

Appreciating OUR GP PARTNERS FIVE YEARS OF CHAS

By Agency for Integrated Care

"No transformation of primary care is complete without participation of the GP sector."

Mr Chan Heng Kee, *Permanent Secretary of Health, MOH*

Guest of Honour Mr Chan Heng Kee, Permanent Secretary of Health welcoming the attendees at the lunch.



Attracting the highest number of attendees, this year's lunch was a lively and fruitful affair.

The Community Health Assist Scheme (CHAS) continues to be a resounding success, thanks to the invaluable contributions of our General Practitioner (GP) partners. Now in its fifth year, the scheme is supported by more than 950 GP clinics serving 1.3 million CHAS beneficiaries.

To recognise and appreciate GPs who have been with CHAS for five years or more, the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) and Ministry of Health (MOH) jointly organised the annual CHAS GP Appreciation Lunch on 25 March 2017. Held at Mandarin Orchard hotel, the event also celebrated CHAS's 5th Anniversary.

The event featured a series of Continuing Medical Education (CME) talks on the management of diabetes and its complications. Themed "Forging Ahead in the War against Diabetes",

these talks were a huge draw for the 135 GP attendees. Dr See Shean Yaw of Make-Well Family Clinic & Surgery said: "The CME talks were good. There were some new things that I discovered about diabetic conditions, and I especially liked Dr Leong's talk on salvaging diabetic limbs."

The event also featured information booths from MOH Holdings and four public hospitals: National University Health System (NUHS), Khoo Teck Puat Hospital (KTPH), Changi General Hospital (CGH), and Jurong Health Services (JHS). Facilitators were on hand to familiarise GPs with the various programmes, which included GPConnect and Primary Care Network (PCN).

Likewise, AIC set up several booths to promote various programmes, such as the Eldercare and Mental Health



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Dr Koh Ai Peng, Koh Clinic & Surgery Pte Ltd

GP Partnership programme. These were well-received by GPs. Existing GP partners were even seen encouraging their peers to sign up.

Guest of Honour Mr Chan Heng Kee, Permanent Secretary of Health kicked off the event with a rousing address. "MOH sees primary care as the foundation of our healthcare system and its transformation a key priority," he affirmed. "We see GPs as an integral part of primary care. No transformation of primary care is complete without participation of the GP sector." He cited the enhanced Screen for Life (SFL) programme and the PCN initiative as key examples of greater collaborative opportunities for GPs to support the needy, elderly and disabled population.

He also praised the many improvements to CHAS since 2012, such as the recent removal of the requirement for patients to sign the CHAS Patient Consent Form at their first visit. This change reduced administrative work and improved productivity at clinics. "All these would not have been possible without our GP partners," he said. "It is my hope that we can build on these collaborations and do even more together so as to provide effective and affordable primary care to all Singaporeans."

Many GPs in attendance echoed his sentiments. "CHAS has proven itself over the past five years," said Dr Lai Kok Wei of Care Family Clinic. Comparing CHAS to the year-old PCN, he recalled the strong early growth of the former, and expressed his optimism for the latter in achieving the same success.

"I've been with CHAS since its inception, and I think that it's a good set-up that caters to our citizens who need financial assistance," said Dr Koh Ai Peng of Koh Clinic & Surgery Pte Ltd. For him, the CHAS journey had been nothing short of smooth-sailing. "When I started off, the system was already computerised. The support from my team at the clinic, and of course the AIC's CHAS team, really helped facilitate the process."

A special video created by AIC was also screened to commemorate the work of CHAS GPs. Featuring interviews with representatives from the Singapore

Medical Association (SMA) and the College of Family Physicians Singapore (CFPS), the video captured the transformative impact of CHAS on the primary care sector for GPs and patients alike, showcasing and celebrating the scheme's improvements over the past five years.

Since 2012, CHAS has expanded by leaps and bounds. At AIC, we believe that there is always room for growth, and we continue to encourage and seek out new partners. AIC thanks our GP partners for their strong support, which has made healthcare more affordable and accessible for the community.

Join CHAS Today

Partner with CHAS and receive step-by-step guidance for a seamless onboarding process.



A dedicated account manager for your geographical region (CDC) to facilitate the CHAS application process



On-site training on the use of CHAS Online web portal for claims submission



Regular CHAS updates through lunch time talks and monthly quick tips



Office-hour support through the GP hotline

Call us at **6632 1199** or email us at **gp@chas.sg** to sign up as a CHAS clinic today. For GPs seeking to learn more about other primary care initiatives, visit the Primary Care Pages at **www.primarycarepages.sg**.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS!

Dr Loh Ping Tyug

Senior Consultant, NUHS
"Management of Diabetic Nephropathy"

Dr Leong Chuo Ren

Consultant (Vascular Surgery), KTPH
"Salvaging Diabetic Limb"

Dr Wong Mei Yin

Principal Psychologist, NHGP
"Behavioural Medicine in the Management of Diabetes"

The GPConnect team providing a live demonstration of the system to the attendees.



AIC's Primary Care Engagement (PCE) team who support GP clinics in administration of CHAS and other primary care initiatives. Interested GPs can contact the PCE team to learn more about these initiatives.

