

## 24TH SINGAPORE PHARMACY CONGRESS



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	Ms Sharene Goh	Dr Vivianne Shih
	Mr Lee Chern Yih	Ms Tan Wei Chuen
	Mr Mohammed Nazri	Ms Miko Thum
	Dr Melissa Ngai	Ms Wong Huan Yan
	Ms Jenny Oo	Mr Wu Tuck Seng

The Pharmaceutical Society of Singapore (PSS) was privileged to hold its annual congress in conjunction with the 9th Annual Meeting of the International Medication Safety Network (IMSN) on 18th and 19th October 2014 at the Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore. This was a milestone event as it was the first time that PSS co-organised its congress with IMSN. The theme for the Congress was "Advancing Medication Safety Towards Quality Care". The 24th SPC also marked the opening of the Pharmacy Week that was held from 18th through 24th October.

Mr Gan Kim Yong, Minister for Health, graced the occasion as the Guest-of-Honour. In his speech, he mentioned that this year's theme is timely and relevant as it is aligned with the Ministry of Health's vision of achieving quality healthcare that is accessible and affordable for Singaporeans. He highlighted that medication use is a continuum from drug development, to prescribing, dispensing and administration. Hence it requires various healthcare professionals to collaborate and facilitate each segment and he urged pharmacists, being medication experts, to take the lead in this effort to ensure the safe and appropriate use of medications for our patients.



The opening ceremony featured the Urban Drum Crew, one of Singapore's premier arts percussion group, delighting the congress participants with their signature performance featuring the water LED drums. It also saw the handing out of the PSS Student Overseas Enrichment Award, the PSS-LF Asia Community Pharmacist of the Year Award and 10 Pharmacy Health Ambassador Program awards to pharmacists to acknowledge their outstanding contributions to the profession.

A Lifetime Achievement Award, a first for the PSS, was presented to the late Mr Koe Khoo Poh posthumously, who was a Fellow and Past President of PSS to recognize his unstinting effort and relentless drive in uplifting the image and standing of the pharmacy profession, his commitment, passion and dedication to the pharmacy calling and for his contributions to society. The award was received on his behalf by his son Dr Stuart Koe and witness by the family and all the congress attendees. He will be dearly missed.



The number of attendees was also a record for PSS – 1300 including invited guests on day 1 and 700 on day 2. There was also a large turnout of foreign delegates. The scientific programme was comprehensive and catered for the learning needs of the varied segments of the attendees.

There was a record number of pre-congress workshops conducted this year ( 6 offsite and 3 onsite) that commenced from 13th October. It aimed to meet the various needs of healthcare professionals, comprising of (a) Haematology-Oncology Workshop, (b) Antimicrobial Stewardship Programme, (c) Gerontophobia - What's there to fear about managing an elderly patient?, (d) Aseptic Dispensing Workshop, (e) Selected oral research presentations as well as a few pre-congress workshops that tie in with our congress theme on medication safety featuring root cause analysis, enhancing medication safety through effective communication in a multi-professional care team and dedicated sessions for pre-registration pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. There were many significant issues about medication safety and practice that were raised for call to action. One of the follow-ups was the formation of a medication safety network and professional indemnity insurance for pharmacists in Singapore.

We were indeed honored to have the keynote lecture "ISMP Targeted Medication Safety Best Practices in the United States" delivered by Dr Michael Cohen, President of The Institute for Safe Medication Practices and Vice Chair of the Patient Safety Advisory Group for the Joint Commission. The other plenary sessions were delivered by Prof David Cousins (Senior Head for Safe Medication Practice and Medical Devices, NHS London, England, , Mr David U (President and CEO of the Institute for Safe Medication Practices, Canada) and Mrs Rebecca Chew (Advocate and Solicitor, Rajah & Tann LLP, Singapore).



At the congress, the PSS showcased the medication safety initiatives in Singapore via its "Medsense" exhibit. Medsense was divided into three domains namely, medication use process (MUPS), information technology (IT) and safety culture and education (SE) to illustrate that medication safety is a continuum and impacts people, process, systems in key areas of patient care. Also, congress participants were asked to vote for their favourite logo to commemorate PSS's 110th Anniversary next year.



The social night held at the "TAB" on the evening of day 1 of the congress was well attended and all had fun. Financially, the congress returned a positive balance of about \$34,000 despite the initial worries of insufficient sponsorships and attendees. Kudo's to the sponsorship team led by Ms Sharene Goh

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank each and every committee member for their dedication and commitment in organizing this very successful Congress. Furthermore, we would also like to thank all our distinguished speakers, judges, corporate sponsors, PSS Council, advisors and both the congress and PSS secretariat, without which, none of this would have been possible.

Reported by: Mr Wu Tuck Seng, Chairperson & Dr Vivianne Shih, Vice-Chairperson 24<sup>th</sup> Singapore Pharmacy Congress

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