

# THE CLASS OF 1965: 50 YEARS ON

The class of 1965 celebrated their Jubilee anniversary last year. It was possible thanks to a regular “lunch group” of 11 classmates who kept in close contact, the National University of Singapore (NUS) Alumni Relations Office, as well as the Dean’s Office. It was definitely an event of note; I want to thank Dr Tan Tian Cho for connecting me with Dr Low Lip Ping, and Dr Low for allowing us to reproduce part of his speech delivered at the reunion dinner.

SMA News is for patients, and for doctors. One way for SMA News to stay in touch with members is to feature significant events, such as the 50th anniversary of our medical school graduands. We hope to hear from you on how you celebrate it as a class! Here’s a shout-out to the class of 1966: SMA News will get in touch with you soon!

*Dr Tan Yia Swam, Editor*

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## FIRST PROFESSIONAL CLASS 1961



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## This is an excerpt from Dr Low Lip Ping's speech delivered at the University of Singapore Medical Class of 1965 Reunion Dinner on 28 November 2015.

It seems like only yesterday that we graduated from the University of Singapore with the degree of MBBS, and now, here we are 50 years later.

Recall when we first entered medical school, the excitement and uncertainties as *freshies* and how we progressed over the years, right up to being confident medical practitioners. Remember the Allen and the Faris lecture theatres and the Harrower Hall, where we sat through lectures illustrated on a blackboard, seated on chairs with awkward side arms, and the Pathology lecture theatre where we listened to Prof K Shanmugaratnam and Dr Malcolm S Muir's lectures on pathology.

Remember the posting to the old Kandang Kerbau Hospital (KKH) which then held the world record for the highest number of deliveries in a single hospital, so we fulfilled the requirement of delivering 20 normal deliveries in a ten-week posting within two weeks, and the stitching of episiotomies which the house officer was supposed to do but could not keep up with because of so many deliveries.

Remember too, the postings to the old Tan Tock Seng Hospital where we were shown numerous patients with all stages of tuberculosis as it was an epidemic, the Middleton Hospital with patients on the iron lung because of paralysis of the respiratory muscles due to diphtheria, and the visits

to Trafalgar Home with patients showing different manifestations of leprosy.

Little did we know back in those tumultuous years of the sixties what a world of change lay ahead of us: a world of high-speed technology, space travel, advancement in computers and medical science, and other developments too innumerable to cite. Little also did we know of the opportunities we would be afforded or the paths our lives would take, or the people we would encounter, or the impact we would have on their lives and the impact that they would have on ours.

Now, 50 years later, the physical walls of some of the institutions that we trained in are gone. The University of Singapore Medical School is no longer at the College of Medicine Building, which is now home to the Ministry of Health. The University of Singapore Medical Faculty is now NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (NUS Medicine), situated in Kent Ridge. Several blocks of the Singapore General Hospital are also gone. Only the Bowyer Block which used to house the Department of Surgery, the Department of Clinical Medicine and the Department of Paediatrics (Mistri Wing) remains, housing mainly the Singapore Health Services administrative offices and, until recently, the National Heart Centre. Gone also is the old KKH where the university Department



Chee Hin, Quok Seng Lian, Ong  
Ling Chaw Ming, Johnny Yeo  
Lip Ping, Sum Lai Yan, Fan Yen  
Lim Kim Leong, Jimmy How,  
Tian Cho, M. Jayasingam, Martin  
Wang, Chau Sik Ping,  
Mary Tan Siew Geck.



of Obstetrics and Gynaecology was sited.

But a medical school is not just bricks and mortar. It is the calibre of the students and the staff that contributes to and establishes its reputation. The medical school has moved on and made giant strides in its achievements. It is no longer the modest medical school of a developing country within the British Commonwealth. Today, NUS Medicine is considered one of the top, if not the top, medical schools in Asia and among the top medical schools internationally. Each year, it sees 350 medical students graduate.

We, the 1965 graduates of the University of Singapore Medical School, should take pride in this achievement and be proud to live on as tribute and legacy to our forebears, our teachers, and to each other. I have read through the biographies that many of you have sent me in response to my request and I know you can take pride in your achievements. With your help, I hope to collate and edit your contributions in a format which we can upload on the Internet, perhaps on Facebook, which will be a continuing narrative of the University of Singapore Medical Class of 1965 and which successive generations can contribute to. ◆

The Class of 1965 Reunion Dinner raised a total of \$2,500, which was donated to the NUS Medicine's Medical Bursary Fund.

## MEMBERS OF CLASS OF 1965

Boh Hee Ken	Ng Soon Gan
Chan Kai Poh	Ng Thin Onn
Chau Sik Ting	Ooi Mooi Mooi
Cheam Tat Eng	Ong, Caroline
Chen Ai Ju	Pwee Hock Swee
Cheng Chi Eng Mark	Quek Seng Lian
Chin Yoon Hiap	Rajan Uma
Chng Hong Chee	Sim Wong Chin Thomas
Chow Kye Kheong	Sum Lai Yan
David Dharmanesan	Snodgrass, Ian
Chelvanayagam	Sharma, RP
Esther Isaacs	Tan Eng Wee Paul Melvyn
Fan Yen Shian	Tan Thai Keng
Foo Keong Tatt	Tan, Gary
Gurdeep Singh	Tan, Michael
Han Mui Fong	Tan Tian Cho
Hardial Singh	Tan Tulip
Heng, Anthony	Tan Yee Beng
How Yew Chen Jimmy	Tay Leng
Jeyasingham	Tay Pan Kwang
Jogeswary Nagalingam	Teoh Hui Khian
Kho Kwang Po	Toh Ban Hock
Koo, Martin	Toh Chu Yu
Lam, Martin	Toh Keng Kiat
Lee Seow Lang	Tseng Seong Pheng William
Liew Pak Chin, Robert	Wang, John
Liew Kuen Hoe	Wasan Kuldip Singh
Lim Kim Leong	Woon Fong Choi Frances
Ling Hau Cu, Francis	Woon Kai Yong
Looi Cheng Sin, Robert	Yeo, Johnny
Low Lip Ping	Yeong Seng Coo
Nadasabapathy	

## IN MEMORIUM

Ang Ah Ling	Loh Yee Phong
Chan Heng Leong	Low Chee Mien
Che Rus Mohd	Loke Khua Eu
Chong Pee Heng	Ng Siew Thong
Choong Tet Min	Siew Yan Sek
Goh Choo Woon	Sivalingam Siva
Goh Mye Meng	Soh Seng Hwee, Joseph
NKN Iyer	Yap Seong Fatt, Joe
Ling Chaw Ming	

*If we have inadvertently omitted the name of any class members, we sincerely apologise for the oversight.*



### Legend

1. First professional class, 1961
2. Group photo of the class of 1965 at the Alumni Building Singapore, 1977
3. At a medical undergraduate dinner
4. 25th class reunion, 1990
5. Class reunion in Zhangjiajie, China, 2007
6. Class reunion in Jordan, Petra and Syria, 2010
7. Small group attending clinics
8. Cruise on Mariner of the Seas to Vietnam, Hong Kong, Okinawa, Jeju (South Korea) and Shanghai, 2013
9. Class reunion in Dalian, Qingdao, Tai Shan Mountain and Jinan, 2012
10. Taking the boat to Kangaroo Island and enjoying the sights, 2014
11. Class reunion in Adelaide – Dinner at the Hilton, September, 2014