids daily for four weeks, with another keloid left untreated to function as a control. Using a
3D scanner to assess keloid volume, the team found a significant reduction in the size of keloids after treatment, with higher doses of triamcinolone leading to greater reduction. The study has been published in *Dermatology and Therapy, a Springer Nature* journal.

Designed for one-time use, the dissolving microneedle patch takes mere minutes to apply and can be self-administered by patients at home. This saves patients the time and cost of travelling to NSC to undergo keloid injections by the healthcare team. The self-management nature of this treatment also means that patients are able to treat their keloid scars effectively and conveniently, even while overseas.

### Milestone Research Studies

2018 saw a plethora of research undertaken at NSC to improve care. The following are key research studies that can transform care for dermatological conditions:

- **The Social and Economic Burden of Atopic Dermatitis Among Children in Singapore — Establishing a Longitudinal Study Cohort (Dr Yew Yik Weng and Team)**

  Funded by A*STAR-NHG-NTU Skin Research Grant, this study aimed to measure the burden that paediatric Atopic Dermatitis (AD) places on patients and their families. Factors taken into account are the health-related quality of life (HRQoL), utilisation of healthcare services, informal caregiving and the relevant out-of-pocket expenses. Findings of this study will provide better insights into how the condition negatively affects the patient and caregiver, as well as a glimpse into the possible financial burden imposed.

- **The Role of Cellular Senescence in Age-Related Hair Depigmentation (Dr Joyce Lee and Team)**

  Senescent cells may contribute to the disease etiology of premature ageing syndromes such as Werner syndrome or Hutchinson-Gilford Progeria as they accumulate prematurely in afflicted tissues. This study is carried out to determine how cell ageing impairs the functionality (pigment production and transfer) of human cells, and explain what triggers the ageing process. Positive results and data have been obtained, and future studies aim to include additional variables to strengthen these results. This study was funded by A*STAR-NHG-NTU Skin Research Grant.

- **Raman Confocal Microscopy and High-Resolution Raster Scanning Optoacoustic Mesoscopy in Patients with Atopic Dermatitis (Dr Yew Yik Weng and Team)**

  This study is carried out to find out if two systems — the Raster-Scanning-Optoacoustic-Mesoscopy (RSOM) and handheld confocal raman system — are useful in determining the chemical changes in the skin of patients with Atopic Dermatitis (AD), and whether that correlates well with skin physiology measurements. The RSOM is a non-invasive method of imaging that makes use of a laser and detection system to create an image of the superficial blood vessels of the skin. The confocal raman system is a high-resolution imaging technique which can look non-invasively at the chemical compounds and distribution in the skin. Success of this pilot study can pave the way for characterising and managing AD, providing a deeper understanding of the condition in ways current dermatological imaging techniques are unable to. This study is done in collaboration with Singapore Bioimaging Consortium (SBIC), Biomedical Sciences Institutes.
Validation of an Algorithm that Automatically Segment and Calculate the Area Affected by Vitiligo on the Trunk of Patients for Assessment of Extent of Disease and Response to Treatment in Patients with Vitiligo (Dr Anjali Jhingan and Team)

Current treatments available for vitiligo are limited by intra-observer and inter-observer variability. Funded by NHG Small Innovative Grant (SIG), this study seeks to develop and validate a scoring system using computer image analysis of photographs from the body trunk area to enable clinicians to standardise vitiligo severity and treatment outcome measurements in an easy and reproducible manner. Subsequent findings demonstrated efficiency of the automated scoring system, enabling a novel approach that is consistent and reliable. The algorithm is an efficient tool in standardising severity scoring for clinical practice.

Collaboration with International Research Partners

Scientists and clinicians from Singapore institutes, namely NSC, Skin Research Institute Singapore (SRIS) and A*STAR, are collaborating with C&C Research Laboratories to research on new mechanistic pathways and drug discovery for chronic inflammatory skin diseases. NSC is supporting the efforts with clinical expertise and well-characterised cohorts of patients with skin disorders. Moderate to severe Atopic Dermatitis (AD) patients are recruited into the study to evaluate their immunophenotypic profile in serum and skin biopsies. In addition, information on detailed AD clinical characteristics and skin physiological measurements are collected in the study, and will go a long way for the development of possible enhanced therapeutics.

Research Accolades

NSC doctors, along with a student, clinched four awards in the scientific competition at the Singapore Health & Biomedical Congress 2018, graced by Mr Gan Kim Yong, Minister for Health. Dr Kenneth Fong, Senior Resident and team won Best Poster Award (Gold) for their work on assessing how MMP14 may affect the pathogenesis of acne vulgaris. Dr Cao Taige, Senior Resident, clinched the Singapore Young Investigator Award (Merit) for his study on the pathophysiology of itch in Atopic Dermatitis.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Category</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title of study</th>
<th>Results</th>
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<tr>
<td>SHBC Best Poster Award — Basic Science/Translational Research</td>
<td>Dr Kenneth Fong</td>
<td>Assessing the Role of MMP14 in the Pathogenesis of Acne Vulgaris Using Sebocyte Organoid Models</td>
<td>GOLD</td>
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<tr>
<td>SHBC Singapore Young Investigator Award Basic Science/Translational Research</td>
<td>Dr Cao Taige</td>
<td>Pathophysiology of Itch in Atopic Dermatitis: A 3-Dimensional Study of IL-31 and its Receptors and Cutaneous Innervation</td>
<td>MERIT</td>
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<td>SHBC Student Award</td>
<td>Ms Claudia Koh Tze Min, Adj A/Prof Tey Hong Liang</td>
<td>Serum Carcinoembryonic Antigen as a Clinical Marker in Hypohydrosis</td>
<td>BRONZE</td>
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<td>IJDVL International Award</td>
<td>Dr Cao Taige, Dr Eugene Tan Sern Ting, Adj A/Prof Tey Hong Liang</td>
<td>Anti-Pruritic Efficacies of Doxycycline and Erythromycin in the Treatment of Acne Vulgaris: A Randomized Single-Blinded Pilot Study</td>
<td>BEST LETTER TO EDITOR 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Research and Development
Immunology Lab

**Project title:** Prospective Study on Serum Antibodies Against Target Antigens of Bullous Autoimmune Diseases and Genetic Susceptibility

**Project period:** 2017-2019

The objective of this project is to compare current Indirect Immunofluorescence method of testing patients with autoimmune blistering diseases using an innovative biochip. The biochip is potentially a more efficient method and thus accelerates the diagnosis of such patients.
Research Report

Only through research and innovation can NSC push the frontiers of skin health by translating scientific knowledge and research findings into innovative solutions for patients.

In 2018, there were a total of 105 ongoing research projects, including 21 new studies initiated in the same year. Key milestones included the introduction of a novel treatment (Keloid Micro-dissolving Needles Patch) and the commercialisation of our products by partners to enhance care.

Research Publications in FY2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Journal/Publication</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Tale of Two “Half Tongues”</td>
<td>Kok Wai Leong, Tey Hong Liang and Lucinda Tan SY</td>
<td>Journal of the German Society of Dermatology 2018 Apr;16(4):485-486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Case Report of Granulomatous Rosacea of the Face</td>
<td>Kok Wai Leong, Hazel Oon HB and Giam Yoke Chin</td>
<td>Singapore Medical Journal 2018 Apr;59(4):228-229</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pemphigus Herpetiformis with Autoantibodies to Desmocollins 1, 2 and 3</td>
<td>Evelyn Tay YX, Joyce Lee SS and Lim Yen Loo</td>
<td>Clinical and Experimental Dermatology 2018 Apr;43(3):360-362</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metal Allergy in Asia</td>
<td>Anthony Goon TJ, Chen J and Thyseen J</td>
<td>Springer Link 2018 Apr 14;515-520</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multiple Papules on the Penis: Challenge</td>
<td>Kok Wai Leong, Stephanie Ho GY and Tee Shang-lan</td>
<td>The American Journal of Dermatopathology 2018 May;40(5):e62-e63</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Effectiveness of a Pharmacist-Led Sun Protection Counselling Service: Results from a Tertiary Dermatology Centre in Singapore</td>
<td>Lee Shan Xian, Chong Wei Sheng, Lauw Xiu Ting, Tan Siew Kiang and Hazel Oon HB</td>
<td>Annals Academy of Medicine 2018 May;47(5):196-200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optimising the Use of Topical Retinoids in Asian Acne Patients</td>
<td>See Jo-Ann, Goh Chee Leok, Hayashi Nobukazu, Suh Dae Hun and Casintahan FA</td>
<td>Journal of Dermatology 2018 May;45(5):522-528</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atorvastatin in Combination with Narrowband UV-B in Adult Patients with Active Vitiligo: A Randomized Clinical Trial</td>
<td>Sophie Nguyen, Chuah Sai Yee, Eric Fontas, Abdallah Khemis, Anjali Jhingan, Steven Thng TG and Thierry Passeron</td>
<td>JAMA Dermatology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Abstinence and Safer Sex Intervention for Adolescents Attending the Public Sexually Transmitted Infection Clinic in Singapore</td>
<td>Junice Ng YS, Roy Chan KW, Martin Chio TW, Raymond Lim BT, David Koh and Wong Mee Lian</td>
<td>Journal of Adolescent Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classification of Non-Tumorous Skin Pigmentation Disorders Using Voting Based Probabilistic Linear Discriminant Analysis</td>
<td>Liang Yunfeng, Sun Lei, Ser Wee, Lin Feng, Steven Thng TG, Chen Qiping and Lin Zhiping</td>
<td>Computers in Biology and Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Association between Quality of Life and Self-Care in Singaporeans Living with Psoriasis</td>
<td>Ryan Chua RY, Jacqueline Cleator, Malcom Campbell and Brenda Lim</td>
<td>Dermatological Nursing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chronic Pruritus in the Geriatric Population</td>
<td>Cao Taige, Tey Hong Liang and Yosipovitch Gil</td>
<td>Dermatologic Clinics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recalcitrant Psoriasiform Dermatosis of the Face: Is It Related to Pityriasis Rubra Pilaris?</td>
<td>Emily Gan YP, Ng See Ket, Goh Chee Leok and Joyce Lee SS</td>
<td>Journal of Cutaneous Pathology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approach to Pigmented Skin Disorders in Children</td>
<td>Giam Yoke Chin</td>
<td>Hong Kong Journal of Dermatology &amp; Venereology</td>
</tr>
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</table>
# Research publications in FY2018

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<tr>
<td>Delusion of Parasitosis: A Descriptive Analysis of 88 Patients at a Tertiary Skin Centre</td>
<td>Su Peiqi, Teo Wan Lin, Pan Jiun Yit, Chan Keen Loong, Tei Hong Liang and Giam Yoke Chin</td>
<td>Annals Academy of Medicine Singapore</td>
<td>2018 Jul;47(7):266-268</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unusual Cutaneous Manifestation of Dermatomyositis</td>
<td>Agnes Chan WS, Joyce Lee SS, Ng See Ket and Hazel Oon HB</td>
<td>Australasian Journal of Dermatology</td>
<td>2018 Aug;59(3):e228-e230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Population-Based Cohort Study of Atopic Eczema Among Young Adult Males in Singapore</td>
<td>Kok Wai Leong, Yew Yik Weng and Steven Thng TG</td>
<td>International Journal of Dermatology</td>
<td>2018 Aug;57(8):e52-e54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of Silicone Gel to Enhance Skin Wound Healing by Secondary Intention Following Tumour Excision on the Scalp and Extremities</td>
<td>Angeline Yong AN and Goh Chee Leok</td>
<td>Clinical and Experimental Dermatology</td>
<td>2018 Aug;43(6):723-725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blistering Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis</td>
<td>Melissa Chan MH, Daryl Tan JA, Mark Koh JA and Lucinda Tan SY</td>
<td>Lancet Oncology</td>
<td>2018 Sep;19(9):e500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nanostring Analysis of Skin Biopsies from Patients with Henoch-Schönlein Purpura Reveals Genes Associated with Pathology and Heterogeneity in the Disease Process</td>
<td>Tan Yingrou, Jackson Li LY, Bernett Lee TK, Josephine Lum, Dwi Pramono ZA, Evrard Maximilien, Poidinger Michael, Tei Hong Liang and Ng Lai Guan</td>
<td>Acta Dermato Venereologica</td>
<td>2018 Oct 10:98(9):896-897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Polymorphous Rash of an Uncommon Blistering Disease</td>
<td>Tan Chee Hian, Kuan LY, Heng Yee Kiat Pan Jiun Yit, Tee Shang Ian, Lim Yen Loo and Tan LS</td>
<td>Clinical and Experimental Dermatology</td>
<td>2018 Oct;43(7):839-842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Retrospective Clinico-Pathological Study Comparing Lichen Planus Pigmentosus with Ashy Dermatosis</td>
<td>Cheng Hui Mei, Chuah Sai Yee, Emily Gan YP, Anjali Jhingan and Steven Thng TG</td>
<td>Australasian Journal of Dermatology</td>
<td>2018 Nov;59(4):322-327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Authors</td>
<td>Journal</td>
<td>Volume/Issue/Year/DOI</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Melanogenesis Inhibitors</td>
<td>Sulekha Kumari, Steven Thng TG, Navin Kumar Verma and Hemant K. Gautam</td>
<td>Acta Dermato Venereologica</td>
<td>2018 Nov 5;98(10):924-931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychological Profile of Patients with Psoriasis</td>
<td>Derek Lim SY, Anthony Bewley and Hazel Oon HH</td>
<td>Ann Acad Med Singapore</td>
<td>2018 Dec;47(12):516-522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunburns and Sun-Protective Behaviors After a Diagnosis of Melanoma</td>
<td>Lai Yi Chun and Yew Yik Weng</td>
<td>Skinmed</td>
<td>2018 Dec 21;16(6):379-383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serum Carcinoembryonic Antigen as a Clinical Marker in Hypohidrosis</td>
<td>Claudia Koh TM, Douglas Leong Y and Trong Hiong Liang</td>
<td>International Journal of Dermatology</td>
<td>2018 Dec;57(12):e162-e164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact of a Pharmacy-Led Smoking Cessation Clinic in a Dermatology Centre</td>
<td>Cheng Hui Mei, Coni Liu WC, Germaine Chua, Liew Choon Fong, Winnie Li, Winnie Choo and Hazel Oon HB</td>
<td>Singapore Medical Journal</td>
<td>2019 Jan;60(1):31-33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acitretin-Altered Squamous Cell Carcinoma: A Pitfall in Diagnosis</td>
<td>Koh Wei Liang, Hazel Oon HB and Melissa Tan WP</td>
<td>Dermatologic Surgery</td>
<td>2019 Feb;45(2):311-313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overexpression of CDC42SE1 in A431 Cells Reduced Cell Proliferation by Inhibiting the Akt Pathway</td>
<td>P Kalalingam, Tan Hui Bing, Pan Jiong Yit, Tan Suat Hoon and T Thanabaloo</td>
<td>Cells</td>
<td>2019 Feb;8(2):117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idiopathic Generalized Exfoliative Dermatitis and Association with Antihypertensive Drugs and Statins: A Retrospective Case-Control Study</td>
<td>Cheong Kah Wai, Yew Yik Weng and Tey Hong Liang</td>
<td>Dermatology</td>
<td>2019 Feb;235(2):107-111</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Research Grants

Research is the key to clinical innovation and advancement. Collaboration and support from partners catalyses NSC’s translational research, bringing it closer from bench-to-bedside to improve patients’ lives.

In FY2018, the following new inter-institutional and national grants were accorded to NSC:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Principle Investigator</th>
<th>Collaborating Institutes</th>
<th>Name of Grant</th>
<th>Amount Awarded</th>
<th>Grant Period</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Characterisation of Adult Atopic Dermatitis in Singapore using a Longitudinal Case Cohort</td>
<td>Dr Yew Yik Weng</td>
<td>LKC School of Medicine</td>
<td>Health for Life in Singapore-Early Disease Cohort (HELIOS-EDC) Studies Research Grant Award</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>2 Aug 2018 – 1 Aug 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Role of Macrophages in Human Hair Cycling and Alopecia</td>
<td>Dr Etienne Wang SRIS</td>
<td>SRIS</td>
<td>FY2018 NHG-LKCMedicine Clinician-Scientist Career Scheme (CSCS)</td>
<td>$180,000 and 0.4FTE funding</td>
<td>15 Feb 2019 – 14 Feb 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Role of Asporin in the Tumour Microenvironment of Basal Cell Carcinoma</td>
<td>Dr Wong Yisheng A*STAR and Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine</td>
<td>FY2018 NHG-LKCMedicine Clinician-Scientist Preparatory Programme (CSPP)</td>
<td>$9,000 (Project) + $2,000 (Training)</td>
<td>1 Jul 2018 – 30 Jun 2019</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elucidation of Histopathologic and Immunopathologic Differences between Intrinsic and Extrinsic Atopic Dermatitis using Multimodal Skin Imaging</td>
<td>Dr Cheng Hui Mei A*STAR and Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine</td>
<td>FY2018 NHG-LKCMedicine Clinician-Scientist Preparatory Programme (CSPP)</td>
<td>$8,990 (Project) + $2,000 (Training)</td>
<td>1 Jul 2018 – 30 Jun 2020</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Testing the Efficacy of Yolk Lecithin Liposome-Based Moisturizer in Alleviating Atopic Dermatitis</td>
<td>Dr Hazel Oon A*STAR, IMB</td>
<td>Skin Innovation Grant (SIG)</td>
<td>$49,908</td>
<td>1 Oct 2018 – 30 Sep 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three-Dimensional Representation of Skin Structure</td>
<td>Adj A/Prof Tey Hong Liang A*STAR</td>
<td>NHIC Innovation to Protect (I2P)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Targeting of Melanocytes for Delivering Therapeutics Using Protein Nanocages Decorated with Multiple Ligands</td>
<td>Adj Prof Steven Thng Tien Guan NTU</td>
<td>NHIC Innovation to Protect (I2P)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A*STAR: Agency for Science and Technology, SRIS: Skin Research Institute of Singapore, NTU: Nanyang Technological University, IMB: Institute of Medical Biology and CGH: Changi General Hospital
**Laboratory Report**

Summary of laboratory investigations (Microbiology, Histopathology, Immunology, Biochemistry, Haematology and others) conducted:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF INVESTIGATIONS</th>
<th>FY2016</th>
<th>FY2017</th>
<th>FY2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MICROBIOLOGY</td>
<td>40,818</td>
<td>40,103</td>
<td>39,433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HISTOPATHOLOGY</td>
<td>133,366</td>
<td>136,584</td>
<td>143,060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMMUNOLOGY</td>
<td>130,274</td>
<td>127,540</td>
<td>127,952</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOCHEMISTRY</td>
<td>69,365</td>
<td>68,579</td>
<td>69,798</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAEMATOLOGY</td>
<td>52,360</td>
<td>47,967</td>
<td>46,280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHERS</td>
<td>1,983</td>
<td>1,997</td>
<td>2,230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>428,166</td>
<td>422,770</td>
<td>428,753</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Highlights from the Lab**

**Quality Benchmarks**

To improve quality standards at the Immunology Lab, NSC has subscribed to UK NEQAS under the Mohs Procedure Pathology Programme, held six times a year. Submission of stained Haematoxylin and Eosin frozen Mohs sections include specimens from cutaneous, mucosal, cartilaginous and hair-bearing areas. Various quality standards are assessed, including the presence of tumour within the specimen, and extent of margin clearance.

**Improved Facilities and Equipment**

The Histopathology Lab acquired a new automated special stainer for the running of histochemical stains. This has improved the quality of staining, contributed to a more efficient workflow, and improved the overall quality of the dermatopathology service.

**Education and Training**

To provide educational and training opportunities to non-laboratory staff, NSC hosted Micrographic Surgery practical attachments for nurses of NSC’s Advanced Dermatology Nursing Course to harness knowledge on surgical techniques. Practical attachments to learn techniques in skin scraping are also offered to staff from the Institute of Mental Health at the clinical laboratory.
As an integrated hub, NSC will operate in an optimal environment that galvanises educators and students in learning, as well as supports and advances clinical research. It will be a place to engage the community, whether in skin health promotion or for the community to be trained in self-care.

Professor Tan Suat Hoon, Director, National Skin Centre

Corporate Social Responsibility Activities with AMKFSC

Going back to the community has been a key focus at NSC over the years. To celebrate its 40th anniversary, NSC collaborated with Ang Mo Kio Family Service Centre (AMKFSC), which was coincidentally celebrating their 40th anniversary to give back to the community through a series of volunteering and fundraising activities.

Health-Fair

A new chapter beckons for NSC with the groundbreaking ceremony for the new building on 18 April 2018. Graced by Dr Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State for Health, the ceremony marked the redevelopment of the Singapore Health & Biomedical Congress (SHBC), which had a record attendance of more than 2,500 delegates from 10 countries. A new milestone coinciding with NSC’s 30th years, the event will enable NSC to provide seamless access to specialised dermatological care and wellness for skin health.

By 2022, NSC will be able to provide seamless access to specialised dermatological care and wellness for skin health.

As an integrated hub, NSC will operate in an optimal environment that galvanises educators and students in learning, as well as supports and advances clinical research. It will be a place to engage the community, whether in skin health promotion or for the community to be trained in self-care.

Groundbreaking Ceremony

A new chapter beckons for NSC with the groundbreaking ceremony for the new building on 18 April 2018. Graced by Dr Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State for Health, the ceremony marked the redevelopment and expansion of the NSC building — a key focus at NSC over the years.

Highlights include the inaugural Residents’ Challenge Shield, which saw two teams of junior doctors pitting their skills against each other and two raffles dedicated for pharmaceuticals and nurses, congruent with the move towards team-based care for chronic skin diseases.
To continue providing high standards of dermatological care, education is a key thrust for continuity and renewal. With an eye on nurturing the next generation of dermatologists and staff, NSC continues to provide rigorous training to provide better dermatological care for the nation.

World Psoriasis Day
NSC, together with the Psoriasis Association of Singapore, organised the World Psoriasis Day outreach event on 20 October 2018 at the Bedok Central event hall with an attendance of more than 500 participants. Dr Colin Theng, NSC Visiting Consultant and President of the Psoriasis Association of Singapore, engaged the crowd with an informative talk on the condition, projecting how new treatments can progressively improve the lives of psoriasis patients.

Eczema Public Forum 2018
Organised as part of a series of events to commemorate NSC’s 30th Anniversary, the Eczema Public Forum 2018 saw a strong turnout of more than 320 participants who learnt more about managing the condition and understanding the common misconceptions. The event also marked the launch of NSC’s first mobile application (app) on eczema management — Taggle Eczema. Jointly developed with the community health gaming platform, the Taggle app epitomises person-centred care, allowing patients to self-monitor their skin condition and obtain daily updates and advice. Through an in-built algorithm devised by NSC doctors, the app gives recommendations based on users’ upload data. The Taggle app also provides doctors with insights on patient behaviour so that they may adjust their medications where required.

Singapore AIDS Conference 2018
Co-organised with Action for AIDS (AHA) and NCID, the 11th Singapore AIDS Conference was held on 8 December 2018. This year’s theme was “The Beginning of The End”, which encompassed all aspects of HIV addressing issues in HIV care and response spectrum. Dr Benson Yeo, Consultant, presented the findings of the PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) study while Dr Ellen Chan, Consultant, introduced the hidden populations for the HIV Blueprint in Singapore. NSC nurses showed their support through activities such as first aid and skin care education, along with counselling services and balloon sculpting. The audience was treated to enthralling music and dance performances, which included a rousing rendition of a popular musical by Dr Etienne Wang, Consultant.
Continuing Professional Education for Better Care

**NSC GP Seminar 2018**

NSC held its seminar for General Practitioners on 23 June 2018, with over 60 GPs and staff in attendance. Focusing on Paediatric Dermatology, the line-up of speakers included Dr Madeline Ho, Senior Consultant and Chairperson of the Seminar — Dr Suzanne Cheng, Senior Consultant, Dr Lucinda Tan, Consultant, Dr Su Peiqi, Consultant and Senior Nurse Felicia Tan. The wide range of topics covered included *Approach to Itchy Skin Conditions in Childhood, Birthmarks* as well as *Talk and Demo on Wet Wraps*, among others.

![Dr Suzanne Cheng, Senior Consultant, speaking at the GP Seminar 2018.](image)

**Dermatology Bulletin**

NSC’s Dermatology Bulletin Vol 29, published in May 2018, covered the theme of STI. Titled *Focusing on Sexually Transmitted Infections*, the bulletin comprised of topics that included:

- STI Prevention & Control: Revisiting Principles, Testing, New Ideas
- Molecular HPV Testing — A New Paradigm in Cervical Cancer Screening
- Sexually Transmitted Infections in At-Risk Populations
- The Evolution of Educational Materials at the DSC Clinic
- STIs and Adolescents
- Project Streetwalker & Project Entertainment Workers
- Unusual Clinical Presentation of Secondary Syphilis — A Report of Two Cases
- Self-Collected Rectal Swabs: Empowering Asymptomatic Male Patients at the DSC Clinic
- The Human Papillomavirus Vaccines

**Team-Based Learning for Derm GPs**

Launched in October 2018, DSC embarked on a team-based learning programme to enhance continuing education for GPs with minimal disruptions to clinic operations and patient care process. The GPs, engaged through a series of briefings and case studies conducted by the multidisciplinary team at DSC, can now better address STI conditions in the community.
**SHBC Sexual Health Symposium**

In October 2018, DSC organised its inaugural Sexual Health Symposium at the Singapore Health Biomedical Conference (SHBC). The symposium, chaired by Adj A/Prof Martin Chio, Senior Consultant and Dr Benson Yeo, Consultant, aimed to equip healthcare professionals in the community with knowledge and latest developments in STIs.

The symposium included the following talks:

- HPB’s Sexual Health Initiatives Among Adolescents
- Efficacy of a Behavioural Intervention to Reduce Sexual Risk in Adolescents
- Counselling LGBTQ and Individuals, Couples and Families in a Community Setting
- Current STI/HIV Prevention Efforts in Female Sex Workers and Challenges for the Future
- Impact of Sexual Abuse on Sexual Behaviour and STI: A Psychotherapeutic Approach
- Socio-Behavioural Approaches to HIV/STI Research
- An Update on HPV, Syphilis and its Myriad Presentation

**Enhancing Nursing Care**

As part of continuing professional nursing education in 2018, the Nursing Department organised a series of courses and workshops for nurses and healthcare providers in institutions and the Intermediate and Long-Term Care Setting (ILTC), to build staff capabilities in the management of dermatological conditions.

Held from 14 May to 22 June, the Advanced Dermatology Nursing Course (Advanced DNC) is a six-week course on holistic approaches to managing skin conditions for nurses with at least one year’s experience in the dermatology setting of an institution or hospital. A Phototherapy and Photodiagnostic Course was also conducted from 17 to 25 September, allowing participants to gain in-depth knowledge and skills on delivering safe and effective phototherapy treatment.

Four runs of dermatology nursing workshops and dermatological ward rounds were conducted for nurses at the Institute of Mental Health to build knowledge capabilities and skills in managing common skin conditions.

For the third consecutive year, NSC has had the privilege of collaborating with the Alice Lee Centre for Nursing Studies, National University of Singapore (NUS), to receive second-year NUS nursing students for a one-day placement. A total of 251 students attended the programme this year, from 16 August to 15 November 2018. The programme, which was well-received by the nursing students, provided a platform for them to gain insights into dermatology nursing, including hands-on sessions to learn the basics of paring by practising on oranges.

**Pharmacy Symposium**

The annual Pharmacy Symposium, conducted on 27 October 2018, was part of the NSC Scientific Conference, Update in Dermatology & Venereology 2018. Themed “Team-Based Care in Chronic Skin Diseases”, the conference aimed to provide a better understanding on two chronic skin diseases, psoriasis and eczema. The symposium also showcased NSC’s pharmacist-led eczema clinic, along with the optimisation of therapy for psoriasis patients through disease and medication counselling.
Visiting Experts

Professor Thomas Luger

Professor Thomas Luger, a Professor of Dermatology and Chairman of the Department of Dermatology at Munster University, Germany, is also the Director of the Institute of Cell Biology and Immunobiology.

A renowned expert on inflammatory and autoimmune diseases of the skin, Prof Luger is also the former Dean of the Medical Faculty of Westphalian Wilhelms University and past President of the German Society of Dermatology.

NSC had the pleasure of hosting Prof Luger during his week-long visit to Singapore from 23 to 27 April. The centre’s facilities was a focal point of best practices sharing, especially the seamless functioning of the paperless system. He shared that most hospitals in Germany still rely heavily on paperwork, and the ones that have electronic systems are not yet as efficient as NSC.

Prof Luger commended the residents and staff members for their keen interest and high standard of questions asked during lectures. Their knowledge and passionate spirit reflects the dermatologists’ motivation to give their best in providing high quality dermatological care for NSC patients.

Professor Dedee Murrell

Professor Dedee Murrell is the Chairman of the Department of Dermatology in St George Hospital, Australia, and her clinical expertise lies in autoimmune blistering conditions and Epidermolysis Bullosa.

Prof Murrell first encountered patients with Epidermolysis Bullosa — then a little-known rare disease — during her training at a Centre for blistering diseases in North Carolina. Her rigorous laboratory research has led to breakthroughs and enhancements of treatment options.

It was NSC’s privilege to have Prof Dedee Murrell with us during her week-long visit from 22 to 28 October. NSC’s capabilities as a world-renowned training institute, and its collaboration with the Skin Research Institution of Singapore (SRIS) featured prominently in the knowledge exchange with Prof Murrell. Clinicians had the opportunity to learn from her expertise in autoimmune blistering conditions and Epidermolysis Bullosa through a series of thought-provoking lectures.

When asked about the future of dermatology, Prof Murrell was optimistic about artificial intelligence aiding doctors’ diagnoses and improving clinical outcomes in the future. However, patient-doctor interaction is still needed to understand the social and psychological factors affecting each case, in order to provide the appropriate patient therapy with reassurance, understanding and encouragement.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of Programme</th>
<th>No. of Participants</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Diploma in Family Practice Dermatology</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>11 May 2018 - 14 Apr 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remarks: Hong Kong (2), Malaysia (3), Pakistan (1), Singapore (22)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Dermatology Course for GPs</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13 Aug - 17 Aug 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>22 Oct - 25 Oct 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19</td>
<td>29 Oct - 1 Nov 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remarks: Indonesia (1), Philippines (47), Singapore (5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Remarks: NSC (173), Singapore (131), Australia (9), Brunei (2), Bangladesh (3), Cambodia (11), Canada (4), China (4), India (2), Indonesia (17), Japan (3), Malaysia (21), Mauritius (1), Myanmar (5), Philippines (68), Sweden (2), Switzerland (1), Taiwan (2), Thailand (10), UK (2), Sri Lanka (2), Kuwait (1), Saudi Arabia (1), USA (1), Vietnam (5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSC Update in Dermatology and Venereology 2018 – Pre-Conference Workshops</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>25 Oct 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Schools Attachments</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUS Medicine (Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine) Final Year Medical Students Clinical Posting</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>9 Jul 2018 - 1 Feb 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine Year 3 Medical Students Clinical Posting</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>14 May 2018 - 1 Mar 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duke-NUS Year 2 OBGYN/ LIC (DSC)</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>9 Apr 2018 - 29 Mar 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>NUS Pharmacy Year 4 Ambulatory Rotation</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1 Apr 2018 - 5 May 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-Rotational Teaching</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine Year 3 Pre-Rotational TBL</td>
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<td>11 Oct 2018 - 1 Feb 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective Students Posting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine Year 5 Selective Posting</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 Oct - 5 Oct 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUS Medicine (Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4 Mar - 29 Mar 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas – Bilateral Exchange Agreement (BEA)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7 May 2018 - 8 Feb 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Remarks: Japan (1), Korea (2), Taiwan (2), China (3)</td>
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## Medical Education Report

<table>
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<th>Title of Programme</th>
<th>No. of Participants</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overseas – Non-Bilateral Exchange Agreement (Non-BEA)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>30 Apr - 28 Sep 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Remarks: Singapore (2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overseas - Direct Registration with NSC</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>16 Apr - 29 Jun 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Remarks: UK (2), Philippines (2), Japan (1)</td>
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### School Attachments

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<tr>
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tertiary Institution (Job Shadowing)</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>4 Jun 2018 - 21 Feb 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>US-Alice Lee Centre of Nursing Studies (ALCNS)</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>16 Aug - 15 Nov 2018</td>
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### Specialised Dermatology Observership Attachment

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<th>Programme</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dermatologic Surgery</td>
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<td>India (10), Thailand (1), UK (1), Switzerland (1), USA (1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dermatology (Cellular Grafting)</td>
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<td>UK (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dermatology (Dermatopathology)</td>
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<td>Japan (1), Philippines (1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dermatology (Photobiology &amp; Phototherapy)</td>
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<td>Philippines (3)</td>
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### General Dermatology Observership Attachments: Local

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>No. of Participants</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Family Medicine</td>
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<td>1 Apr 2018 - 31 Mar 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internal Medicine-related</td>
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<td>Others</td>
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### Visiting Clinical Fellowship: Overseas

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<tr>
<td>PGIM (Sri Lanka)</td>
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<td>Sri Lanka (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title of Programme</td>
<td>No. of Participants</td>
<td>Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Faculty Fellowship (Australia)</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Remarks:</strong></td>
<td>Australia (2)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>General Dermatology Clinical Attachment: Local</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>TTSH, Department of Internal Medicine, Medical Officers</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Apr - Jun 2018</td>
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<td>Jul - Sep 2018</td>
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OUR STAFF, OUR PEOPLE

NSC is a people-centric organisation, with staff at the heart of all we do. As we continue to nurture staff, we congratulate those who have clinched achievements and shown progress in their respective fields of work.

National Day Awards

The National Day Awards are accorded to individuals in recognition of merit and service to Singapore. In 2018, five NSC staff were honoured for their dedication and contribution to the public service.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION MEDAL (BRONZE)

Prof Tan Suat Hoon
Director
Conferred for outstanding efficiency and competence in managing the Centre since 2014.

EFFICIENCY MEDAL

Ms Siti Aminah Bte Mansoor
Principal Medical Technologist
Awarded for exceptional competence and devotion shown in her work.

LONG SERVICE MEDAL

Dr Anthony Goon Teik Jin
Senior Consultant

Ms Tian Ai Lian Elizabeth
Principal Pharmacist and Pharmacy Manager

Sister Kong Kim Yoke
Nurse Clinician and Educator

In recognition of their long-standing commitment and dedication to the Centre.
Commendation — NTUC May Day Award

The NTUC May Day Awards ceremony was held on 5 May 2018. The award is conferred on organisations within the Labour Movement network that promote and support the Labour Movement and its initiatives.

NSC is a partner of the Healthcare Services Employees’ Union (HSEU) with an unwavering commitment to our employees and support for the Union.

Union members receive skills training, which better equip them for their roles in building better labour management relations. NSC is also constantly adopting fair and progressive employment practices to foster a positive and safe environment for all employees.

NHG Awards Ceremony

The NHG Awards celebrate our fellow colleagues and teams whose work has collectively raised the standards of healthcare, improving the lives of our patients and the broader community.

NHG OUTSTANDING CITIZENSHIP AWARD

Adj A/Prof Tey Hong Liang, Senior Consultant

Adj A/Prof Tey pioneered the Itch Clinic in Singapore in 2011 — the first outside of Europe. He also began a clinical service for patients with disorders of deficient sweating in 2014, the first of its kind worldwide. The clinic is equipped with sweat-mapping diagnostic facilities and non-invasive skin imaging technology.

Adj A/Prof Tey Hong Liang, Senior Consultant, receiving the NHG Outstanding Citizenship Award from Prof Philip Choo, NHG Group Chief Executive Officer.

NHG EDUCATION LEADERS AWARD

A/Prof Chua Sze Hon, Deputy Director and Education Director

The NHG Education Leaders Award is awarded to NHG staff who assume leadership roles pertaining to education, and demonstrate emotional competence in building trust and leading people from different professions towards educational excellence.

A/Prof Chua received the award for his steadfast commitment towards developing the educational activities of the Centre. He is the Programme Director for the Dermatology Residency Programme and the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKC Medicine), Undergraduate Programme.

A/Prof Chua Sze Hon, Senior Consultant and NSC Deputy Director, receiving the NHG Education Leaders Award from Associate Professor Nicholas Chew, Group Chief Education & Designated Institutional Official, National Healthcare Group (NHG).
SINGAPORE NURSES ASSOCIATION (SNA)

PRESIDENT MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE AWARD

The SNA President Membership Challenge is an institutional award conferred on institutions with the highest proportion of SNA members among their nurses. NSC was one of six recipients of this prestigious award in 2018.

NHG HMDP AWARD

Mr Ahmad Shufi bin Jasmani, Senior Staff Nurse

The Health Manpower Development Plan (HMDP) Award was introduced to develop healthcare professionals for more advanced and specialised jobs, in line with the strategic manpower needs of NHG. Mr Ahmad Shufi was awarded the HMDP Skills Attachment in 2018. He will be attached to the Burrell Street Sexual Health Clinic, United Kingdom, to further his expertise in nurse-led Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) clinics.

NMRC CLINICIAN SCIENTIST AWARD

Adj A/Prof Tey Hong Liang, Senior Consultant

Adj A/Prof Tey was presented the Clinician Scientist Award during the National Medical Research Council (NMRC) Awards Ceremony and Research Symposium 2018, for his research into developing platforms in three-dimensional imaging and analyses for dermatological diseases. The award recognises research excellence and provides funding grants that allow awardees to continue breaking frontiers in translational research.

SINGAPORE NURSES ASSOCIATION (SNA) PRESIDENT MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE AWARD

The SNA President Membership Challenge is an institutional award conferred on institutions with the highest proportion of SNA members among their nurses. NSC was one of six recipients of this prestigious award in 2018.
Accessible Care in the Community – Increased participation and training of Intermediate and Long-Term Care (ILTC) partners.

Translational Research – Breakthrough launch of microneedles treatment for keloids that significantly improved treatment outcomes.

Updates on new NSC Building.

Our Educators

Dr Melissa Tan, Senior Consultant, was awarded the NHG Teaching Award for Senior Doctors, for her commitment to training and developing medical students. This category recognises and appreciates veteran clinicians for their pivotal role in curriculum development and enhancing clinical training programmes to groom the next generation of clinicians.

Doctors and staff recognised at the NHG Awards for their dedication to teaching and education:

NHG EDUCATION LEADERS AWARD
A/Prof Chua Sze Hon

NHG OUTSTANDING EDUCATION PARTNERS AWARD
Dr Colin Theng

NHG TEACHING AWARD FOR SENIOR DOCTORS
Dr Melissa Tan Wee Ping

NHG TEACHING AWARD FOR JUNIOR DOCTORS
Dr Lim Hua Liang Joel
Dr Kok Wai Leong

NHG TEACHING AWARD FOR PHARMACY SENIOR PRECEPTORS
Benny Li Kai Hui

NHG OUTSTANDING NURSE TEACHERS AWARD
Sr Choi Yuet Yuen Cindy

NHG INTER-PROFESSIONAL TEACHING AWARD
Tian Ai Lian Elizabeth

Building for the Future

The 2018 NSC Staff Retreat is a key staff engagement platform. Held at the state-of-the-art Learning Studio in Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine on 8 October 2018, NSC’s leadership took the opportunity to share and recap the year’s milestones, including right-siting and research breakthroughs.
Crazy Itch Asians: Doctors Appreciation Lunch 2018

The 2018 year-end Doctors Appreciation Lunch, themed ‘Crazy Itch Asians’, was held at the Sofitel City Centre. NSC’s long-service awardees were recognised for their outstanding commitment to dermatological excellence. Hosted by Dr Chuah Sai Yee, Consultant and Dr Etienne Wang, Consultant, staff were treated to a delightful lunch and an afternoon of entertainment with an amusing skit by Senior Residents and Medical Officers.

River of Life — NSC Townhall with Group CEO Prof Philip Choo

The ‘River of Life’ Relationship Based Healthcare framework guiding the healthcare planning and delivery for NHG was shared by Prof Philip Choo, GCEO, at the GCEO NSC Townhall. The NHG River of Life framework is designed to meet evolving healthcare needs now and into the future. Beyond an individual’s health status, other determinants such as socio-economic, environmental, lifestyle demographics and culture are supported by a community of stakeholders driven by the five Care Segments of Living Well, Living with Illness, Crisis and Complex Care, Living with Frailty and Leaving Well.

Staff Engagement

Daily Improvement Suggestions

Daily Improvement Suggestions is a bottom-up approach for continuous quality improvement by encouraging staff to submit at least one suggestion per year. 270 suggestions were received in FY2018, with 71.1% of suggestions approved by the department heads.

Innovative suggestions that improved the patient experience ranged from creating a video to replace the current practice of having a nurse counsel patients for scalp treatment to automating medication charge calculation during pharmacy downtime.

NSC Senior Residents and Medical Officers performing at the 2018 year-end Doctors Appreciation Lunch.
Patient Experience Survey 2018

The Patient Experience Survey (PES) 2018 aimed to measure patients’ experience in the various settings in Public Healthcare Institutions (PHIs) — Inpatient, Emergency Department, Specialist Outpatient, Polyclinics and Community Hospitals.

The study assessed the level of patients’ experience in Public Healthcare Institutions in Singapore, and identified healthcare system gaps to provide feedback to the institutions and MOH in order to enhance the quality of healthcare services provided.

The 11 domains are Communication with Nurses, Communication with Doctors, Communication with AHPs, Communication with Counter Staff, Communication about Medicine, Empowerment/Care Transition, Waiting Time, Explanation of Estimated Bills, Team-Based Care, Overall Rating and Recommendation.

Specialist Outpatient
Composite Overall Score

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<th>Domain</th>
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<th>National Score</th>
<th>Cluster Score</th>
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<td></td>
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WeShare Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Presentation – During WeShare (20 June 2018)

The annual CQI competition aims to raise awareness on how improvement work can positively impact workflow and processes to achieve better outcomes. Participating teams attend a half-day foundation course by the Quality Department and are given a year to analyse root causes, decide which root cause to tackle and monitor performance of interventions. Thereafter, they will provide an update at WeShare, to all staff and a panel of judges.

Four teams from the Nursing, Pharmacy, Medical Affairs and Research departments presented their CQI projects on 20 June 2018. Two winners were awarded the Best Project – the Research team with the project titled, “Increasing subject recruitment and streamlining tissue collection from Mohs surgery for Biobank” and the Medical Affairs team with the project titled, “To improve the workflow of clinic sit-in attachment at DSC”.

Introduction on Contact Dermatitis and Joint Occupational Dermatoses Clinic (JODC) Talk

Headed by Dr Anthony Goon, Senior Consultant and Adj A/Prof Leow Yung Hian, Senior Consultant, the sharing session was attended by staff on 24 August 2018. The doctors and staff involved gave insightful talks on their various areas of expertise.

Dr Anthony Goon, Senior Consultant
- History of JODC
- Local and International Activities of the Occupational Dermatology Unit

Cindy Choi, Nurse Clinician
- JODC Workflow
- Available Allergy Tests — Patch Test, Prick Test and Photopatch Test

Ms Winnie Choo, Senior Pharmacist
- Clinic and Pharmacy Workflow — Types of Materials Used and Compounding Process

Dr Gan Siook Lin, Visiting Consultant
- Win-Win-Win Framework for Patients, Dermatologists and Ministry of Manpower
- Achieving a Tenfold Reduction in Occupational Skin Disease Cases
NHG Quality Day 2018
Themed “Empowering Staff, Celebrating Joy in Improvement”, NHG Quality Day 2018 was held on 19 September 2018, with Adj A/Prof Leow Yung Hian, Senior Consultant, as chairperson for the Organising Committee. The event saw the presentation of various awards to recognise staff for their service.

NSC Quality Day
Keeping with the theme of NHG’s Quality Day, “Empowering Staff, Celebrating Joy in Improvement”, NSC Quality Day also celebrated our staff and the joys of work on 17 October 2018.

The event commenced with a rousing welcome speech by Adj A/Prof Leow Yung Hian, who stressed the importance of having an open mind in exploring new possibilities and thinking out of the box, to ensure success and innovation in quality improvement initiatives.

NSC staff were recognised for their service excellence, with 18 members of staff receiving the Service Champion Award for going the extra mile in providing service, and the Excellence in Action Award going to a member of staff who exemplified NHG’s 4P7R culture.

The NHG Quality Improvement Award was also presented to a team of staff who excelled in their quality improvement project. Participants also had the chance to learn from educational talks by Mr Samuel Wong, NHG Cluster Information Security Officer and Dr Madeline Ho, Senior Consultant and Infection Control Committee Chairperson, who shared about cybersecurity awareness and flu vaccinations respectively.

Awards

**EXCELLENCE IN ACTION AWARD (EIAA)**

Mr Lee Chee Seng Kenny
Senior Administrative Assistant, Pharmacy

The EIAA recognises individuals and teams who provide exceptional service both within the organisation and to customers and patients.

The Award also recognises significant contributions to work practices that improve customer service or patient safety.

**QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AWARD (QIA)**

Project: Improving the Operational Efficiency of Managing Biologic Patient Assistance Programmes in National Skin Centre Pharmacy
Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA) Assessment

Practising good personal data management is crucial towards boosting patient confidence and enhancing the institution’s public image. On 26 February 2019, NSC conducted its first annual PDPA Assessment for selected Departments. Ms Corrine Teh, Cluster DPO, NHGHQ, conducted a PDPA refresher training session to prepare NSC Assessors and Department Data Protection Leads for the upcoming PDPA Assessment.

PDPA Assessment in NSC

The Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA) review assessment was successfully conducted on 28 Mar 2019 for DSC, Pharmacy department and Clinic Ops (private and subsidised) department. Using the PDP Compliance Assessment Checklist and Inventory Map, the Assessors went through the process flows and clarification sessions with the Department Managers and selected Data Protection Leads for the upcoming PDPA Assessment.

Adoption of Tripartite Standards

The Tripartite Standards define verifiable and actionable practices that employers are committed to and implement at workplaces. NSC is pleased to participate in a cluster level initiative, helmed by NHG, to adopt Tripartite Standards. The adoption of Tripartite Standards allows NSC to differentiate ourselves in specific key employment and workplace practices, thereby enhancing attraction and retention of manpower.

Three areas of Commitment:

a) Fair Recruitment Practices — adopting fair, merit-based and inclusive hiring practices to ensure the best person is hired for the job.

b) Flexible Work Arrangements — to offer part-time work arrangements so that employers can better attract individuals from an untapped candidate pool such as back-to-work individuals.

c) Grievance Handling — putting proper policies and procedures in place to build an inclusive and harmonious workplace.

NSC has rolled out e-learning modules to create awareness among staff on the above-mentioned. In addition, supervisors have attended courses on Discipline and Grievances Handling to be equipped with the knowledge and skills for this area.

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MEDICAL STAFF LISTING

**DIRECTOR / SENIOR CONSULTANT**

**Prof TAN Suat Hoon**  
MBBS, M. Med (Int. Med), Dip. RC Path (DMT), FAMS, MBA (Chicago)  
Clinical Interests: Cutaneous Lymphomas, Dermatopathology

**SENIOR CONSULTANTS**

**Prof CHAN Roy**  
MBBS, MRCP (UK), FRCP (Lond), Dip. Derm (Lond), Dip. Ven (Lond), FAMS  
Clinical Interests: Sexually Transmitted Infections & HIV, Hair

**Dr Suzanne CHENG**  
MBBS, MRCP (UK)  
Clinical Interests: Skin Cancer, Contact & Occupational Dermatitis, Dermatological & Laser Surgery

**Adjunct Assoc Prof CHIO Tze-Wei, Martin**  
MB ChB (Bristol), MSc (Lond), MRCP (UK), FRCP (Lond), FAMS  
Clinical Interests: Sexually Transmitted Infections & HIV, Skin Cancer

**Adjunct Assoc Prof CHONG Wei Sheng**  
MBBS, MRCP (UK), FRCP (Edin), M. Med (Int. Med), FAMS  
Clinical Interests: Dermatological & Laser Surgery

**Assoc Prof CHUA Sze Hon**  
MBBS, MRCP (UK), FRCP (Edin), FAMS  
Clinical Interests: Dermatological & Laser Surgery

**Assoc Prof GIAM Yoke Chin**  
MBBS, M. Med (Paed), FAMS  
Clinical Interest: Paediatric Dermatology

**Prof GOH Chee Leok**  
MD, MBBS, M. Med (Int. Med), MRCP (UK), FRCP (Edin), FAMS  
Clinical Interests: Contact & Occupational Dermatitis, Dermatological & Laser Surgery

**Dr GOON Teik Jin, Anthony**  
MBBS, MRCP (UK), FRCP (Edin), PhD (LUND, Sweden)  
Clinical Interests: Contact & Occupational Dermatitis

**Dr HO Sheun Ling, Madeline**  
MBChB (Edin), MRCP (UK), MRCP (Ireland), MSc (Lond)  
Clinical Interest: Paediatric Dermatology

**Dr LEE Siong See, Joyce**  
MBBS, MRCP (UK), M. Med (Int. Med), FAMS, Dip Dermatopathology (ICDP-UEMS)  
Clinical Interests: Dermatopathology, Hair

**CONSULTANTS**

**Dr Ellen CHAN**  
FACHSHM, Grad Dip Med (STD/HIV) (Syd), DTM & H (Lond), MBBS (Qld)  
Clinical Interest: Sexually Transmitted Infections & HIV

**Dr CHEN Qiping**  
MB (Fudan, China), MSc, MRCP (UK)  
Clinical Interest: Skin Cancer, Pigmentary Disorders

**Dr CHIA Hui Yi**  
MBBS, MRCP (UK), Dip. Dermatopathology (ICDP-UEMS)  
Clinical Interests: Dermatopathology, Skin Cancer
CONSULTANTS

Dr CHUAH Sai Yee
MB ChB (Glasg), MRCP (UK), Dip Derm (RCPSG), MRCPs (Glasg), FAMS
Clinical Interests: Pigmentary Disorders, Hair

Dr HENG Yee Kiat
MBBS, MRCP (UK), M. Med (Int. Med)
Clinical Interests: Inpatient Dermatology, Psoriasis, Drug Eruption

Dr LIANG Weiting, Michelle
MBBS (Honours), MRCP (UK), M. Med (Int. Med), Dip Dermatopathology (ICDP-UEMS)
Clinical Interests: Dermatopathology, Wound/Ulcer Management, Inpatient Dermatology

Dr LIM En-En, Charmaine
MBBS

Dr SU Peiqi
MBBS, MRCP (UK), FAMS
Clinical Interests: Eczema, Psychoderm - Skin Health

Dr TAN Sern Ting, Eugene
MBBS, Dip Derm (RCPs, Glasg), PG Dip (Cardiff), FAMS
Clinical Interests: Photodermatology, Psoriasis

Dr TAN Siyun, Lucinda
MBBS, MRCP (UK), M. Med (Int. Med)
Clinical Interests: Paediatric Dermatology, Immunodermatology, Inpatient Dermatology

Dr TAN Wei Min, Aaron
MBBS, FAMS, MRCP (UK), MRCPS (Glasg)
Clinical Interests: Dermatological & Laser Surgery

Dr WANG Cho Ee, Etienne
BA Hons (Oxford), MBBS Hons (UCL), MA, M.Phil, PhD (Columbia University)
Clinical Interests: Hair

Dr YEO Koon Wee, Benson
MBBS, FAMS
Clinical Interests: Cutaneous Infections, Psoriasis, Sexually Transmitted Infections & HIV

Dr YEW Yik Weng
MBBS, MPH (Harvard, USA)
Clinical Interests: Eczema, Psoriasis

ASSOCIATE CONSULTANTS

Dr CHONG Yi Rui Tricia
MB Bch BAO, LRCP & SI (Ireland)

Dr HENG Jun Khee
MBBS, MRCP (UK)

Dr KONG Yan Ling
MBBS

Dr KUAN Ling Yee
MBBS, MRCP (UK)

Dr LIM Hua Liang Joel
MBBS, MRCP (UK), M.Med (Int Med)

Dr WANG Ding Yuan
MBBS, MRCP (UK)

SENIOR RESIDENTS

Dr Sophie Carrie CAI Shan
MB (Duke NUS Med Sch), MRCP (UK)

Dr CAO Taige
MBBS, MRCP (UK)

Dr CHENG Hui Mei
MBBS (Australia)

Dr FONG Kin Wai Kenneth
MBBS (UK)

Dr KOH Yun Pei
MBBS

Dr WONG Yisheng Jayden
MBBS, MRCP (UK)

RESIDENT PHYSICIAN

Dr Anjali JHINGAN
MBBS, MRCP (UK)

MEDICAL OFFICER

Dr LEE Zhengdao, Wellington
MB ChB (Edin)
PG Dip (Clinical Derm)
(Queen Mary University of London, UK)