

**NATIONAL SKIN CENTRE HEALTH FUND**  
**Annual Report for FY2023**

**PURPOSE**

The National Skin Centre Health Fund (NSCHF) was registered as a Charity under the Singapore Charities Act, Chapter 37 on 20 August 2020. The NSCHF was established to receive donations towards the pursuit of medical research and development, improvement to health services in Singapore, and to provide funded care to patients determined to be in need of financial assistance. NSCHF took over the funds and activities from National Skin Center Health Endowment Fund in May 2021. The Fund is an approved Institution of a Public Character (IPC) and is valid until 29 September 2024.

Charity Trustees : National Skin Centre (Singapore) Pte Ltd

Registered Address : 1 Mandalay Road Singapore 308205

Unique Entity Number (UEN): 202010012C

Bankers : DBS Bank Ltd

Auditor : Ernst and Young LLP

**FY2023 BOARD MEMBERS & BOARD MEETING ATTENDANCE RATE**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Date of Appointment</u>	<u>% of Attendance</u>
Ms Tan Beng Neo Eunice	Chairman	27/03/2020	100%
A/Prof Lim Yean Teng	Member	27/03/2020	66%
Prof Lee Lai Heng	Member	27/03/2020	66%
Mr Seow Choke Meng	Member	27/03/2020	100%
Ms Lim Siew Wah Grace	Member	01/05/2020	66%
Ms Vijayaletchimi D/O Egamparam	Member	01/01/2023	100%

Three board meetings were held for the financial year ending 31 March 2024

## ROLE OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

The Board's role is to provide strategic direction and oversight of NSCHF's programmes and objectives and to steer the charity towards fulfilling its vision and mission through good governance. As part of its role, the following matters require Board's approval:

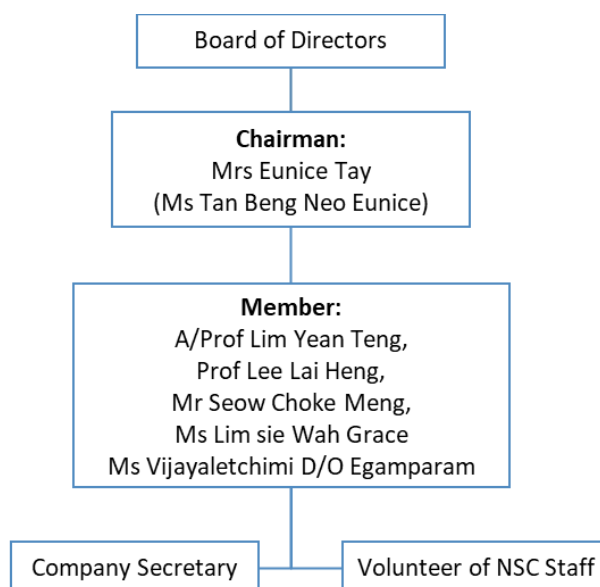
- Approve budget for the financial year and monitor expenditure against budget;
- Review and approve quarterly financial statements;
- Regularly monitor the progress of the charity's programmes.
- Annual review of reserves to ensure that the reserves are adequate and that the charity could fulfil its continuing obligations.
- Decides to place its reserves in fixed deposit or with Fund Managers approved by MOHH as short and long term investments respectively.

## TERM LIMIT OF BOARD

To enable succession planning and steady renewal in the spirit of sustainability of the charity, the Board has a term limit of ten years. We currently do not have board members serving more than 10 consecutive years. Board members are renewed or re-appointed every three years.

## POLICY ON THE MANAGEMENT AND AVOIDANCE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Fund does not have paid staff and the Board members do not receive remuneration from the Fund for their services rendered. All activities of the Fund are managed by staff of National Skin Centre (NSC). The Fund Board members comply with the National Healthcare Group policy on conflict of interest.



## **RESERVES POLICY**

The National Skin Centre Health Fund (“NSCHF”) is a registered charity with a mission to give grants, raise and manage financial contributions in support of medical research and developments, medical and healthcare education, and healthcare services related to dermatology and venereology for Singaporeans, and the Singapore community at large.

As NSCHF main source of funding is donations, a reserve policy is required to ensure long term financial stability and sufficient funding to support the charity’s principal activities.

Where possible, NSCHF should aim to have a reserves level of more than or equal to 5 years, to hedge against fluctuations in income and unpredictable emergency situations.

## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY**

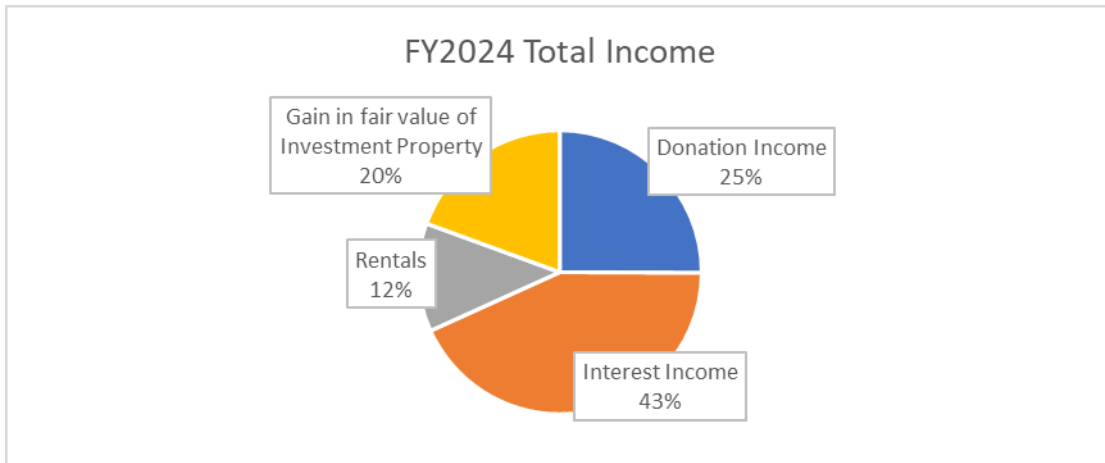
All Board members are required to comply with the charity’s conflict of interest policy. The Board has put in place documented procedures for Board members to declare actual or potential conflicts of interests on a regular and need-to basis. Board members also abstain and do not participate in decision-making on matters where they have a conflict of interest.

## **WHISTLE-BLOWING POLICY**

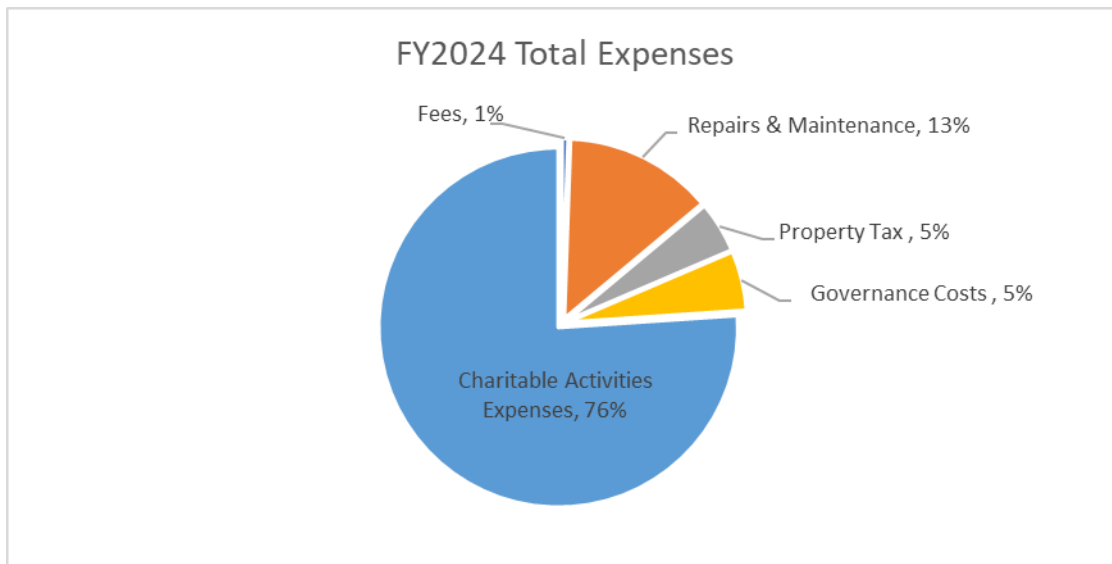
Our charity has in place, a whistle-blowing policy to address concerns about possible wrongdoing or improprieties in financial or other matters within the charity.

## SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Fund reported a net surplus of \$84,693 for FY2023. Total income and expenses amounted to \$154,463 and \$69,770 respectively. The accumulated fund as at 31 March 2024 amounted to \$3,900,514.



Total income of \$154,463 comprised donations received from individual donors amounting to \$38,746, interest income amounting to \$66,633, rental income amounting to \$19,084 and gain in fair value of investment property amounting to \$30,000.



Total expenses were \$69,770, which included charitable expenses of \$52,985, governance costs of \$3,731 and other operating expenses amounting to \$13,054.

## **CHARITABLE PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES**

The Fund supported the following charitable activities during this year:

### **1. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEMES**

#### **1.1 Tattoo Removal for Youths-at-Risk**

This fund was set aside to support needy school going children who are asked by their school to have their tattoo removed or faced expulsion from the school. \$33,156 was disbursed as at 31 March 2024.

During the year under review, 21 more patients were recruited including those from juvenile homes and community partners. A total of 68 patients to date has been recruited under the Programme since funding was approved in July 2018, and 103 treatments have been completed.

#### **1.2 Skin Aid for the Vulnerable and Elderly Programme (SALVE)**

An amount of \$90,000 was approved to support SALVE program. Patients with chronic relapsing skin diseases can be supported clinically and socially with regular application of topical medications, to reduce the incidence of preventable re-admissions into acute care hospitals.

\$12,515 was disbursed as at 31 March 2024, leaving a balance of \$77,485. The monies were claimed for medication and transportation. There are 7 active patients in the Programme who have been going to National Skin Centre for treatment. 7 patients were discharged from the Programme as their conditions have markedly improved.

#### **1.3 Medication Assistance Scheme**

This fund was set up to provide financial assistance to patients who requires expensive non-standard drugs and fall outside the criteria for other funding. There was no disbursement in FY2023. The available funding has been reduced to \$10,000 due to the low disbursement in recent years.

#### **1.4 Itch Programme (Suu Balm)**

For the enhanced Suu Balm Itch Programme approved in July 2021, the original budget was increased to \$10,728 per year for 3 years for Subsidized patients at NSC Itch Clinic. In FY2023, \$3,501 was disbursed, leaving a balance of \$23,868 as at March 2024.

#### **1.5 Health Fund-SEC for Eczema patients**

The Fund provided financial assistance to the needy patients diagnosed with eczema who are prescribed with retail items for their treatment that are not supported by Medifund. \$513 was disbursed in FY2023, leaving a balance of \$2,043 as at 31 March 2024.

#### **1.6 Patient Welfare Fund (Transportation)**

This fund is set aside to provide financial assistance to the needy patients for transport fares. An additional \$6,000 was approved to support this scheme for another 3 years and a drawdown of \$1,143 was made during the year.

## **2. COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMMES**

### **2.1 Suu Balm ITCH Programme – Donation to NKF**

In view of the success of the pilot programme in 2021, \$80,122 was approved in September 2022 to purchase Suu Balm as a donation in kind for patients undergoing Renal Dialysis at NKF. As at 31 March 2024, a total of \$60,466 was spent on such purchases for the NKF patients. An additional top-up of \$60,456 was approved, leaving a balance of \$80,112.

### **2.2 Badminton Camp for Kids with Eczema**

An amount of \$9,000 was approved to support badminton camps held for children with eczema, with the aim of encouraging active living among children with this skin disease. 4 camps have been held and a total of \$2,077 was disbursed thus far, leaving a balance of \$6,923.

## **3. RESEARCH GRANTS**

A total of \$137,000 was awarded to 5 Research studies, in FY2023. No disbursements have been made yet as the studies are in the preparatory stage.

### **3.1 The following studies has be awarded grants from the Mr Lim Thian Seng Dermatology Research Fund:**

- a) Pulsed electromagnetic field therapy in skin wound healing.
- b) Investigating host-microbe interactions in dupilumab-associated head and neck dermatitis.
- c) Advancing the understanding of patient reported outcomes and tailored health message intervention among patients with eczema.
- d) The Role of the Gut Microbiome in Immunotherapy Outcomes for Alopecia Areata.
- e) Enhancing Continuity of Dermatological care for Patients With Limited Mobility

## **FUTURE PLANS AND COMMITMENTS**

### **Existing Programmes**

NSCHF will continue to support the existing programmes initiated in FY2023.

### **FY2024 Campaigns**

NSCHF plans to roll out the campaigns below to raise funds and increase the awareness of the various NSCHF programmes.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Campaign / Programme</b>
October	Eczema Awareness Month
December	Digital crowdfunding for patients-in-need