To YOU, our Donors

Dean’s Message

I would like to thank you most sincerely for your generous support for NUS Faculty of Dentistry. Every donation makes a difference. In this report, we share some of the stories of students who have benefitted from your support. We hope this gives a sense of the real difference donor funding makes. It helps some of our students reach the goal of becoming a healthcare professional which may otherwise not have been possible. Your donations also help encourage research students to advance the knowledge that shapes dentistry for the future, and for NUS Faculty of Dentistry to establish its mark on dental research. Please continue to support us, and thank you!

Professor Finbarr ALLEN
Dean, NUS Faculty of Dentistry

YOUR Generous Donations in 2017 (January – December)
Alumni donors make up 59% of our donor base, contributing 47% of total donations received on average over the last three years. The Faculty greatly appreciates and is thankful to our alumni for their generous support through the years. They had devoted their time and resources to partner us in providing the best for our students.

Dr Kaan Sheung Kin on why he gave
“I did not come from a rich family. Our family finances were tight. I still remember Papa calling for a family conference to discuss which one of us 3 brothers will have to drop out of university studies. Somehow, my parents especially my mother worked very hard and managed to send all 3 of us through university. At that time, there were no study loans and a few of my classmates had to work on the side to support themselves through Dentistry. In 2010, while talking to Dr Betty Mok about our dental students' welfare, I was shocked to hear that even with study loans, some of the students were still working hard and in dangerous jobs to put themselves through school. I then made the decision to donate my part-time teaching salary to the Dental Bursary Fund. I stipulated that the bursary money should be given based on financial needs and not linked to scholastic performance, unlike a scholarship. I believe that if you are busy trying to make ends meet, you may not have much time and enough rest to study and work hard enough to top your class. I trust the bursary money has been well allocated and spent. The Dental School has given me an iron rice bowl for life, and I do believe in giving back to it. Teaching at the faculty is an honour, not a paid job, and also a chance to be a stakeholder in our future generations of dentists. I happily volunteered to teach whether I was paid or not. If my small contribution to the Dental Bursary Fund can help a few students in need to get through their difficulties and graduate, I’m happy.”

Dr Kaan has served the Faculty as a part-time teacher for more than 20 years and has donated his part-time teaching salary to support our Dental Bursary Fund since 2011. Through his giving, he has enabled many needy students to fulfil their dreams of getting a university degree and pursue a rewarding career in Dentistry.
Faculty of Dentistry Giving Report

Issue 3 / January 2018

How YOUR gifts have been used in 2017 (January – December)

Impact of YOUR gifts

Your generous gifts have helped move the Faculty towards its mission to improve oral health through academic excellence, high impact research and quality clinical service.

Academic excellence

24 medals and book prizes, as well as, a scholarship, funded through named gifts, were awarded to our dental students who had achieved academic excellence in AY 16/17. These awards and medals serve as recognition of their hard work, determination and outstanding efforts in their academic pursuits. Bursary awards were also given out to financially support 24 needy students during the year.

(L to R)

Chow Dian Yi
Singapore Dental Association President’s Medal
Dean’s List

Almond Ng Yi Qi
TP Dental Surgeons Medal
Dean’s List

Ashleigh Toh Hsu Wen
Wrigley Company Book Prize
Dean’s List

Yao Zhi Qi Deborah
Dept of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Medal
Dean’s List

Cao Shuo
Singapore Dental Association President’s Medal
NTUC Dentistcore Medal
Faculty of Dentistry Diamond Jubilee Medal
Dean’s List


High Impact Research

Seed funding totalling $75,000 for three pilot research projects were awarded in 2017. Research seed funding helps support and kick-start new projects enabling Principal Investigators to obtain preliminary data and build their research track records for further competitive funding to advance their research endeavours.
YOUR gifts made a difference........

Community Health Screening supported by the SDA Endowment Fund
On 21 and 22 October 2017, the NUS dental community teamed up with the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine to conduct a public health screening for the residents around Jurong.

1,102 participants were screened, of which 273 underwent oral health screening. The patients had their dental status charted and treatment needs identified. They also received instructions on oral hygiene and denture care. 30 participants were suitable for undergraduate treatment.

The community health screening also included an exhibition where student volunteers shared oral health education with residents through information boards and interactive games.

“I’m glad to be part of FOD’s effort in providing education to the public during PHS (Public Health Screening). To me, it benefits both students and the public because students have the opportunity to apply what they have learned and members of the public can benefit from free and accessible health screenings. Being on the ground also made me realise that beyond technical competency, which is the minimum standard patients expect from healthcare professionals, a willingness to empathise with patients goes a long way in building a mutually trusting dentist-patient relationship.”

Reflections from Year 1 Dental student volunteer

George Y Soh Scholarship Recipient
“The scholarship has been a great encouragement to me. In the last three years of dental school, I have been blessed to witness, on many occasions, how dentists can make a difference to people anywhere. Receiving this scholarship has reminded me to pursue this vision of service to those around me; it has also reminded me to persevere even when there are difficulties along the way.”

IDEM Singapore Bursary Recipient
“I am very honoured to receive this bursary and am deeply appreciative of your kind support for making this possible. Without a doubt, this bursary has helped reduce my family’s financial burden. I will continue to work hard towards graduation and beyond.”
Building construction works for the NUCOHS Building are progressing smoothly. Topping out of the building ran slightly ahead of schedule in end June 2017. The last tower crane was dismantled in end December 2017, signalling the start of the final stage of construction for the NUCOHS building. The contractors are now busy putting in the finishing touches to ensure that the NUCOHS building is ready for TOP (Temporary Occupancy Permit) in April 2018.

The NUCOHS Building was awarded BCA Universal Design Mark Gold (Design) Award in the BCA Awards 2017. Universal Design (UD) simply means “design for all people” and its main purpose is to create an environment addressing the needs for all age groups and people of different abilities including temporary disability. The annual Universal Design Award by Building & Construction Authority (BCA) initiated in 2007 serves to recognise good practices in implementing UD features, over and beyond the mandatory requirements as specified in the Code on Barrier-Free Accessibility. Deliberate efforts were taken to incorporate many special UD features within the NUCOHS building such as braille/tactile indicators on staircase handrails, step-less entry into building, designated nursing room, resting areas with adjacent space/s for wheelchair and/or baby carriage etc.

The NUCOHS Building was also awarded BCA Green Mark Platinum Award in end November 2017. BCA Green Mark is a green building rating system to evaluate a building for its environmental impact and performance. It provides a comprehensive framework for assessing the overall environmental performance of new buildings to promote sustainable design, construction and operations practices in buildings. Developers and design teams are encouraged to design and construct green, sustainable buildings which are more climatic responsive, energy effective, resource efficient, smarter and have healthier indoor environments. There are 4 ratings namely BCA Green Mark Certified, Gold, GoldPlus or Platinum. Platinum is the highest achievable rating.

With its completion, NUCOHS will become Singapore’s newest and most advanced national dental specialty centre. It will focus not only on ramping up oral health services for the public, by seeing up to 500 patients a day in 2019, but it is also well poised to be the centre for advancing oral health research and the training of next-generation dentists.
The National University Centre for Oral Health, Singapore Building nearing completion
Acknowledgements

The Faculty would like to acknowledge and recognise all of YOU who have supported the Faculty through YOUR giving in 2017. We extend our deepest gratitude to the following individuals and corporations for YOUR generosity.

$50,000 and above
Midland Metals Overseas Pte Ltd
Tote Board

$10,000 ~ $49,999
Ace Star Dental Services Pte Ltd
Kaan Sheung Kin
Kain Orthodontics Pte Ltd
Neo Tee Khin

$1,000 ~ $9,999
Carl Zeiss Pte Ltd
Chiew Yim Tho
Chong Yea Hwe
Eu Oy Chu
Go Wee Ser
Goh Giang Beng
Kaung Myat Win
Koh Wei Kee
Lee Kwee Jin
Lee Woon Oi, Teresa
Loh Poey Ling
Mok Yuen Pun, Clara
Mok Yuen Yue, Betty
Patrick Finbarr Allen
Shofu Dental Asia-Pacific Pte Ltd
Tay Seng Kong, Louis
Yap Kin Wai

Names appear in alphabetical order by surname or given name in the format used by donors when making the gift.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFTS!