

Annual Report 2021/2022



WELCOME



Blast from the Past! The photo above is from the White Coat Ceremony back in 2008. We pulled this photo from storage to celebrate the 10th Reunion for the Class of 2012 in September 2022.

We are so glad to be here in 2022 where it seems the pandemic's restrictions are coming to an end and as a result the Duke-NUS alumni social calendar has been filling up!

In the past three months there have been half a dozen events that have brought alumni together to socialize, to welcome and thank Class Ambassadors from the Classes of 2021 and 2020 (whose investitures were delayed by Covid-19), to mark the Class of 2022's graduation and to continue the tradition of the Duke-NUS Dialogues. And, this year we mark the 10th Reunion of the Class of 2012 with a reunion luncheon.

It is wonderful that every year we welcome new members to the Duke-NUS alumni family. And so we welcome the Class of 2022! We are excited to have you onboard! We would love to continue to support and partner all alumni, residency groups, and interest groups for future engagements. Please share your ideas with us, be it personal and professional development events, a social gathering or mentoring students, and we will work with you to make them a reality!

President's Message

To my dearest Duke-NUS Alumni,

First and foremost, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our previous presidents, Dr Chia Ghim Song and Dr Maverick Uy, who have been exemplary leaders and role models, and have left big shoes for me to fill. I am excited to follow in their footsteps, and fortunate to know that I will always have their guidance as well as the support of our Duke-NUS Alumni Relations team.

As the dust from the COVID-19 pandemic hopefully starts to settle, I would first like to congratulate our Class of 2022 for facing the challenges the pandemic came with head on, and now proudly joining our alumni. It is heartening to see our numbers increasing, and that our alumni committee grows in strength each year. It is by no means an easy feat as we dedicate these hours on top of hectic clinical schedules, yet I know the work we do for our DNMA group is important and meaningful as well.

The pandemic challenged us to embrace new platforms for meetups and social gatherings – we have all become well-versed with ZOOM meetings and etiquette, and our DNMA committee similarly jumped on the bandwagon and conducted our meetings, AGM, and social events such as Trivia Night and Escape Room online; our very first 10-year Anniversary Celebration for the Class of 2011 was also carried out online, and attended by the likes of our previous Dean Ranga and Dr Doyle Graham.

As our committee grows, we have also had the privilege of carving out various sub-committees with respective heads. These include:

1. Social Events
– headed by Dr Marc Wong and Dr Sashen Aponso
2. Education
– headed by Dr Ruan Xu Cong and Dr Kenneth Chin
3. Professional Development
– headed by Dr Nicholas Shannon and Dr Wu Hong King
4. Overseas Chapter
– headed by Dr Stuti Akella

One of the core missions of Duke-NUS Medical Alumni (DNMA) is to help our alumni stay connected through social and community service activities, advocate for our alumni and Duke-NUS as well as provide opportunities for us to give back to Duke-NUS. Over the past year, our committee has organized events such as the Alumni Movie Night, Inter-Cass Dinners, and we are eagerly preparing for our first post-COVID Dialogue session with our Minister for Health, Mr Ong Ye Kung, to be held at the end of September. Our sub-committee heads also have various activities planned such as our very first Stats and Research course to be conducted by our very own Dr Nick Shannon, and we have been very pleased to learn that many of our alumni are looking for opportunities to give back to the school as well – we hope to find opportunities for you all to help our students, whether as part of the formal curriculum or on an ad-hoc basis, at the same time acknowledging that due credit should be given for all your time and efforts.

Let us not forget the privilege we have of being part of this DNMA group and committee, and the unique potential we all have for transforming medicine and improving our patients' lives. It is my hope for all of us to continue to give back to our alma mater as we mature and transition into more senior roles in our careers. It is only through a strong alumni tradition of giving back to Duke-NUS, nurturing each graduating class, celebrating our various achievements, and making our marks in the medical field, that we can keep the Duke-NUS flags and name flying high and proud.

Your participation and input as alumni are paramount to keeping our activities alive and thriving, and we would love to hear any feedback/suggestions you have for us. I hope to see you all at our upcoming events and activities.

Yours Sincerely,
Anu Pandey (Class of 2015)
DNMA President

Our Objectives

- To represent and promote the interests of Duke-NUS Medical Alumni
- To facilitate interaction and networking amongst the alumni members
- To strengthen ties between medical alumni and Duke-NUS Medical School
- To promote the interests of Duke-NUS Medical School
- To promote the advancement of medical education and medical research
- To foster goodwill among the local and regional community through community service activities

Fourth Management Committee (2021-23)

President

Dr Anuradha Pandey

Vice President

Dr Kenneth Chin

Secretary

Dr Edwin Yang

Assistant Secretary

Dr Evelyn Gabriela Utama

Treasurer

Dr Eric Cher

Assistant Treasurer

Dr Ruan Xucong

Honorary Auditor

Dr Chia Ghim Song

Honorary Auditor

Dr Maverick Uy

Elected Committee Members

Dr He Yingke

Dr Sashendra Aponso

Dr Marc Wong

Dr Wu Hong King

Dr Tan Yu Bin

Dr Dave Ng

Dr June Yu

Dr Low Zhen Luan

Dr Mark Goh

Highlighted Events

INTER CLASS GATHERING

Over the month of August, the Social Subcommittee arranged four interclass dinners at Bakalaki Greek Taverna. The committee members aimed to increase the opportunities for alumni across years to meet and network. The series was a massive success with an outstanding turnout!

5th August 2022
Classes of 2011, 2015 & 2019



12th August 2022
Classes of 2012, 2016 & 2020



19th August 2022
Classes of 2013, 2017 & 2021
with special guest Dr Thiru



26th August 2022
Classes of 2014, 2018 & 2022



Class of 2012 Reunion

On 3 September 2022, the Class of 2012 celebrated their tenth graduation reunion with a luncheon at the Eclipse Restaurant. Class Reunion Co-Chairs Drs Kizher Buhary Shajahan, Andrew Green, Daniel He, Jing Wei Lim, Cheryl Lin Bin, and Kaavya Narasimhalu planned an intimate event to reminisce with faculty and College Masters. We were excited to see some faces that long ago left Duke-NUS but still share such fond memories of the Class of 2012, including Dr Janil Puthucheary, Dr Tan Soo Yong, and Dr Donald Poon.

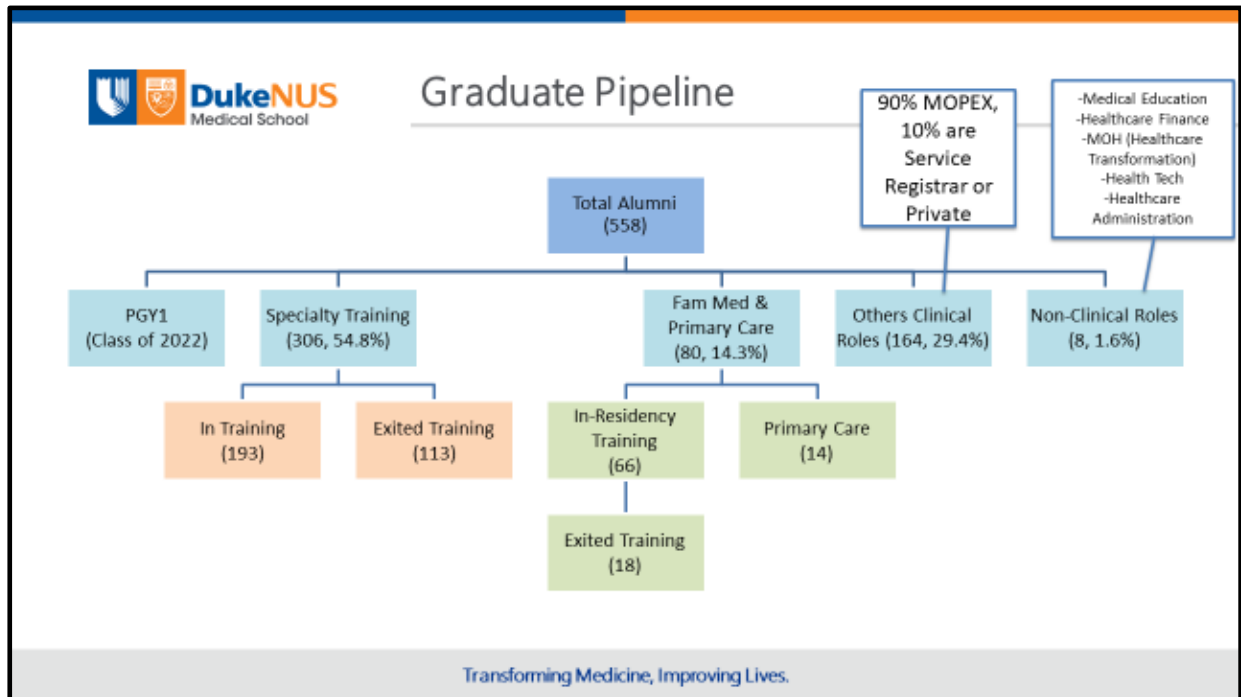


Alumni in the Limelight

Alumni Relations works with the Office of Education each year to include Class Ambassadors in the Graduation and Hooding Ceremony and the White Coat Ceremony as a very explicit sign of the alumni involvement in education and as a nod to the lifelong alumni community that the students are joining. The alumnus presents the class and this year we were grateful to Dr Low Zhen Luan (Class of 2021) and Dr Mark Goh (Class of 2021).

Alumni Pipeline

As of July 2022, we have 558 Duke-NUS medical alumni. Here is a snapshot of what they are doing.



Key Appointments



Rena Dharmawan, MD

Consultant, National Cancer Centre Singapore

Rena was appointed as Assistant Dean, Clinical Innovation & Ecosystem Development (CIED) in the Office of innovation & Entrepreneurship (OIE) with effect from 1 August 2022.

As Assistant Dean for CIED, Rena will be a key member of the OIE leadership team, with strategic and operational oversight for programmes that create experience and knowledge relating to health and life sciences innovation within our extended community. Rena's vision, motivation and plan as Assistant Dean, CIED include clinician-innovator training programmes, networking opportunities for our researchers with external stakeholders, and fostering stronger engineering and industry partnerships. She is starting strong, with the launch this year of the Duke-NUS Health Innovator Program, giving our third year Medical Students, NUS biomedical engineering students, and business students, an opportunity to engage in entrepreneurial health innovation projects with clinical and business mentors.



Assistant Professor Ignasius Aditya Jappar, MD

Consultant, National Heart Centre Singapore

Ignatius was appointed Co-Course Director of Foundations of Patient Care I with effect 1 June 2022. Office of Education is delighted to announce that our alumnus, Dr Ignasius (Class of 2012), will be joining us as the Co-Course Director of Fundamentals of Patient Care I. Prior to this appointment, Dr Ignasius has served as a content expert in the Phase I curriculum. We welcome him as a living exemplar of a successful Clinician Plus to our students and look forward to continuing to strengthen the Duke and Duke-NUS curriculum in Phase I.

Thought Leadership from 2011 Alum



Dr Chia Ghim Song (Class of 2011) shared his opinion in a well written and well-argued article on the challenges that cybersecurity measures that protect data can create for decision making in the June Issues of the SMA News. Read the full article here:

<https://www.sma.org.sg/news/2022/June/Time-is-Brain-Stoking-Cybersecurity-in-Strokes?fbclid=IwAR3xz4ug4-FExkiV1ukCK-vAK4VUWSC5R7IVIHakvsTXRaw4cBGeV5Y1YP8>

Alumni-Founded Speedoc Working with MOH

Speedoc, a telehealth company founded by alumnus Dr Shravan Verma ('14), is participating in a pilot programme with MOH Office of Healthcare Transformation to expand home based recovery. Read a Straits Times article about the pilot here:

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/budget-debate-virtual-wards-for-non-covid-19-patients-to-be-trialled-over-2-years?close=true>

Alumni Relations News

After five years of meaningful contributions to the Alumni Relations team at Duke-NUS, Mr Wong Yong Jie has decided to take up a new job opportunity. I am sad to see him go, and I am also very excited to watch him grow in this new position. I want to take a moment to thank him for his work at Duke-NUS. Yong Jie is a tireless advocate for alumni on all paths and has been instrumental in establishing practices for tracking alumni outcomes, supporting the work of the Duke-NUS Medical Alumni society, and establishing strong ties with Student Affairs and current students. With his support, the Duke-NUS Dialogue has become our signature event that brings alumni, students, school and hospital leaders together for a fireside chat with leaders such as Minister Heng Swee Keat, Minister Ong Ye Kung, and the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon.

Yong Jie knows the alumni data like the back of his hand. He has a knack for knowing names, year of graduation and current specialty of most of the 500+ medical alumni. He is a generous and kind teammate who offers to assist well in advance of being asked. He is a curious man who asks great questions and is keen to learn and grow. He really enjoys working with the alumni and supporting their successes. Yong Jie connects to the Duke-NUS mission and sees his work as helping to create the future doctors of Singapore. I think this connection to purpose is admirable and creates an atmosphere of meaning, integrity and care that positively impacts all who work with him.

Yong Jie, we will miss you. Best wishes in your new endeavour!

Mara



Finance

The Duke-NUS Medical Alumni (DNMA) was officially registered with the Singapore Registry of Societies on 15th April 2013. Its place of business is at Alumni Relations, Duke-NUS Medical School Singapore, 8 College Road, Singapore 169857.

Since DNMA's inception in April 2013, no entrance fees and subscriptions were collected from the members and all expenses were borne by the School's Alumni Relations office.

There are no income and expense as well as assets and liabilities for the financial period, 1st April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

The Management Committee will take responsibility for preparation of DNMA's financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the Singapore Financial Reporting Standards, and for devising and maintaining a system of internal accounting controls sufficient to provide a reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorised use or disposition; and transactions are properly authorised and that they are recorded as necessary to permit the preparation of true and fair profit and loss accounts and balance sheets and to maintain accountability of assets.

Acknowledgements

The DNMA would like to acknowledge and thank all the individuals who have supported them over the year.

Mr Goh Yew Lin

Chairman, Duke-NUS Governing Board

Prof Thomas Coffman

Dean

Prof Ian Curran

Vice Dean (Office of Education)

Mr Tony Chew

Honorary Member of DNMA

Founding Chairman, Duke-NUS Governing Board

Mr Kai Nargolwala

Former Chairman, Duke-NUS Governing Board

Dr Mara McAdams

Associate Dean (Alumni Relations)

Ms Maria Tan

Senior Manager (Student Affairs and Alumni Relations)

Special Thanks

Dr Melanie Chew

Co-Host of the Duke-NUS Dialogues

Please contact us for more information, for mentoring and teaching opportunities and to share news and achievements!

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