



BUILDING THE HEARTWARE IN MEDICINE

PROFILE

TEXT BY

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Legend

1. Student volunteers from NUS Medicine attending to participants during the PHS event
2. LKCMedicine students engaging with an elderly resident during their FOCCIP

Getting into Medicine is one of the greatest gifts for many individuals. Barely into their 20s, these students are eager to pursue the skills in medical practice and they look forward to the day when they can make a difference with what they have learnt in medical school.

These aspiring medical doctors must know that the patient should always be their primary concern. Beyond diagnosing and treating the symptoms, they should also take into consideration the person experiencing them and seek to provide the best treatment, by treating the patient holistically instead of addressing only the symptoms.

The doctor-patient relationship can be a complex and intriguing one. From a patient's perspective, a good doctor is often one who is able to hear, feel and understand the situation he/she is caught in, and not just treat the symptoms he/she presents. It is the deep awareness of the suffering of one, coupled with the wish to relieve it, that will make one a good doctor – equipped with both the heartware and hardware.

NURTURING A CARING PROFESSION

At SMA Charity Fund (SMACF), supporting medical students from modest family backgrounds has always been one of our objectives. We want these students to be able to focus on their medical training without undue financial stress. Beyond supporting medical students financially, SMACF also seeks to benefit the community through healthcare projects, with the aim of inculcating the values of compassion and service among our medical students and professionals.

Every year, a percentage of SMACF's operating expenses go into supporting local community projects carried out by students from the three medical schools. These projects provide exposure to our medical students, where they could develop their heartware and experience what medical doctors would face in their practice.

Each year, these projects translate into approximately 5,000 volunteer hours and many opportunities for our young medical students to learn about medicine in totality. ♦

Supported projects	The impact
Project Legacy	Project Legacy is an initiative spearheaded by a group of NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (NUS Medicine) students who believe in helping palliative patients celebrate their lives by leaving keepsakes for their loved ones. It helps to inculcate the humane approach in students, by allowing them to gain experience in caring for the dying and increase their understanding of caregivers' responsibilities, so that they can better manage future patients.
Public Health Screening (PHS)	PHS is an annual event, organised by the NUS Medical Society, which aims to raise health awareness among the public. The annual flagship event sees a huge involvement of medical students from NUS Medicine and provides a platform where medical students could work on the ground and communicate with a diverse group of individuals.
Camp Simba	Camp Simba is modelled after Camp Kesem, a camp organised in the US by students in colleges such as Duke University, Stanford University and many others. The intent of the camp is to give children affected by a parent's cancer the opportunity to express their emotions in a fun environment, providing respite from the stress they face at home. Locally, it is organised by medical students from Duke-NUS Medical School and NUS Medical Society, and provides opportunities for medical students to understand, and work to allay, the fears of the patient's children.
Freshmen Orientation Camp Community Involvement Program (FOCCIP)	FOCCIP is arranged as part of the Freshmen Orientation Camp in both NUS Medicine and Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine. Held at the beginning of each academic year, freshmen are required to do a day of community service as part of their orientation camp. The intent of the FOCCIP is to provide the M1s a glimpse into their future career, and more importantly, to educate them that medicine is a profession targeted at serving the community with not just the skills but also the heart to serve.

“ Project Legacy was my first exposure to palliative care and I felt that it was a new experience talking to patients in their homes as compared to the hospital setting. I volunteered for the project because I felt that it was a meaningful project whereby one would be able to interact with patients in a different setting, work with their love ones, and see and understand a different side of healthcare. ”

Zelia, Volunteer for Project Legacy, Cycle 5 (August 2015 to June 2016)



Support our efforts to build a compassionate profession to impact healthcare! Contribute to our cause on <https://www.giving.sg/smacf> or send your cheque, payable to "SMA Charity Fund", to

**SMA Charity Fund
c/o Singapore Medical Association**

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Attention to donors: All donations made via cheque and credit card have to be received by SMA Charity Fund by 25 December 2016 to ensure prompt tax filing and claims for Year 2016.

“ Wherever the art of medicine is loved, there is also a love of humanity. ”

Hippocrates