

MEDIA RELEASE

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New Education Hub boosts IMH's efforts to groom the next generation of mental healthcare professionals

1. The Institute of Mental Health (IMH) has beefed up its training and education facilities to better meet the needs of the next generation of mental healthcare professionals in Singapore as well as increase in numbers of placement for its pre-professional programmes.
2. The new Education Hub, officially opened on 28 October 2015, aims to enhance the learning experience for post-graduate psychiatry residents and medical, nursing and allied health students who come to IMH for their clinical training.
3. Funded by the Ministry of Health, the 875sqm facility was designed to meet the education and training needs of residents and students, with well-furnished yet flexible spaces purpose built to support didactic teaching and interactive team-based learning. It houses five training rooms, which are designed for lectures and seminars; three discussion rooms for tutorials and small-group discussions; and a reading room with IT-equipped cubicles for individual study. A common group lounge encourages interaction and collaborative learning between students from the different professional groups to give them a head start in working in multi-disciplinary care teams in the future.
4. "This facility not only allows us to provide a conducive training environment but also a space for students from multi-professional groups to interact," said A/Prof Chiam Peak Chiang, Vice Chairman Medical Board (Education), IMH, of the new Education Hub. "Our hope is to nurture students to their fullest potential. We hope to train compassionate and well-qualified healthcare professionals who will contribute to the continuum of care needed by psychiatric patients."

Developing the Next Generation of Mental Healthcare Professionals

5. As Singapore's only tertiary mental healthcare institution, IMH plays an integral role in educating and delivering a strong pipeline of professionals equipped to meet local mental healthcare needs. IMH supports clinical training for a total of 19 programmes – two medical, eight nursing and nine allied health programmes – for university, polytechnic and ITE students.
6. In FY 2014, 2279 medical, nursing and allied health students underwent their clinical training in IMH. The medical and allied health professional groups registered the highest

increase in demand for clinical placement. In FY 2014, 97 allied health students in Occupational Therapy, Pharmacy, Psychology and Medical Social Work, were trained in IMH, compared to 38 students in FY 2011.

7. For medical undergraduate clinical placements, student numbers from Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School and NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine saw an increase from 314 in FY 2011 to 342 in FY 2014. The number is set to grow with the first batch of 54 fourth year medical undergraduates from Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine coming to IMH starting January 2017 for their clinical training in psychiatry.

8. IMH is also the primary site for specialist psychiatry training under the NHG-AHPL National Psychiatry Residency Program, which started in 2010. The five-year programme equips aspiring psychiatrists with medical knowledge and clinical competency in a wide range of psychiatric conditions. Residents have the opportunity to learn from experienced senior psychiatrists in a variety of mental health settings during their rotations in the various restructured hospitals, including IMH. Currently, 77 are undergoing training in the programme.

9. At IMH, the students and residents are groomed by a dedicated pool of educators who have a wealth of experience and proven track record in their respective areas. Currently, a total of 111 staff members have teaching appointments and/or roles with academic partners in both pre-professional and post-graduate programmes. Of these, 71 are psychiatrists, 23 are allied health staff and 17 are from nursing.

10. Adj A/Prof Sim Kang, Director, Education and Senior Consultant, Department of General Psychiatry, IMH, who has been involved in teaching medical students for the last 15 years said, "Most of us who are involved in teaching have been privileged to be afforded the learning environment and mentorship during our own training. For me the same privilege that I was accorded in my own training has compelled me to want to contribute back to the learners and their learning today. Looking ahead, co-ordinated team work is going to be even more crucial for the clinical care of our patients, and this involves working within a multi-disciplinary team of healthcare professionals in the context of care delivery. In this regard, the new facility allows different healthcare professionals to meet and intermingle on an informal basis early in their training which will help to foster a spirit of inter-professional activity, learning and team work over time."

11. Ms Tan Chen Xi, who is from Ngee Ann Polytechnic and now a nurse in IMH said, "I was interested in mental healthcare when I was undergoing my nursing diploma. But it wasn't until I came to IMH for my clinical attachment that I made up my mind to pursue psychiatric nursing as a career. My mentors took me under their wing and shared knowledge they have gained in their years of nursing and teaching – things that go beyond the textbook. Observing them and participating in the care of patients made me realise this is what I wanted to do."

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About the Institute of Mental Health, Singapore

The Institute of Mental Health (IMH), a member of the National Healthcare Group, is the only tertiary psychiatric care institution in Singapore. Located on the sprawling 25-hectare campus of Buangkok Green Medical Park in the north-eastern part of Singapore, IMH offers a multidisciplinary and comprehensive range of psychiatric, rehabilitative and counselling services. The 2010-bedded hospital aims to meet the needs of three groups of patients – children and adolescents (age below 19 years), adults and the elderly. Besides providing clinical services, IMH also leads in mental health research and training the next generation of mental health professionals in Singapore. For more information, visit: www.imh.com.sg

ENGLISH-CHINESE GLOSSARY

Annex 1

Institute of Mental Health

心理卫生学院

A/Prof Chiam Peak Chiang

詹碧江副教授

Vice Chairman, Medical Board (Education)

医疗委员会副主席(教育)

Adj A/Prof Sim Kang

沈刚副教授

Senior Consultant

高级专科顾问

Department of General Psychiatry

普通精神科

Director, Education

精神科专业教育总监

Education Hub

教育中心

NHG-AHPL National Psychiatry Residency Program

国立健保集团联合亚历山大保健集团推出的全国精神科实习培训计划