



Bringing you the latest happenings at the Faculty of Dentistry

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*We will miss you,  
Assoc Prof Jennifer  
Neo...*

**Read more on Pages 2 & 3**



# In Loving Memory of Associate Professor Jennifer Neo

1956 - 2022



**Your friendship will be treasured in our hearts and your legacy will live on forever**

It is with a heavy heart that we mourn the sudden passing of our dear colleague and friend, Associate Professor Jennifer Neo, on 25 December 2022. A mentor and leader in the truest sense of words, Assoc Prof Neo's legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of those she inspired. Though she may no longer be with us, her impact on the dental community will endure for many years.



Dr Tan Hee Hon, Assistant Dean (Clinical Phase), reflected that *"Assoc Prof Neo was a genuine teacher and friend; she would always lend a listening ear and give advice from the bottom of her heart by checking on our progress - personal or professional. We will miss the creak produced by her high heel shoes, and we will be sure to follow her "steps" to make the Faculty of Dentistry a better place to learn and practise dentistry."*

During her distinguished 40-year career with the university, Assoc Prof Neo held several key appointments in the Faculty, including Vice Dean, Research (1995 - 2001); Vice Dean, Clinical Affairs (2010 - 2012); Director, Division of Graduate Dental Studies (2013 - 2016); Director, Discipline of Endodontics, Operative Dentistry and Prosthodontics (2011-2020); Head, Department of Restorative Dentistry (2001-2011) and Module Coordinator, Operative Dentistry (1990-2020).

Apart from her senior management roles, Assoc Prof Neo generously shared her expertise and experience to continuously shape the undergraduate dental curriculum. Her passion for education was evident, and she inspired many colleagues to become excellent educators too.

Beyond the Faculty, Assoc Prof Neo was engaged in University-wide initiatives such as the NUS Institutional Review Board (IRB). At the national level, she flew the Faculty's flag high and served on numerous committees such as the Singapore Dental Council's Complaints Committee, Disciplinary Committee, Continuing Professional Education Sub-Committee and Credentials Sub-Committee as well as MOH Dental Specialists Accreditation Board.



# In Loving Memory of Associate Professor Jennifer Neo

1956 - 2022



In recognition of her unwavering dedication to the Faculty and the wider healthcare community, Assoc Prof Neo was presented the National Day Award - Public Administration (Bronze) Medal by then President of Singapore, Dr Tony Tan, in 2011. In 2016, she also received the National Day Award - The Long Service Medal (40 years).

Source: Faculty Annual Report 2011/12

With her expertise in healthcare and dentistry, Assoc Prof Neo played an integral part in the planning, design and conceptualisation of the National University Centre for Oral Health, Singapore - a National Dental Specialty Centre which synergises clinical services, education and research facilities under one roof.

Former Dean of NUS Faculty of Dentistry, Emeritus Prof Chew Chong Lin, shared, *“Assoc Prof Neo dedicated the greater part of her life to training, preparing, and guiding students at the Faculty. Her kindness, generosity, and caring nature won the respect of all. We have lost a great friend, and I will always be thankful for her friendship, support and her hand in setting up a bursary in my honour.”*



With Assoc Prof Neo's passing, it is unmistakable that the dental community has lost a devoted mentor, a front-runner of progress and a dedicated colleague. For those who knew her, Assoc Prof Neo was a passionate teacher and a caring clinician.

Dr Tan Ming Yi, an alumna of the Faculty, recollected that *“Assoc Prof Neo was more than a mentor. On my graduation day, she greeted me with a bouquet of fresh flowers and a big, heartfelt hug. With tears in her eyes, she described how graduation season was an emotional time for her as she treated her students like her own children. She always truly cared for her students, and that deeply moved me.”*

Assoc Prof Jennifer Neo leaves a lasting impression and an incomparable legacy in our hearts. Farewell, our teacher, mentor, colleague, and close friend. You will be dearly missed.



## AWARDS

### Congratulations to our award recipients



Award Winning  
Project on Erosive  
Tooth Wear (ETW)  
Among Young  
Soldiers in  
Singapore

Dr Nicholas Lim was presented the Asian Academy of Prosthodontics 2022 Korean Academy of Prosthodontics award on Erosive Tooth Wear (ETW) among Young Soldiers in Singapore

Appreciating the costs and complexity of rehabilitating patients with severe generalised ETW and realising a lack of epidemiological data on the condition, Dr Nicholas Lim embarked on a study to determine the prevalence of ETW and its associated risk factors among young soldiers in Singapore.

This study, which was conducted as part of his Master of Dental Surgery (MDS) programme, paves the way for further studies in ETW for the larger population.

*"It is fortunate that we can provide timely dental education and increase awareness to this population to limit the rate of wear, which will ultimately affect them in later life. If you can prevent it early, why not?"* said Dr Lim.

Dr Wan Hui Wei was awarded Second Runner-up for a presentation on Peri-implant Mucositis Treatment

Held from 28 to 30 November 2022 at the Bangkok International Symposium of Implant Dentistry (BIS), third-year Periodontics postgraduate Dr Wan Hui Wei addressed the use of chemotherapeutics and how it improves treatment outcomes for peri-implant mucositis. With the theme of 'Change and Challenges in Implant Dentistry', Dr Wan performed a systematic review and network meta-analysis on her Master of Dental Surgery (MDS) thesis to investigate the research question.



Dr Wan explained, *"As this was my first time participating in a poster presentation, I am very thankful to be awarded the second runner-up prize. This research project would not have been possible without the support of the Faculty."*

Students awarded Team and Encouragement Award under the mentorship of Dr Nilesh Dubey



Sean Lim Shi-An, Karis Yuen Xin Er, Harini Manivanna with Dr Nilesh Dubey.

Led by Dr Nilesh Dubey, National University of Singapore (NUS) High School students won the Team Award and the Encouragement Award at the Sembcorp Marine's Green Wave Environmental Care Competition for the project titled "Sustainable Nanofibrous Scaffold for Dental Tissue Engineering."

This project explores the possibility of using bacterial nanocellulose as a substitute for synthetic materials in tissue engineering applications. The biodegradable material is considered eco-friendlier and more sustainable. This research explores the potential application of nanocellulose in the oral health consumer market, moving beyond laboratory settings.



## 5th Edmund Tay Mai Hiong (ETMH) Distinguished Speaker Programme - Learn more about Obstructive Sleep Apnoea



Dr David Tay (bottom right), at the 5th ETMH Distinguished Speaker Programme.

The Faculty hosted the 5th ETMH Distinguished Speaker Programme at the National University Centre for Oral Health, Singapore (NUCOHS) from 27 to 29 November 2022. Around 230 participants attended the event. We welcomed Dr Audrey Yoon, an outstanding orthodontist and paediatric dentist with extensive credentials, as our distinguished speaker. Dr Yoon shared her knowledge on managing Obstructive Sleep Apnoea (OSA) from infant to adult and conducted a workshop on MARPE (Mini-Screw assisted Rapid Palatal Expander). This programme helped participants to increase their awareness of OSA and the available treatment options.

Director of NUCOHS, Associate Professor Patrick Tseng, shared, *"The 5th ETMH Distinguished Speaker Programme was enlightening and eye-opening. Dr Audrey Yoon offered attendees good insights into OSA by balancing scientific research with clear clinical evidence. The knowledge gained from the programme will help dentists (working in a multidisciplinary team) identify, treat and manage airway disorders from infants to adults."*



Dr Audrey Yoon engaged participants on the topic of OSA.



Participants received hands-on experience at the MARPE workshop.



Dr Audrey Yoon with the MARPE workshop participants.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Dr Edmund Tay Mai Hiong was the longest-serving Dean of the Dental Faculty, a position he held for 19 years from 1966!





## Celebrating Homecoming: Class of '71 Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) Alumni Return for a Visit

On 15 November 2022, we welcomed our Class of '71 (BDS) alums back to the Faculty. The visit began with an address by the Acting Dean, Associate Professor Wong Mun Loke, followed by tours of the facilities of the Faculty.



Assoc Prof Wong Mun Loke introduced some of the current resources available at the Faculty.



Assoc Prof Vinicius Rosa explained what is offered at the Faculty to support research.

Apart from gaining a better understanding of what the Faculty offers, alums could network among themselves and with staff and students.

## Honouring our Donors at the Donor Appreciation Night 2022

The Faculty hosted the Donor Appreciation Night 2022 at the NUS Kent Ridge Guild House on 3 November 2022. This event offered a platform for the Faculty to recognise our donors for their years of support. It allowed bursary and award recipients to meet and personally express their gratitude to the generous benefactors.

Dr Ishreen Kaur, recipient of the Academic Year 2021/22 Rashid Tahir The Kids Dentist Medal and Prize and Academic Talent Development Programme (ATDP), shared, *"The generous donations have given many, including myself, the opportunity to further our growth as oral healthcare practitioners. I hope that subsequent generations will retain this spirit of giving and continue to support others in their professional development."*



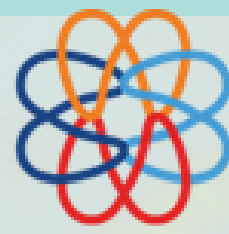
The Faculty's coffee table book, *Celebrating Dental Education Through The Years*, was also launched at the event. The book chronicles the Faculty's humble beginnings as the Department of Dental Surgery within King Edward VII College of Medicine to its present place as one of the world's leading dental schools.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Dental School was formed in 1929 and achieved its Faculty status in 1966.







## DENTALLIANCE



### DentAlliance Symposium: Celebrating Achievements and Developing Strategies for Oral Health Advancement



Dental Deans and representatives from the Adams School of Dentistry (The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill); the Faculty of Dentistry, Oral & Craniofacial Sciences (King's College London); the Melbourne Dental School (University of Melbourne); and the Faculty of Dentistry (National University of Singapore) gathered to present the DentAlliance's accomplishments and future goals at a virtual symposium held on 18 October 2022. Over 100 participants tuned in to the event.



During the session, participants learned more about DentAlliance's goals, current activities, and planned programmes, in which they were encouraged to post questions to representatives from the four dental schools. Acting Dean, Associate Professor Wong Mun Loke concluded the webinar by discussing how public health challenges have developed and how DentAlliance hopes to transform the discipline of dentistry in the face of rapid changes.

Assoc Prof Wong explained, “Over the last two years, we have faced a myriad of changes – changes in population demographics, the emergence of public health threats as we have seen through the COVID-19 pandemic, the evolution of innovations in education or clinical care, the advancement of technology, the use of big data to manage health and more... Amidst these changes, we need to rethink, reimage and reposition dentistry for the future whether it is in terms of education, research or clinical care... The power of collaboration, as exhibited through DentAlliance, cannot be underestimated, and this network which we are all a part of will allow us to tap into the various areas of excellence that we each possess and transform these into meaningful partnerships that will make a difference in dentistry.”

**DID YOU KNOW?**

DentAlliance has four workgroups: Research and Innovation, Education, Continuing Professional Development and Addressing Global Inequalities.





# Graduate Diploma in Dental Implantology (GDDI)

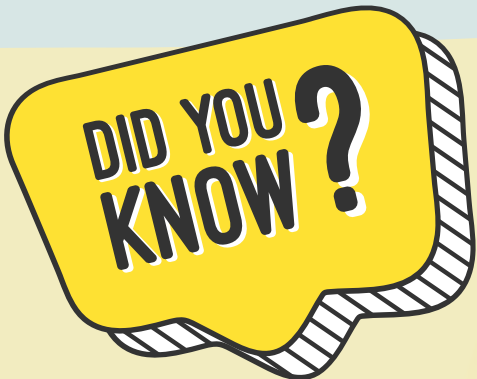
## Graduation Ceremony 2022

### Names of Graduands

On 14 October 2022, the Faculty of Dentistry recognised the achievements of the Class of 2020, 2021 and 2022 from the Graduate Diploma in Dental Implantology (GDDI) programme by hosting a graduation ceremony at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel.

At the event, we welcomed guest-of-honour Professor Yeoh Khay Guan, Senior Vice President (Health Affairs) of the National University of Singapore and Chief Executive of the National University Health System. Associate Professor Keson Tan, Programme Director of GDDI, gave the opening address before Associate Professor Victoria Yu, Vice Dean (Graduate Studies), delivered a congratulatory speech.

2020	Dr Lim Young
	Dr Tan Xing Hui, Charlotte
	Dr Yong Chin Howe
	Dr Heng Zhee Enn
	Dr Jessica Jeya Chatiya Nantham
	Dr Lee Pei'en
2021	Dr Tan Teck Siang, Gerald
2022	Dr Goh Shu Yi
	Dr Tan Kian Howe, Kevin
	Dr Ho Chew Han, Gwen



GDDI is a two-year part-time course offered by the Faculty's Centre for Advanced Dental Education (CADE).





## De-stressing at Wellness Workshops



In conjunction with the wider WellNUS Festival 2022, the Faculty, in collaboration with the university's Office of Student Affairs (OSA), held a series of wellness workshops for our students in October 2022. From stamp carving and scented candle making to basic crochet stitching, the activities enabled students to pick up new skills while bonding through a day of fun and relaxing activities.



*"The workshops, especially the stamp carving session, were entertaining! They helped to take my mind off the daily stress I face. Thank you to the Faculty and OSA for organising these workshops for us; I am already looking forward to the next series!"* remarked Mr Wang Kang Rui, a second-year undergraduate.

## Sharing Knowledge and Best Practices: Universitas Airlangga Visits Faculty of Dentistry

On 30 January 2023, the Faculty welcomed the Dean and staff members of the Faculty of Dental Medicine, Universitas Airlangga. Both universities held a sharing session to discuss their respective developments.

At the end of the meeting, Dr Agung Sosiawan, the Dean of Universitas Airlangga, presented a symbolic memento of the Crown King Puntadewa to Acting Dean, Associate Professor Wong Mun Loke. Assoc Prof Wong gave a coffee table book as a gift, highlighting the Faculty's growth from its humble origins to its current status as one of the top dental schools in the world.

Following the session, the visiting members were treated to an informative tour at the Faculty's premise, where they discovered how technology and advanced techniques were used to train our students.





## A SkillsFuture-Funded Course on Deep Caries Management Organised by The Centre for Advanced Dental Education (CADE)

Instructed by Dr Ode Wataru, the second run of CADE's SkillsFuture-funded "Restorative Series 1: Management of Deep Caries - Vital Pulp Therapy or Root Canal Treatment?" was successfully completed on 4 February 2023. Participants enjoyed a full day of seminars as they learned more about how vital pulp therapy could be applied to mature teeth.



Vice President of the Singapore Dental Association, Dr Eugene Tang Kok Weng, shared, *"Being part of the ageing Singapore population, we should adopt healthy initiatives when opportunity knocks. Attending this course is a good way to keep us mentally active. Moreover, I know we will receive excellent content and guidance during the course if Dr Ode runs it. The best part of this course was the practical component, where we got to try different forerunner systems available in the market. I highly recommend this workshop to all."*

## Exploring Peri-Implant Disease Complications Organised by ITI (International Team for Implantology) Study Club



Organised by ITI Study Club Singapore - a global association of professionals in implant dentistry, postgraduate Periodontics residents, Dr Joshua Xie and Dr Wan Hui Wei presented a workshop on complications of peri-implant disease to NUS dentistry's alumni on 21 February 2023.



The lead director of ITI Study Club, Dr Paul Sim shared, *"Dental implantology has become a common treatment option to replace missing teeth with a concomitant rise in peri-implant disease. Continuing education in diagnosing and managing peri-implant mucositis and peri-implantitis will be valuable for dental practitioners."*

## Celebrating Chinese New Year with Lo Hei



On 3 February 2023, NUCOHS and the Faculty's staff members came together to celebrate Chinese New Year with a Lo Hei celebration.

The event was a wonderful opportunity for staff to mingle with each other and enjoy Chinese cuisine while participating in fun games. The celebration also gave staff a chance to bond while appreciating Chinese traditions and practices.



## Health and Wellness Programmes Organised by the TWSH Committee



### YOGA Workshop

On 4 November 2022, staff were treated to a YOGA workshop for ergonomic health. By moving and working on parts of their bodies, this workshop aimed to improve ergonomics, posture and poise significantly. Participants stretched their areas of tension and tightness, strengthening their muscles and working on their spine.



### Dentistry Step Challenge

In October 2022, the Dentistry Step Challenge brought some excitement to our staff. With a daily average count of 17,423 and 16,626 steps, the winner and runners-up were Associate Professor Intekhab Islam and Ms Tung Hooi Joo (Penny), respectively. They each received prizes valued at \$40, and the remaining 18 winning participants received awards valued at \$20.

### The Best Way to Spend 1 Hour...on Your Well-being!

On 27 January 2023, with the goal of improving general fitness, Dr Maleena Suppiah Cavert (Chief Well-being Officer, NUHS) taught our staff ways to improve well-being using simple and effective tools and techniques.

One of the key elements of this workshop was the "trust falls" that encouraged trust, teamwork and communication among attendees. In addition, Dr Maleena introduced simple body exercises to boost strength and flexibility. These exercises helped our staff to manage stress and anxiety, thus improving their overall well-being.



### An Amazing Walk

Walking has been proven to help decrease the risk of heart disease and strengthen bones and muscles. It also improves mood and reduces stress.


As such, a walk was organised on 10 February 2023 for staff to take a leisurely walk around the NUS campus to boost their mental health. In total, participants walked almost 7km.

One of the participants, Mr Abdul Malik shared, *"Walking enhances my quality of life by promoting deep and meaningful thinking, particularly in the workplace. It also keeps my mind active."*





# Upcoming Events



Centre for Advanced Dental Education  
Faculty of Dentistry



2nd Run

A CENTRE FOR ADVANCED DENTAL EDUCATION SSG-FUNDED  
WORKSHOP SERIES

**Restorative Workshop Series 2**  
**Restoring Tooth, from APEX to Crown**

28 & 29 March 2023 , 0900 - 1700 hr  
NUCOHS, L9 Auditorium / Simulation Lab

For enquiries, please contact Ms Lina Yip at [lina.yip@nus.edu.sg](mailto:lina.yip@nus.edu.sg)

## SkillsFuture-Funded Workshop


### Restorative Workshop Series 2:

#### Restoring Tooth, from Apex to Crown

28 & 29 March 2023 (Tuesday & Wednesday),  
0900 – 1700 hr


NUCOHS, L9 Auditorium & Simulation Lab

Restoration of the endodontically treated tooth requires a holistic approach. This workshop will review the various techniques of root canal obturation, elucidate decision processes and technical challenges from obturation, assess foundation restoration and evaluate the provisionalisation of cuspal coverage.



**BLOOMS: A FACULTY OF DENTISTRY DISCOVERY SERIES**  
Join us on a journey that BLOOMS innovative ideas and collaborations

19 to 21 July 2023 (Wednesday to Friday)  
National University of Singapore



Faculty of Dentistry

## BLOOMS: A Discovery Series

19 - 21 July 2023 (Wednesday to Friday),  
National University of Singapore (NUS)

Looking to discuss trends and technologies that are rapidly evolving in biomedical and craniofacial research industries? Postgraduate students and early career researchers are invited to participate in BLOOMS, a three-day research discovery series in which participants will enjoy the chance to live on the NUS campus and learn through hands-on activities.



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[@nusdentistry](https://www.instagram.com/nusdentistry)



[Dentistry NUS](https://www.youtube.com/DentistryNUS)



[dentistry.nus.edu.sg](https://dentistry.nus.edu.sg)



9 Lower Kent Ridge Road  
#10-01 National University  
Centre for Oral Health,  
Singapore  
Singapore 119085



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