

Welcome Aboard!

The SMA News Editorial Board recently welcomed two new members, Dr Jimmy Teo and Dr Natalie Koh. Read on and find out a little more about what makes them tick!



Dr Jimmy Teo says...

I am a Singaporean aborigine who grew up in the western part of Singapore. A "long journey" meant a visit to Changi Beach. For the first half of my life, the world began and ended at Raffles Institution, Raffles Junior College and the stops of the only two MRT lines then. After National Service, I went to University College Cork, Ireland, for medical school, and learnt about life and people. I returned to Singapore to get married to The One and completed my house officer training in the National University Hospital as a bonus. To keep my Rafflesian identity, I joined Raffles Medical Group, but got removed by the giant sucking sound that is America. I completed an Internal Medicine residency in Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, USA, and moved on to a Nephrology fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic.

I returned to Singapore and joined the National University of Singapore to pay it forward by doing the stuff that really matters, like education and clinical research. I drive everywhere because I cannot work the ticketing machine and the many MRT lines. But because I am cheap, I mostly stay at home. Nonetheless, along the way, I made many friends and picked up a bunch of kids. I do not know what the fuss with fertility rates is about since I am one pregnancy away from bankruptcy. On good days, I contemplate a life as a politician. On bad days, I think about buying a one-way ticket to Alaska – with global warming, it might just be peachy there. Like most Singaporeans, I am proud to be awesome. **SMA**

Dr Natalie Koh says...

She is an Internal Medicine resident with slightly over a year left in her training, and is currently making the most of her roaring 20s, post-MRCP, after having spent the 20-something years prior preparing to tame that beast.

She is recently reacquainting herself with the idea of free time, as her typical Singaporean-bred idea of maximising such a precious commodity resulted in an attempt to juggle multiple books, multiple meals and multiple family get-togethers, with multiple hospital postings across both ends of Singapore. She is also deliberating between beginning Pilates for a bad back versus finally running a marathon, which is bad for the back.

She loves a good *mee pok*. She is a teetotaler and spends her nights crawling into bed with her Kindle Fire (preloaded with 20 unread books), enjoying the company of Roald Dahl, Ruth Reichl, and Junot Diaz. And on special occasions, Laura Ingalls Wilder and the motley crew from *Little House on the Prairie*.

Yes, she has Facebook, but she only recently realised that the little bird logo meant Twitter. She has no clue what the rest of the social media universe looks like beyond the aforementioned channels. Hence, when tasked with relating the thoughts of "Gen Y", she is ashamed to admit that her initial thoughts were "Gen WHY ME?!"

She frequently writes in an unedited stream-of-consciousness style and if this introduction reads that way – her editors have been very kind.

Natalie looks forward greatly to joining the SMA News Editorial Board, and her excitement leaves her typing increasingly recklessly. This introduction thus ends before she reveals more that will leave her regretful, and in the fervent hope that it doesn't read like an ad for an online dating website.

Wishing everyone a very merry Christmas and brilliant New Year! **SMA**

