

AN INSIDE LOOK AT LKCMEDICINE

"Good is the enemy of great." – James C Collins, author

LKCMedicine doesn't want to just be another good medical school. It is greatness that LKCMedicine aspires to achieve: greatness not only in how we measure ourselves but how others – patients, colleagues and stakeholders – assess us.

After three years of preparation, the School welcomed its inaugural class of 54 students in 2013. This class – the Class of 2018 – is currently

completing their Year 3 studies and will graduate to become PGY1 doctors (also known as postgraduate year 1 or house officers) on 2 May 2018. The invitation from the *SMA News* to feature LKCMedicine in the July 2016 issue is therefore timely and much appreciated.

LKCMedicine has two parents: Nanyang Technological University (NTU) Singapore and Imperial College London (Imperial). Being the newest medical school in Singapore coupled with such parentage surely raises



A/Prof Tham Kum Ying is assistant dean for Year 5 and lead for emergency medicine at LKCMedicine. She is also education director and a senior consultant at TTSH. A passionate educator and active volunteer, A/Prof Tham has been recognised with numerous awards for her dedication and excellence in teaching.

Kam Ying

Guest Editor

the curiosity quotient. Hence, Prof James Best, dean, will share through his interview an overview of the School; touch on how LKCMedicine addresses Singapore's healthcare needs and how our students contribute to the School and to patient care; and elaborate on the opportunities a new medical school provides for multidisciplinary research that transcends boundaries (see page 6). Vice dean for education, A/Prof Naomi Low-Ber, shares her insights into the making of this new medical school, introduces the School's Team-Based Learning pedagogy and bespoke e-learning ecosystem, and the enduring partnership between NTU and Imperial. A/Prof Wong Teck Yee, assistant dean, Year 4 and family medicine, and senior consultant family physician at TTSH, reflects on the curriculum, highlights the

sustained early patient contact that begins in Year 1, the multidisciplinary faculty that teaches our students and how these impact student communication and interpersonal skills in their clinical years.

To give voice to our students, three of them have written about various aspects of student life. Leon Tan, third year student, pauses in the middle of his busy schedule to take stock of the year – during which the initial baby steps towards a medical career become firmer – and explains how the early years have facilitated the transition. With the recent conclusion of the 2016 admission exercise, Rebekah Lee from Year 2 articulates the factors she based her choice of medical school on. We have also invited Edlyn Tay from the Class of 2020 to recall how the House System

has added colour and vibrancy to the year, during which fun and games were interspersed with meetings and chit chats with caring and supportive house tutors, and the tutorials, tips and tricks from seniors.

The privilege to start a new medical school happens once in a career-time. For those of us tasked with making LKCMedicine a reality, it has been an enriching and humbling experience. Our students, faculty – scientists and clinicians, researchers, administrators and leaders are united in our aspiration that our graduates will be: "The doctors you and I would like to have caring for us." And to our colleagues – the readers of this newsletter – we hope that when you exclaim: "So, you graduated from LKCMedicine!" it will be because the doctor has surpassed your expectations. ◆