

# Building the Future of Healthcare



A Night with the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine Bursary Recipients



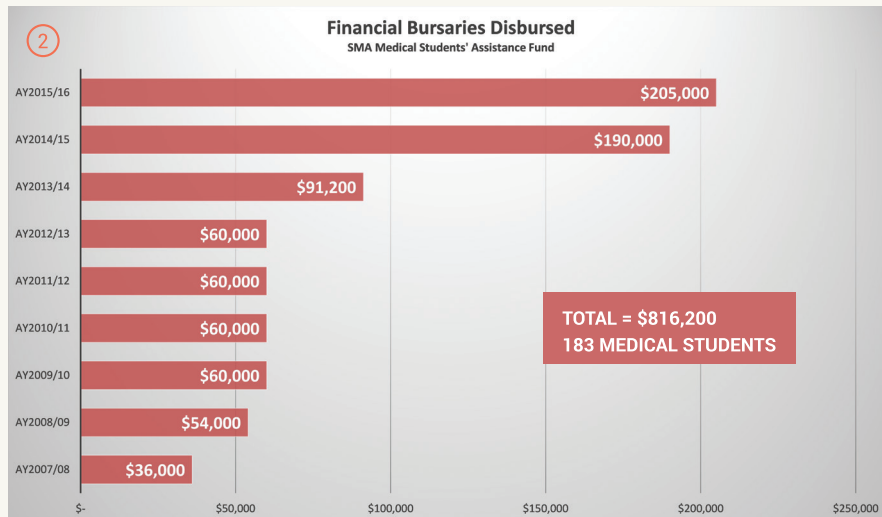
Each year, the Board of SMA Charity Fund (SMACF) meets up with the SMA Medical Students' Assistance Fund (SMA-MSAF) award recipients during the appreciation dinner organised by the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (NUS Medicine). On top of meeting the recipients, SMACF also uses the opportunity to share the role it plays in the education of medical students and the development of future medical professionals. More importantly, SMACF wishes to educate medical students on the importance of

maintaining the tradition of giving back to the community and through doing so, shape the future of healthcare for the benefit of everyone.

The dinner, held on 23 February 2016 at the 21 on Rajah Restaurant, Days Hotel, was hosted by NUS Medicine. In attendance were Prof Hooi Shing Chuan (Vice Dean Education), A/Prof Rajendran Kanagasuntheram (Assistant Dean, Education Student Affairs), A/Prof Marie-Veronique Clement (Assistant Dean, Education Student Affairs), Ms Mathilda Lim

(Associate Director, Development, Dean's Office) and Ms Betty Lee (Assistant Director, Development, Dean's Office) from NUS Medicine and 18 award recipients. Three Board directors and two staff representatives from SMACF were present as well.

Dr Noorul Fatha As'art (Director, SMACF) commenced the dinner by addressing the award recipients. She reminded the students that pursuing academic excellence is important and shared how SMACF can support the



students' learning journey. Dr Noorul also reminded the students to keep the giving tradition in the medical fraternity going, even after they complete their medical education, ensuring that future medical students, like them, are able to focus on their education because of the financial support they receive.

Prof Hooi then concluded with a speech in which he expressed appreciation for the financial support provided by the SMA and SMACF through the SMA-MSAF. The SMA-MSAF was not set up solely to provide underprivileged medical students with financial help, but also to serve as an avenue for the medical profession to give back and support the future of medicine, to emphasise the importance of collegiality and giving, and to maintain the tradition of giving among medical students. The evening was particularly meaningful as representatives from SMA and SMACF had the opportunity to meet the bursary recipients face-to-face to

discuss the latter's concerns, academic lives and hopes for the future.

Over the years, bursary disbursed under the SMA-MSAF programme has been increasing. In the last two years, SMACF saw an increase in the needs of the medical students, with more underprivileged medical students requiring additional financial support towards their living expenses. Needy medical students from all three local medical schools benefit from the SMA-MSAF programme.

With the conclusion of the Medical Students Living Expenses Survey and the scheduled release of the study in the new Academic Year 2016/17, SMACF will carry out an internal review on the bursary quantum to be disbursed.

"You will eventually graduate and proceed on to become a doctor, and you will face many social and ethical challenges. Remember this day. Remember that you have been a beneficiary of the SMA-MSAF. Remember that when you were in need, the profession was there for you. Remember to practice ethically and support the students who come after you."

Indeed, this message which was poignantly shared by Prof Wong Tien Yin (Chairperson, SMACF), with the bursary recipients from NUS

Medicine during the appreciation dinner held in 2014 is a constant reminder that the future of healthcare is going to be driven from what we build today! ♦

**BEING A FINAL YEAR MEDICAL STUDENT, I FIND MYSELF REFLECTING ON MY TIME IN MEDICAL SCHOOL MORE OFTEN. YOUR GENEROUS GIFT HAS INDEED ALLOWED ME TO MAKE THE MOST OF MY TIME IN MEDICAL SCHOOL. THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME COME A STEP CLOSER TO ACHIEVING MY GOAL OF BECOMING A GOOD DOCTOR, AND FOR INSPIRING ME TO GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY.**

**— Teo Qi Tian, M5**



#### PROFILE

#### TEXT AND PHOTOS BY

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#### Legend

1. NUS Medicine bursary recipients AY2015/16 with NUS Medicine and SMACF officials
2. Bursaries disbursed through the SMA-MSAF programme since 2007
3. Teo Qi Tian (first from left, standing) at the Appreciation Dinner with attendees from NUS Medicine and SMACF (seated, from left: Dr Noorul Fatha As'art, Prof Hooi and Mr Colin Lim)