

Helping



DREAMS



Come True

SMACF Bursary Presentation 2019

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The gloomy weather did not dampen the spirits of SMA Charity Fund's (SMACF) inaugural bursary presentation for our latest batch of the SMA-Medical Students' Assistance Fund bursary recipients.

Indeed, response to our invitation to meet SMACF's Board Chairman Dr Chong Yeh Woei was overwhelming! Altogether, we hosted 32 bursary recipients from the National University of Singapore (NUS) Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, Nanyang Technological University's Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine and Duke-NUS Medical School. They came probably not knowing what to expect from the event but were nonetheless eager to meet Dr Chong, hoping to receive not just the cheques which were presented to them at the event but also nuggets of wisdom dispensed by Dr Chong, as well as learn about the history of SMACF.

The atmosphere that greeted our future doctors was one of warmth, as the recipients mingled freely with Dr Chong and the SMACF staff, Sara and I, who were their main points of contact throughout the bursary evaluation process. For us, it felt as if we already knew the recipients, having interacted with them through email, and gotten to know their family situations, hopes, dreams and aspirations. It was indeed gratifying to know that our fundraising efforts have resulted in this wonderful outcome of being able to help these students in their pursuit of their dreams and hopefully contribute to the uplifting of their families from their current socio-economic challenges.

In his speech to the recipients, Dr Chong emphasised that the objective of the bursary was to help those less financially well off to embark on a career as a doctor, thereby promoting diversity in the profession. By doing so, we hope

to nurture compassionate and selfless physicians who will espouse the ethos of curing sometimes, healing often and comforting always. He also expressed the hope that in the near future, when they are able to, the recipients will pay it forward by helping others in need and that he will call on them to support SMACF in kind or in deed.

The recipients were then encouraged to get to know each other over light refreshments. Dr Chong, together with SMACF staff, also took the opportunity to move through the small groups to engage with recipients, as well as to answer any questions they may have on the work we do.

We would like to express our thanks to all the recipients for making the effort to join us at this session and hope that through this meeting, we will be able to work together through collaborations in the near future. ♦

