

The students of the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKC Medicine) are no strangers to the House System. Upon starting school, every student is sorted into one of the five Houses named after esteemed individuals in the medical field – Marie Curie, Alexander Fleming, Lim Boon Keng, William Osler and Wu Lien-Teh. Personal tutors are allocated to individual students within each House to provide guidance and lend a helping hand by ensuring that students are progressing in and coping well with their academic studies, as well as to ascertain their well-being; with the aim of giving students the maximum opportunity to succeed. Each House is also a platform for interaction between students across different years of the MBBS programme, nurturing friendships that transcend merely the academic and the segregation between different batches of students, ultimately growing into a genuine and multi-faceted support system for each individual.

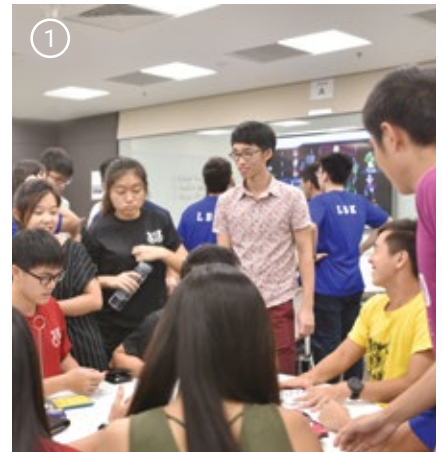
We are each part of a "House family", with every family there to support

its members through little acts of encouragement like preparing welfare packs before examinations or academic support such as tutorial and revision sessions conducted by seniors to aid their juniors through a difficult teaching block. The House families form the cornerstone of bonding and networking between House members of different school years.

We also bond across Houses. One key activity that brings all the Houses together is the House Cup or Inter-House Championship, which serves as a platform for members of each house to interact and deepen their friendships.

THE HOUSE CUP

The House Cup consists of five competitive events – Inter-House Sports, Inter-House Unsports, Inter-House Brawl, Inter-House Mania and Inter-House Remix. These events cover all grounds, allowing all students – whether they are athletically inclined, more drawn to the arts or more well-read and knowledgeable – to participate. The House Cup



allows students to take a break from their books, unwind and enjoy the Wednesday afternoons, which we have all timetabled off, with their House mates – seniors and juniors alike. Every student's participation serves as a tangible means by which we contribute to our House, fostering a sense of ownership and belonging.

Beyond the competitive element that is brought to the table, the Championship supports bonding within each House, creating opportunities for interaction that go beyond those related to work. The Houses compete, laugh and cheer together, building a sense of camaraderie that contributes to the building of the LKC Medicine school spirit.

As the House Cup covers a spectrum of interests and talents – from sporting and gaming to trivia and the arts – the AY2015/16 edition attracted the participation of different groups of students for each event. Playing to their strengths, the five events saw the victories and defeats alike for the Houses.

THE BATTLE BEGINS

The House Cup kicked off on a sunny November afternoon, as the three cohorts of medical students and their house tutors got together for the opening House Cup event at the lower field of Nanyang Technological University for Inter-House Sports. The Houses competed in a variety of games, namely soccer, captain's ball, Frisbee and dodgeball, to showcase their sporting talents. After battling it



out, we eventually had a tie between Marie Curie House and Lim Boon Keng House, who took the early lead.

But this didn't last long, because Alexander Fleming House made up for lost chances by bagging top spot in the next three House events – Inter-House UnSports, Brawl and Mania, leading the standings from January through to May! They impressed with their flair for words, sharp wit and considered wisdom at UnSports, where they came out on top after a series of games, spanning from Mario Karts, Saboteur and Space Team to Psych, Boggle and an intense round of Pictionary which featured childhood, movies, characters, television shows and of course, medicine as categories.

Alexander Fleming House extended its lead with the Inter-House Brawl, where Houses needed all their muscle and best strategic thinking to earn points; and then some more with Inter-House Mania, which featured challenges including our own edition of "Don't Forget the Lyrics" and "Minute to Win It".

Despite their winning streak, Wu Lien-Teh and Marie Curie Houses remained in the race, making the final event a real showdown. Inter-House Remix challenged the Houses to beat each other at singing, dancing, acting, drawing and modelling. The Houses put on highly entertaining dance performances and it was fascinating to discover the hidden fashionistas! It was at this event that Marie Curie

House outshone the other Houses, radically altering the standings in the league table and eventually emerged as this year's sole champion.

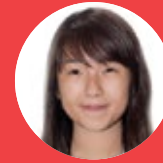
MEMORIES TO LAST A LIFETIME

Over the course of the Championship year, each House forges its own invaluable and unforgettable memories – be it in the heat of a sporting event in the lower fields, in the ensuing cheers after your fellow House mate steers his Mario kart to victory, or in the crafting and execution of an otherwise spontaneous skit centred on a wayward adolescent-turned law enforcer. Celebrating every victory and loss together, each House has created for its members a set of unique experiences.

The House Cup is not built solely on the time and effort of the house representatives, but that of the entire student body of LKCMedicine. The House Cup was never about winning the championship trophy, but rather about giving one's best in every event and enjoying the process. Our Houses form an indispensable support system – one that has seen LKCMedicine students through academic rigour and light-hearted fun with friendships that last well beyond.

As we mark the end of the third House year, we are pleased to realise that every House has had its turn in winning the House Cup, recognising the diverse spread of talented individuals in each of the five Houses. ◆

PROFILE



TEXT AND PHOTOS BY

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Edlyn Tay is an LKCMedicine Class of 2020 student and the M1 house representative of Alexander Fleming House, who has helped to organise all the Inter-House events together with the other house representatives. She believes strongly in the House System.

Legend

1. Students give their House mates tips on how to win a bridge game
2. All the participants after the final House Cup event, Inter-House Remix, where Marie Curie clinched the title
3. In addition to the House Cup, students also bond through other events such as the Senior/Junior games

