

A Passion for Excellence in Our Genes
National Cancer Centre Annual Report 2008



National Cancer
Centre Singapore
SingHealth

PATIENTS. AT THE HEART OF ALL WE DO.
PATIENS. AT THE HEART OF ALL WE DO.



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National Cancer
Centre Singapore

SingHealth

Annual Report '08

PATIENTS. AT THE HEART OF ALL WE DO.

National Cancer Centre Singapore

As the national and regional centre of excellence, NCCS offers a one-stop, holistic range of clinical services to patients, conducts clinical and basic research, and develops public cancer education programmes wholly directed at the prevention and treatment of cancer. Our inspirational concept of care is patient-focused, with multi-disciplinary teams of professionals working together to improve the quality of life for patients and their families.





Director's Message

Professor Soo Khee Chee

Director

When the National Cancer Centre Singapore (NCCS) was set up as an independent business unit, one of its key aims was to provide the community with the best multi-disciplinary approach for cancer patients. To achieve this we have relentlessly pursued upgrading of skills of our specialists, by working and training with the best centres overseas, while we pressed on with our research programmes.

This commitment has borne fruit for many patients who benefit from our expanded knowledge and understanding of how to treat and manage the disease. The research teams in NCCS have contributed much to the global medical fraternity, with many cutting-edge projects and impactful discoveries published in leading peer journals. We have also engaged in several key clinical trials, with results that have paved the way for new pedagogies and medical advances.

As we move on to achieve our aspirations of becoming the best medical institution in cancer care, we will also need to continue to recruit and train more medical specialists who can mentor their young charges. We are pleased to see our doctors take up teaching appointments with Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School (GMS). Their teaching exposure would enable our doctors to sharpen their knowledge and keep abreast of new advances in medicine. This in fact has been one of many goals that NCCS had set for itself when it opened its doors in 1999. I am pleased to note that 15 doctors are currently holding teaching appointments at Duke-NUS GMS.

Our patient load has increased by 69% this year compared to 2007. It is a reminder of the need to increase our manpower resources in the future as the population continues to grow. We are also investing in new equipment as we expand our depth of knowledge so that NCCS will always remain in the forefront in the fight against cancer.





Clinical Governance

National Cancer Centre Singapore (NCCS) focuses on clinical safety and outcomes, the patient service experience and quality improvement.

Clinical Governance Statement

There is the formation of two new safety committees:

Ambulatory Treatment Unit (ATU) Patient Safety Committee ensuring the implementation of best practices in the aspects of patient care and safety while receiving chemotherapy.

Mammotome QA Committee which oversees the training and credentialing of doctors who wish to perform the Ultra-Sound guided mammotome procedures in NCCS, a new service initiated by the Department of Oncologic Imaging.

To improve on Infection Control practices, hand hygiene would be a priority. NCCS aims to provide better access to hand rub at public access areas and to inculcate the habit in our staff. Plans are also in place to track Surgical Site Infection rates.

A total of 4 projects funded by HQIF and HIF were completed as follows:

The Advanced Practice Nurse (APN)-led breast cancer survivors program funded by HQIF was completed. Due to the great success of this program, it is now the intention to extend till March 2010 and subsequently to integrate the service into the existing follow-up plan for breast cancer survivors.

Nurses at the ATU also completed the improvement project on Telephone Triage And Follow Up For Oncology Patients at ATU. The telephone triage allows comprehensive patient assessment and consistent standards of health advice to patients while undergoing chemotherapy.

The Department of Palliative Medicine remains committed to having at least one new improvement project per year. The project on Care of the Dying Pathway started in one Oncology ward was completed. The grant from HQIF enables this project to become a program and enables the extension of this service to patients of other wards as well.

To improve on Radiation Treatment, the project on Developing And Implementing A Novel Modern Total Body Irradiation Three Dimension was completed.

Patient satisfaction decreased from 82.4% to 72.9% this year. This was largely due to increased patient volume causing longer waiting times for appointments in SOC as well as at the ATU. To address this issue, we will be looking into the MOH Customer Satisfaction Survey report to direct our improvements in aspects identified such as the improvement of communication and the coordination of care.

Our plans for improving the overall satisfaction rates is to have staff continue with the enhanced SQ Core training program to re-enforce the SHS 5Cs service standards.

NCCS will also be seeking JCI accreditation in 2010.



Patient Care

Patient-Centred Service

The National Cancer Centre Singapore is a one-stop specialty centre that offers a multi-disciplinary and holistic approach to cancer treatment. As a national and regional centre of excellence, the Centre strives to provide the highest standards of medical diagnosis, treatment and care to patients.



Centre to Focus on Leading Edge Palliative Care



Patient Care

Patient-Centred Service

Centre to Focus on Leading Edge Palliative Care

Providing high quality research and education opportunities, The Lien Centre for Palliative Care – jointly supported by the National Cancer Centre Singapore (NCCS) and SingHealth – will bridge the gap in end-of-life knowledge and training that Singapore currently faces.

A joint effort between the Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School (GMS) and Lien Foundation, the multi-million-dollar facility will be located at NCCS to foster close collaboration between clinicians, the vibrant academic and biomedical sciences research community, and tap on resources available at the Duke-NUS GMS located on campus.

The facility will collect data on palliative care, including: the number of people dying in Singapore; where they are dying; whether they receive palliative support; the level of service received currently; and the reasons people opt out of such services.

The Lien Foundation initiated the setting up of the Centre with a \$7.5 million commitment over a period of five years, which will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the Singapore government.

The Centre is a key thrust of the Foundation's ongoing efforts to boost awareness of palliative care and raise the skill levels of medical staff in this area.

"We hope to create a virtuous cycle where the experience of good palliative care will fuel demand from patients. Then more funds and resources can be attracted into palliative care to meet the growing needs of the aged," said Mrs. Margaret Lien, Chairman of the Lien Foundation.

Grants for the new centre will come from the Lien Foundation, NCCS, SingHealth and the Singapore Government over the next five years.





Education

Lifelong Education

The National Cancer Centre Singapore invests in training and education to cultivate staff to their full potential, building a pool of competent healthcare professionals.



Free Hepatitis B Screenings To Battle Cancer



BNP Paribas, NCCS in Vietnam Medical Training Tie-up



Education

Lifelong Education

Free Hepatitis B Screenings To Battle Cancer

Liver cancer is the fourth most common cancer among men and the second most fatal.

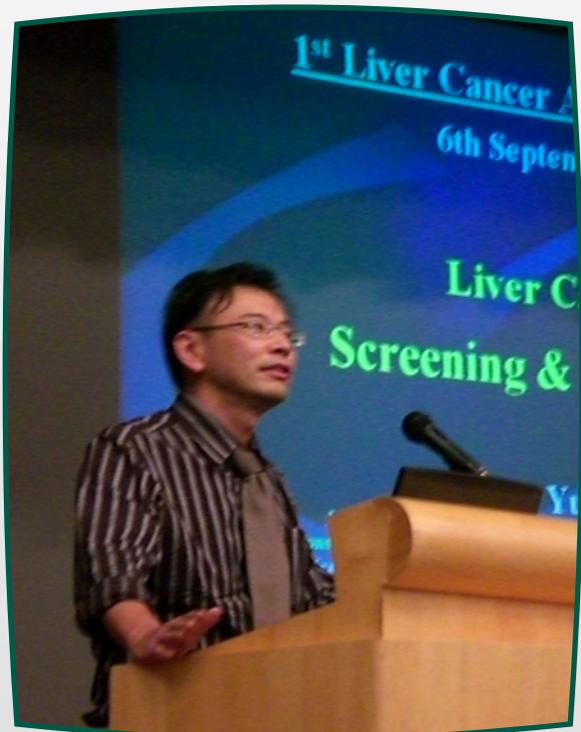
The National Cancer Centre Singapore (NCCS) launched the inaugural Liver Cancer Awareness Month (Liver CAM) in August 2008, aimed at educating the public on risk factors, symptoms and prevention of the disease.

To raise awareness on the importance of early prevention and detection, 400 vouchers for free hepatitis B screenings were distributed at two public forums on September 6. Titled "Liver Cancer and You – Prevention and Treatment" and presented in English and Mandarin at the HDB Hub in Toa Payoh - the forums gave the public the lowdown about liver cancer and the risk factors as well as hepatitis B, a condition which can lead to liver cancer and its prevention as well as available treatment options.

In addition to providing liver cancer patients and their supporting caregivers with information on care and treatment options, the campaign also aimed to give medical professionals – both general practitioners and specialists – updates on the advances in clinical research and treatment.

The campaign came on the heels of other major public cancer awareness campaigns such as breast and lung cancer awareness months (BCAM and LCAM) championed by the NCCS.

"Although liver cancer is the second most fatal cancer, there is potential hope for cure if individuals go for early detection and seek appropriate intervention," said Chairman of Liver CAM 2008 and Deputy Director and Senior Surgical Oncologist at NCCS, Prof London Lucien Ooi.





Education

Lifelong Education

BNP Paribas, NCCS in Vietnam Medical Training Tie-up

Building strong networks with doctors in Vietnam was the reason behind an effort by the National Cancer Centre Singapore (NCCS), along with French bank BNP Paribas Singapore and BNP Paribas Foundation as the sponsors, to facilitate a regional post-graduate medical training programme in January 2009.

Paris-based BNP Paribas Foundation will be providing a grant of 90,000 euros (\$177,500) to three doctors from Vietnam to train in Singapore over a period of three years. The money is set to go towards their stipend and other living expenses.

The cross-border knowledge-sharing move illustrated NCCS' keen interest in undertaking research in clinical care in certain diseases that were common in Vietnam and Singapore - in particular, cancers of the head and neck, nose and stomach and the liver.

"We hope, when establishing these connections through doctors trained in Singapore, that when we want to create this network of researchers we will have a group of people we can immediately turn to and they will, in a way, look on Singapore as their spiritual home," said NCCS director Professor Soo Khee Chee, explaining the centre's move to provide the free training.

Chief Executive Officer and Regional Head for South East Asia, BNP Paribas, Jean-Pierre Bernard highlighted the motivation behind the fellowship programme, "By supporting the training of a pool of doctors in specialist cancer care, we hope to nurture a culture of scientific inquiry and leverage on NCCS' expertise in cancer treatment and research."

The training stints were awarded to Vo Hoi Trung Truc of the Cho Ray Hospital and Do Tuong Huan of Ho Chi Minh City Oncology Hospital in 2009.





Research

Innovative Research

The National Cancer Centre Singapore believes that innovative research is integral to the delivery of quality patient care. The Centre invests in relevant clinical and basic research programmes to further the understanding, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer.



Multi-centre Trial to Combat Liver Cancer



Moving Up A Notch In Drug Development



Research

Innovative Research

Multi-centre Trial to Combat Liver Cancer

Top clinician investigators have kicked off a major multi-centre clinical trial that aims to prolong the lives of liver cancer sufferers. The trial involves two treatment modalities, which, if successful, will extend the lives of terminally ill patients with the disease. Both treatments are separately available in the international market for the treatment of liver cancer.

The investigator-initiated multi-centre trial is being carried out by the Asia-Pacific Hepatocellular Carcinoma (AHCC) Trials Group, which has its secretariat at the National Cancer Centre Singapore (NCCS). Various member-centres in the region including China, India, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Philippines, Thailand, Taiwan and Vietnam were invited to participate in the trial.

"This trial is an important milestone for all our researchers and clinician investigators because we will be taking a step forward in our efforts to help our patients combat liver cancer," said Prof Soo Khee Chee, NCCS Director, who is also the Group Chair of AHCC Trials Group. Also involved in the trial is Dr Donald Poon, a Consultant at Department of Medical Oncology at the NCCS.

The first phase of the clinical trial, which started in June 2008, involved 31 patients who were treated using a combination of two treatment modalities instead of the current standard practice of putting such patients on either one of these treatments. Phase II of the clinical trial started in December 2008.

The treatments have shown promise, as patients treated with Sorafenib, an oral targeted chemotherapy drug, saw their life span improve. Patients who were given SIR-Spheres - an internal radiation therapy applied directly to liver cancer through a catheter, reported significant tumour regression. The trial will be considered successful if results indicate that administering both treatments can extend the patient's life beyond the added lifespan.





Research

Innovative Research

Moving Up A Notch In Drug Development

In a milestone move to combat what is known largely as an 'Asian' disease – the National Cancer Centre Singapore (NCCS) has collaborated with Anglo-Swedish drug giant AstraZeneca to develop drugs for liver cancer.

The partnership with AstraZeneca gives NCCS the freedom to mix and match drugs in the battle against liver cancer and develop a new line of drugs against a disease, which currently has no effective treatment.

AstraZeneca and NCCS have selected inoperable hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) as the first target for their new drug collaboration. This partnership, which includes researchers from the National University Hospital, covers the pre-clinical and clinical development of anti-cancer compounds.

The collaboration with NCCS is a first for Singapore, shifting the country's role from drug manufacturing to drug R&D which is usually done out of Singapore. This could lead to the development of intellectual property in the drug market.

Through funding from the Economic Development Board, the partnership also includes a training placement programme for clinical professionals at the Manchester Cancer Research Centre in the United Kingdom – an institution that has a long-standing collaboration with Astra Zeneca.





National Cancer
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Our People

The National Cancer Centre Singapore recognises that staff need to work in a supportive environment to deliver quality healthcare. We believe in supporting, empowering and nurturing our staff so they can give their best to our patients.



NCCS Director recognised as Outstanding Clinician Mentor



Knowledge Serves as Award-Winning Oncologist's Guiding Light



Our People

NCCS Director recognised as Outstanding Clinician Mentor

He wears many hats but still finds the time to impart his skills to younger doctors. For his sterling mentoring efforts, Director of the National Cancer Centre Singapore (NCCS), Prof Soo Khee Chee was recognised as the National Outstanding Clinician Mentor Award 2008 by the Ministry of Health.

As Director of NCCS, Prof Soo Khee Chee is tasked with looking into policy matters and research projects. In addition to looking at fundraising to support research projects, Prof Soo also attends to patients at his clinic, performs surgery, and shares his experience and expertise with specialists at the Centre. Prof Soo is also the Vice-Dean, Clinical and Faculty Affairs, of the Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School, and oversees research and education as Assistant CEO of the SingHealth Group.

One of the pioneers who witnessed the birth of NCCS, Prof Soo runs the Centre with characteristic efficiency, attending to patients and is recognised as the face of NCCS in the global medical and research fraternity.

A firm believer in research, he sets the strategic direction for research, encourages his team of investigators and clinician-scientists and makes fund raising a priority to keep their projects going.

Prof Soo's efforts have not been in vain as NCCS is now recognised as a leading example of a cutting edge cancer centre. Teams of specialists from various medical disciplines work together, supported by a talented pool of clinician-scientists. The Centre's facilities are well-equipped with the latest medical equipment, for example in radiation technology, so that they can leverage on technological advances to complement their efforts. As part of its comprehensive service, NCCS also offers patients psycho-social counselling and has a wide variety of support programmes to help patients journey through their illness.



Doctors at NCCS also carry out clinical trials as they have a wide patient base which is required for any trial to be effective. This also means that doctors get to see different types of cancer and hence are well experienced in responding to patients' needs.

Voicing his satisfaction at how far things have come for the Centre since it was first established, the modest Prof Soo said, "There were several issues that were important for NCCS at the time of its inception. One was to be able to create various multi-disciplinary segments so that sub-specialist care can be given to the patients in an efficient and timely manner.

"This has turned out well because we are now able to offer a comprehensive range of specialist care for most cancers."



Our People

Knowledge Serves as Award-Winning Oncologist's Guiding Light

His passion for truth has led him to make impressive research breakthroughs.

Dr Tan Min-Han is a medical oncologist at the National Cancer Centre Singapore (NCCS) and an associate investigator in the NCCS-VARI Translational Research Laboratory. He takes a special interest in cancers of the genitourinary system, including that of the prostate, kidney, testis and bladder.

A two-time winner of the prestigious American Society of Clinical Oncology Merit Award and 2008 Singapore Youth Award, Science and Technology category recipient, Dr Tan's dedicated service to his patients earned him an Excellent Service Award in 2006. In addition, he has voluntarily devoted time to guide and educate junior physicians, medical students as well as junior college students.

Dr Tan has co-authored 17 overseas and two local publications in journals including Nature and Cancer Research. His track record has secured him research support totalling S\$470,000 from the Singapore Millennium Foundation, the National Kidney Foundation, SingHealth and the Singapore Cancer Society. He has spoken at international scientific conferences on kidney cancer and reviews for three major journals published by the American Association of Cancer Research.

Delve a little deeper beneath Dr Tan's award-winning clinician-scientist facade, and a quirky side to his work emerges.

Dr Tan published a report named 'The Tao of Bao' debunking a long-held myth in Singapore and Hong Kong that consumption of steamed buns (or 'bao' in Chinese) by doctors would result in heavy workload during night duty. This is because some doctors believe that there's an ominous ring to the word "bao" which can mean either "a lion's share" of admissions or a "shroud".

Determined to find out the truth, Dr Tan monitored sleep patterns and workload at the Singapore General Hospital over two months in 2007, while



treating doctors on duty to suppers of vegetarian "bao". At the end of the study (and \$300 poorer), he had completely debunked the decades-old myth and proved that there was little correlation to higher admissions, deaths, sleep duration or intensive care admissions with consumption of "bao".

Key to his goals in the study was keeping an objective record of sleep patterns and workload of Singapore doctors on night shift. His data has been used in reports to evaluate junior doctors' welfare, performance in relation to the risk of medical errors.

"Our role as oncologists is best captured by a well-known quote which is 'to cure sometimes, relieve often and comfort always'. No patient should walk out of the consultation room feeling more unsettled than before the visit," Dr Tan explained.



Community Engagement

The National Cancer Centre Singapore plays its part as a responsible corporate citizen by contributing to the welfare of the community through a range of outreach efforts.



Joining The Run For Hope



Heartland Extravaganza for Health



Thinking Pink in the Fight Against Breast Cancer



Community Engagement

Joining The Run For Hope

With over \$330,000 raised for the National Cancer Centre Singapore (NCCS) through Run For Hope 2008, lung cancer patients can now benefit from a new technology - an auto-fluorescent bronchoscope machine that will help detect lung cancer in its early stages. This greatly increases the success of intervention and treatment.

The annual Run For Hope charity event was previously known as the Terry Fox Run, named after a Canadian cancer victim whom, despite being an amputee, began a run across his country in 1980 to raise money for research into the disease.

On October 5, 2008, over 6,000 participating runners and employees from co-organisers Four Seasons Hotel, Singapore and The Regent Singapore took to East Coast Park to do their bit for cancer research.

NCCS director Prof Soo Khee Chee said Run for Hope is unique because charitable funding in Singapore is usually provided for a small group of people suffering from cancer and that helps towards their care and treatment.

"The period between getting a breakthrough and translating it into treatment for a patient is a long, hard and expensive road, one that needs up to \$1 billion. This is why beyond patient care, it's important to fund research as well," said Prof Soo.





Community Engagement

Thinking Pink in the Fight Against Breast Cancer

To raise awareness in the fight against breast cancer, the National Cancer Centre Singapore (NCCS) and the Singapore General Hospital (SGH) jointly organised an evening walk from Mount Faber Park to HortPark in October 2008 to highlight the many challenges overcome by survivors of the disease.

Some 300 participants took the time to pose for photographs with their families, friends and supporters against the dramatic beauty of the brightly-lit Henderson Waves and Alexandra Arch bridges and took part in 'Pink Bridges – Walk for the Women in Our Lives'.

Chairman for the Breast Cancer Awareness Month (BCAM) Committee and senior consultant at NCCS, Dr Ho Gay Hui, said the rigorous workout "symbolised the many treacherous crossings in life that patients, families and healthcare partners have to endure in their fight against breast cancer together".

Dr Ho encouraged women to go for regular breast cancer screenings as an effective defence against the disease. She added that the "motivation to arrange for regular screenings should not only originate from themselves but from those around them as well, including men, who need to proactively remind the women in their lives of the importance of regular screening".

Based on Dr Ho's clinical experience, she noted that patients who have strong family support tend to fare better. Her message underscored the wisdom behind the BCAM's 2008 campaign themed 'The Women In Our Lives'. To improve early and regular screening rates, the BCAM committee extended its focus to include encouraging family support and motivation from loved ones at home to make a difference in getting women, especially those aged 50 and above, who are at higher risk of breast cancer to go for regular screening.



In a related breast health education event, about 100 people visited NCCS on October 18, 2008 to learn more about the prevention and treatment of Lymphoedema, or arm swelling which occurs as a result of Breast Cancer treatment.

Jointly organised by NCCS and SGH, the event started with a workshop conducted by Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists from SGH for breast cancer patients who learnt about the prevention and non-surgical treatment of lymphoedema, using massage techniques and bandaging. A public forum followed where participants gleaned more information about the causes and various treatments of lymphoedema.



Community Engagement

Heartland Extravaganza for Health

Public health education through entertainment is a sure way for success, as proven at the launch of the "Health In The Heartlands" event that saw more than 1,000 visitors thronging IMM on May 31, 2008.

"Health in the Heartlands", spearheaded by the National Cancer Centre Singapore (NCCS) was a major outreach programme aimed to help heartlanders understand how to lead healthy lifestyles to combat cancer - a top killer disease in Singapore.

Launched by Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports, the event was a star-studded affair with popular celebrity hosts such as Adrian Pang, Michelle Chong and Suhaimi Yusof adding to the festivities. Popular Master Chef Philip Chia was also on hand to demonstrate the preparation of healthy and tasty Peranakan dishes.

The crowd enjoyed complimentary breakfasts, popcorn, candy floss, balloons, goodie bags, and henna tattoos. Free colorectal screening kits were distributed and visitors were educated about cancer, detection and its prevention through public talks and exhibits.

Bringing home the importance of regular screening as a preventive measure to the public, NCCS Director, Prof Soo Khee Chee explained, "It is wasteful to see so many people who could have had many more years of happy life afflicted with this disease either because of their lifestyles or because they did not go for regular health screenings."

Some 23 NCCS patient ambassadors who made great efforts to support fellow patients through their cancer journey were recognised with special commendations and certifications of appreciation at the event, in conjunction with World Cancer Survivors Day on June 1, 2008.



The mega extravaganza also showcased the top entries for the 'Light of Life' photography competition for junior college students for which they interpreted the 'light' they saw in their darkest moment through their camera lenses. From a total of 102 entries, the winning entry came from Lee Ming Hui Kelvin of Victoria Junior College whose photo captured his father's silhouette accompanied by a caption which illustrated the comfort that his father's frequent presence offered.



Awards & Accolades - General

Service	Recipient(s) Name & Designation
NCC C.A.R.E Excellence Award 2008	Dr Lalit Kumar Radha Krishna, Gilbert Fan, Tan Cheng Kim, Brenda Lee Ann Tee, Sarojah Veerappan, Angeline Hoi Seok Fun, Winson Tan Wai Heng, Prudence Lim
GCEO Excellence Award 2008 for Education	Dr Simon Ong YK
Spring Singapore Excellent Service Award 2008	Tan Cheng Khim, Ling Bee Chuan, Connie Ong Ah Mooi, Yong Wei Sean, Rosnani Bte Abdullah, Rashidah Bte Ibrahim, Richard Tay Lee Keat, Kok Choon Kuen Gewndoline, Georgina Tan Siew Mui, Laura Chin Kim Yong, Carol Lee Hong Lian, Janet S Fernandez, Kalaichelvi d/o Veerappan, Tay Beng Choo, Dr Alethea Yee, Dr Darren Lim, Dr Wong Nan Soon
Healthcare Humanity Award 2008	Dr Joanne Ngeow
SingHealth-Lee Foundation Awards	Tan Meu King
Novartis Award	Oncology Nursing Excellence Award – Chua Foong Sin Alice
MOH Nurses' Merit Award	Quek Ai Huah Audrey
Mercy Relief Certificate of Honour	Dr Simon Ong

Awards & Accolades - Education

Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School	Best Teacher Award (Molecules and Cells)- Dr Toh Han Chong Outstanding Faculty (Practice Course) – Dr Simon Ong
1st National Medical Excellence Awards	National Outstanding Clinician Mentor Award 2008- Prof Soo Khee Chee
GCEO Excellence Award 2008	Open Category for Excellence in Education – Dr Simon Ong



Awards & Accolades - Research

Service	Recipient(s) Name & Designation
Young Investigator's Award 2008	2nd: Tan IB, Tan DS Quek R, Miriam Tao and Lim ST
SGH 17th ASM Award	Best Poster (Clinical) – 1st: Dr Ang Mei-Kim; 2nd: Dr Ho Gay Hui Young Investigator's Award – Dr Joanne Ngeow Best Oral Paper (Scientist)- Chin Wei Lim William
Joint Singapore Pediatric Congress & APAPARI Meeting	Best Poster Award – Wee Song Yeo, Tarun K Maheswari, Chang Li Wei, Caroline GL Lee, Stanley C Jordan, Hui Kim Yap
European Society of Medical Oncology	Best Poster Award _Annals of Oncology 19 (Supplement 8): Tan DS, Tan IB, Quek R, Tao Miriam, Lim ST
Academy of Medicine Of Malaysia	Young Investigator Award- Tan IB, Tan DS, Kanesvaran R, Quek R, Tao Miriam, Lim ST
Annual Scientific Meeting	Young Investigators' Award – 2nd: Tan IB, Tan DS, Quek R, Tao Miriam, Lim ST
Singapore Science and Engineering Fair	Silver Award- Lin Yingbo, Willaim Chin, A/Prof Malini Olivio
American Society of Clinical Oncology	Merit Award: Tan DS, Tan IB, Chan A, Kanesvaran R, Lim W, Chan ES, Lim S

Awards & Accolades - Human Resource / Talent Development

The Singapore Health Award 2008	Institution Award –Gold (NCCS)
Singapore Youth Award	Medal of Commendation- Dr Patrick Tan



Patient Stories

Patient Success Stories



A Strong Foundation Of Support

Mr Teo Thiam Chye, 55 years old

Despite having suffered a relapse for nose cancer five years after he was first diagnosed and treated, Mr Teo remains in high spirits. In March 2008, Mr Teo underwent open face surgery for his relapse. He recovered fast and was discharged from hospital in five days. Besides a strong will to live, he credited the speed of his recovery to his wife and family, as well as to the NCCS medical staff - whom he believes have a personal passion to serve others in need. Mr Teo heads the Nose Cancer (NPC) Support Group and with other survivors, organises talks and activities to help nose cancer patients through their journey and to demystify the disease so that they can better cope and enjoy a good quality of life.



Giving Back to the Community

Ms Yvonne Francesca Boon, 39 years old

Yvonne was shocked to discover that she had breast cancer after going through a routine screening organised by the Singapore Cancer Society. In the course of 18 months, she underwent a mastectomy, rounds of chemotherapy, immunotherapy and countless scans. With diligent follow-up, she has recovered and is no longer on medication. With help from her doctors, the support group and courses conducted by the Psychosocial Oncology Department at NCCS, she was able to make improvements in her life. To give back to the community, Yvonne has started a support group in her church to help others.



A Life Exercise of Endurance

Mr Lim Tau Wei, 36 years old

Being diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, a cancer that affects the body's immune system, came as a rude shock to Mr Lim - an active athlete and endurance runner. Since his diagnosis, he underwent chemotherapy and radiotherapy at NCCS and today, Mr Lim lives life to the fullest, enjoying the pleasure of watching his children grow up.



Key Figures

FY 08

FY 07

Workload Per Annum

year ended 31 Mar 2009

year ended 31 Mar 2008

Day Surgeries

11,534

10,584

Specialist Outpatient Clinic Attendances

129,265

125,984

Staffing (as at end Mar)

Total

520

484

Doctors

112

110

Nurses

91

79

Allied Health Professionals

120

109

Others

198

186

Note: Staffing figures refer to Filled Posts, in terms of Full-Time Equivalent, and may not add up to total due to rounding.