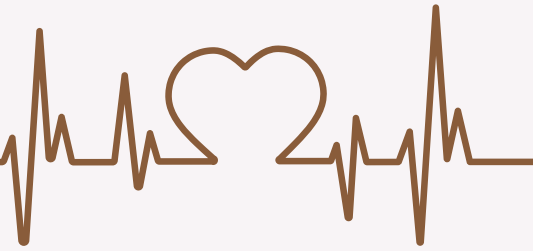


MAKING A DIFFERENCE

One Life at a Time



Dr Tan Si Heng is an orthopaedic resident with National University Hospital who graduated from NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (YLLSoM) in July 2015. She was a bursary recipient of the SMA Medical Students' Assistance Fund (SMA-MSAF) and was also supported by the SMA Charity Fund (SMACF) for a podium presentation at the European Orthopaedic Research Society (EORS) meeting in Nantes, France, from 2 to 4 July 2014. Her podium presentation was on her team's study, "Atypical Fractures of the Ulna and Bisphosphonate Therapy: A Case Report and Systematic Review of Published Case Reports".

It had been a trying journey for Dr Tan who lost her father to colorectal cancer in 2004, when she was 13 years old. She then took on part-time jobs to support her family financially, contributing to household expenses and paying off some of her late father's medical bills. Driven by external circumstances, Dr Tan often had to miss classes during her five years at YLLSoM.

HER TESTIMONY

I took on various jobs, starting with being a cinema staff at Golden Village and waitressing at a restaurant. Later on, I took on tuition assignments because I could not cope with the long working hours of the first two. While still providing tuition, I also became involved in organising children's birthday parties with science themes. It was a challenge juggling work and studies. I worked till 10 pm almost every day and that made it difficult to concentrate on my studies. I really appreciate the way SMA-MSAF

works. Instead of paying for school fees, the bursary gives the money directly to needy students to assist with our daily expenses. We can thus work shorter hours and concentrate more on our studies. I really regretted missing classes in my first few years of medical school and I sincerely hope that this bursary can benefit more people like me, so that we can become better doctors in the future.

The trip supported by SMACF was one of the rare opportunities where I was able to learn from experts worldwide, and it has inspired me to continue doing research with the aim of making some changes to better the lives of my patients.

Now that I've graduated, I will continue to pursue my passion in medicine and be a good doctor. The road gets difficult sometimes, but I really hope to be a doctor who is patient-centred and can bring good to patients' lives. I hope that with my research, I can also better the lives

of future generations. Thank you SMACF, for making a difference in my life!

SMACF would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to all donors who share our vision of developing a compassionate profession that impacts healthcare! ♦

Donations towards SMA-MSAF can be made online via the SG Gives website at <https://www.sggives.org/smacf> or by cheque or credit card donations. The donation form is available on our website at <https://www.sma.org.sg/smacares>. All donations to SMA Charity Fund will qualify for tax deductions benefits of three times the donations made between 1 January and 31 December 2015. SMACF will also receive matching donations from the Government under the Care and Share Movement.



PROFILE

TEXT BY

JENNIFER LEE

*Deputy Manager,
SMA Charity Fund*

Legend

1. Dr Sharon Tan Si Heng feeling thankful for the support she has received from SMACF back during medical school