

# LKCMedicine - Building Foundations

By Huang Baoxian and Ryan Chen

**PIONEER.** Thus defines our badge of honour: both our heaviest burden and greatest blessing. While the establishment of Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCMedicine), an unprecedented partnership between Imperial College London and Nanyang Technological University, has been groundbreaking, the spirit of the new school lies within the students.

We hope to portray an image of a student body with heart and soul. LKCMedicine's five-house system (comprising houses Lim Boon Keng, Alexander Fleming, Marie Curie, William Osler and Wu Lien Teh) was originally established by the faculty as a platform for student mentorship. The house system was then taken a step further through the House Challenge, a series of student-initiated inter-house competitions, ranging from traditional sporting competitions and general knowledge quizzes, to board games and even minute-to-win-it challenges!

Beyond house events, the cohort also held several celebrations. Children's Day 2013 evoked a sense of nostalgia, with students attending lessons in their junior college uniforms. Halloween 2013 was perhaps the spookiest experience ever with the likes of ninjas, giant fruits, and even Hitler decked out in full garb. Thanksgiving 2013 was a time to reflect upon how grateful we were to be able join the medical fraternity, commemorated with a steamboat dinner with Dr Tan Lai Yong, Singapore's most esteemed "barefoot doctor".

The community spirit has always been deeply entrenched in LKCMedicine, where great emphasis is placed on grooming people-centric doctors. Community service is integrated into the curriculum. One example is the Long-Term Patient Project, where groups of two or three students visit their adopted patients at home regularly. Additionally, students have kick-started many more community outreach efforts, including volunteer

projects in Tan Tock Seng Hospital and Dover Park Hospice, as well as an Overseas Community Involvement Project recce to Batam.

The rest of the year looks to be even more exciting for the LKCMedicine community. This month will see the inaugural LKCMedicine Dinner and Dance, as well as our first student-driven Freshman Orientation Camp for the incoming first years. As we welcome a new batch of 78 to our school, we will pursue events of a larger scale with grounded ambition.

## Concerns about residency

As our batch is still in Year 1, residency is currently not an immediate concern to us. However, as we have not done any clinical rotations yet, we are apprehensive if they will provide sufficient experience for students to decide on their specialty for residency. It is worrying to run the risk of finding out only later that we lack the passion for that field.

## SMA and the student body

LKCMedicine is extremely grateful to SMA for proactively engaging the LKC Medical Society (LKCMedSoc), which is still in its infancy. Invitations to SMA events have helped our medical society network with the medical fraternity and establish credibility.

Networking is essential to the medical profession, as teamwork is entrenched in the healthcare system. Events organised by SMA that engage students from the medical schools and nursing and allied healthcare fields will serve as excellent platforms to stimulate social interaction between these future colleagues. This will create closely integrated medical healthcare teams that you and I would like to have caring for us. ■



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*Baoxian (inset, left) and Ryan are both first year medical students from the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine. They are currently serving as President and Secretary of the LKCMedSoc respectively.*