

Dean's Message

Dear Colleagues and Friends

Our School was honored this month with the visit of a distinguished alumnus, Dr Margaret Chan, Director General of the World Health Organization. On April 2, World Health Day, she was in Singapore to deliver a keynote address at a Panel Debate chaired by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on International Health Security, discussing potential international public health emergencies such as avian and pandemic influenza outbreaks, and other acute health threats. On April 3, Dr Chan gave a lecture at her alma mater on the topic, "Public health in the 21st century: optimism in the midst of unprecedented challenges".

A graduate of COFM's Masters in Public Health programme, Dr Chan showed the world her outstanding leadership in combating the Hong Kong avian flu outbreak in 1997, then the SARS epidemic in 2003. Dr Chan remains in touch with our School, serving as external examiner for the MSc (Public Health) examinations in 2005.

Separately, please join me in welcoming our new Assistant Dean for Research, Assoc Prof Manuel Salto-Tellez, and the Assistant Dean for Education (Clinical, Admissions and Student Affairs), Assoc Prof Erle Lim, who have come on board to enhance our School's research and education mandates.

Sincerely yours

John

CONGRATULATIONS!

Promotions

Microbiology

Prof Mary Ng was promoted to full Professor wef 1 Jan 2007.

Awards and Grant Awards

Biochemistry

Dr Cheung Nam Sang was awarded a grant by MINDEF-NUS on his research, "Identifying New and Novel Therapeutic Targets for Treating Mild and Moderate Brain Injury".

COFM and CME

COFM is the first academic department in NUS to be certified by OSHE to conform to the OSHA18001 Occupational Safety and Health Management standard, having completed the audit for the PI licensing scheme for all COFM PIs involved in laboratory-based research work.

Diagnostic Radiology

Dr Maung Maung Saw won a funding award from the second Singapore Bioimaging Consortium (SBIC) Grant Call (Innovative Grant Projects). His research title is "Development of New Technetium and Rhenium Sulfido Core for Molecular Imaging and Therapy"

Medicine

Lim SG, Cheng Y, Guindon S, Seet BL, Lee LY, Hu PZ, Wasser S, Tan T, Goode M, Rodrigo A. "Viral Quasispecies Evolution in Chronic Hepatitis B: New Light on an Old Story" won the Best Free Paper award, 22nd Annual Scientific Meeting, GIHep Singapore 2007, 2-4 Mar 2007.

O & G

At the 6th Singapore Congress in Obstetrics & Gynaecology held at Conrad Centennial on 21st to 25th Mar 2007, the Dept of O&G won 5 prizes out of 6. They are:

- Oral Presentation 1st Prize - Dr Su Lin Lin
- Oral Presentation 2nd Prize - Fan YiPing
- Oral Presentation 3rd Prize - Eddy Lee
- Poster Presentation 1st Prize - Dr K Narasimhan
- Poster Presentation 2nd Prize - Sherry Ho

Orthopaedic Surgery

Prof Wong Hee Kit was awarded a grant by NHG on his project, "Paraspinal muscle function in humans using magnetic stimulation evoked cerebral potentials (SEPs): Evaluation of a NOVEL non-invasive quantitative assessment method for functional recovery in patients after low back injury".

Surgery

Dr April Roslani, Dr Dean Koh, Adj A/Prof Charles Tsang, Dr Wong Kutt Sing and Dr Cheong Wai Kit won the "Best Paper" award for "Hand Assisted Laparoscopic Colectomy: A cost-effective alternative to standard laparoscopic colectomy", presented at the 2nd International Congress of Laparoscopic Colorectal Surgery, Cleveland Clinic Florida, 13-14 Feb 2007.

Paediatrics

A presentation on "Development of a Novel Approach for Applications in Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy" by Chang Nong Shin Amelia, Lee Ling Yen, Samuel Chong and Lai Poh San won a Gold Award at the Singapore Science & Engineering Fair (SSEF) organised by MOE, A*STAR and Singapore Science Centre in Mar 2007.

Physiology

Assoc Prof M Prakash Hande was awarded a grant by Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA); Defence Innovative Research Programme (DIRP) 2006, for his project "Biomarkers of Exposure to Low Level Ionising Radiation in Human Cells". Funding period is from Mar 2007 to Feb 2011.

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GRANT RESULTS

The Clinician Scientist Investigator (CSI) Award

Six medical doctors have been selected for the prestigious Clinician Scientist Investigator (CSI) Award this year. They will join the ranks of the select few clinician scientists to work on biomedical research investigations aimed at improving patient health outcomes and saving lives. The CSI award aims to support the career development of clinician scientists and promote translational research in Singapore. The National Medical Research Council of MOH and the Biomedical Research Council of A*STAR have been co-sponsoring the initial two rounds of the CSI awards since 2004. Going forward, NMRC has taken over the administration of the programme and will be supporting it fully.

Awardees of The Clinician Scientist Investigator (CSI) Award:

S/N	Name	Host Institution	Research Area
Category A: Senior Clinician Scientists			
1	Associate Professor Wong Meng Cheong	National Neuroscience Institute	Brain tumour research, stroke, neurovascular and stem cell research
2	Associate Professor Chong Siow Ann	Institute of Mental Health	Early psychosis intervention, Schizophrenia genetics project, psychiatric epidemiology and health services research
Category B: Junior Clinician Scientists			
3	Dr Charles Chuah	Singapore General Hospital	Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia (CML) and other haematological malignancies
4	Dr Yong Wei Peng	National University Hospital	Cancer genetics, anti cancer drug development and biomarker discovery
5	Dr Tan Hao Yang	National University of Singapore	Neuropsychiatric disorders like Schizophrenia, dementia and autism
6	Dr Philip Karuman	National Cancer Centre	Cancer genetics

NMRC Grant Awards

S/No	PI	Department	Title
1	<u>Liu</u> Hern Choon, Eugene	Anaesthesia	Diabetic and post traumatic neuropathic pain, and possible interactions of nociceptin, nocistatin, their precursor and 7B2CT for new treatments and pain markers
2	<u>Bay</u> Boon Huat	Anatomy	Predictive biomarkers of metastasis in breast cancer
3	Marie-Veronique <u>Clement</u>	Biochemistry	A study to decipher survival pathways involved in the resistance of cancer cells to apoptotic death induced by the inhibition of Pi3K and to develop a computer-aided model of tumor progression
4	<u>Chang</u> Chan Fong	Biochemistry	Identification, cloning and functional expression of mitochondrial ADP-ribosyl cyclase from rat brain
5	<u>Seow</u> Ling Hui, Adeline	COFM	Lung Cancer in Singapore Chinese women: genetic determinants of susceptibility to inflammation and estrogen-related risk factors
6	<u>Ho</u> Khek-Yu	Medicine	Validation of surrogate measures in Irritable Bowel Syndrome, IBS: Experimental measures of pain, functional MR-imaging and endogenous pain modulation in IBS: correlations with clinical disease activity with and without medication
7	<u>Tan</u> Shyong Wei, Kevin	Microbiology	Pathogenesis of the Intestinal Protozoan Parasite Blastocystis: Effects on Intestinal Mucosa and Barrier Function, and Characterization of Virulence Factors
8	Arijit <u>Biswas</u>	O & G	Noninvasive prenatal testing using cell-free fetal DNA from the maternal plasma to exclude the fatal Hb Bart's hydrops fetalis inherited from alpha thalassaemia carriers of the common Southeast Asia (SEA) deletion amongst Southeast Asians.
9	Mahesh A <u>Choolani</u>	O & G	Enhancing enrichment of fetal primitive erythroblasts from maternal blood using antibodies against newly identified unique membrane proteins
10	<u>Chao</u> Siew Shuen	Otolaryngology	Evaluation of the allergenicity of Candida albicans and Cladosporium herbarum by nasal challenge
11	<u>Yi</u> Fong Cheng	Paediatrics	Modification of Blo t 5, a major Blomia tropicalis allergen, for a safer and effective specific immunotherapy for house dust mite allergy
12	<u>Chong</u> Siong-Chuan, Samuel	Paediatrics	Development of a Homogeneous Assay Platform Generally Applicable to the Molecular Diagnosis of Dynamic Mutation Disorders

Collaborations

Surgery

Prof Uwe Klima established international research and clinical cooperation in the field of stem cell therapy, cardiovascular tissue engineering and cardiovascular surgery with the University of Rostock (Germany), Rome (Italy) and Cape Town (South Africa).

Achievements

ALCNS

Cross Faculty Project: Gambling Behaviour in Singapore University Students

The project has been approved by the Institutional Review Board on 29 Jan 2007 and will be conducted from 15 Mar 2007 to 14 Mar 2008.

A recent pilot study in Hong Kong by the PI revealed that 8% of a sample of university students was problem gamblers. As Singapore develops legal gambling options, such a study is important in helping understand the local culture of gambling in young people and developing reliable and valid measures to provide baseline data for future randomized controlled trials. The PI has conducted similar studies in HK and is competent handling projects where baseline data for outcome measures is used to prepare for intervention studies.

Funding: Cross Faculty Research Grant of \$35,000

PIs: Prof David Arthur (ALCNS, YLLSOM), Prof Hing Ai Yun (Dept of Sociology, FASS), Dr Miharū Sagara – Rosemeyer (ALCNS, YLLSOM), Prof Kua Ee Heok (Dept of Psychological Medicine, YLLSOM).

NUMI

Dr Lilia Kuleshova, Head, Low Temperature Preservation unit, has been invited to give a talk at Faculty of Advanced Techno-Surgery, Institute of Advanced Biomedical Engineering & Science, Tokyo Women's Medical University on 5th Dec 2007. Dr Kuleshova's talk will be on "Vitreous Cryopreservation of Tissue-Engineered Constructs (TECs)".

Ophthalmology

Assoc Prof Wong Tien Yin was one of six recipients of the Alcon Research Institute Award, and presented a lecture titled, "Retinal Vascular Signs and Cardio-Metabolic Diseases" at the 26th Alcon Research Institute Symposium at Fort Worth, Texas on 16 Feb 2007. This award is given annually for "outstanding contributions to ophthalmology and vision science". Professor Joan Miller, the Chair of Ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School, read his citation, and presented the Award at the Symposium.

Clinical Prof Arthur Lim received the American Academy of Ophthalmology's Special Recognition Award 2006, in recognition of his efforts in promoting ophthalmic education around the world.

The Dept of Ophthalmology was one of the co-organizers of Asia-ARVO, held at the Suntec Singapore International Convention & Exhibition Centre, 2-5 Mar 2007. Many of the dept's academic staffs were in the organizing committee, whose chairman was Prof Donald Tan. He is also the Director of Singapore Eye Research Institute (SERI), the main organizer of the event.

Asia-ARVO is a biennial meeting held in locations throughout Asia to highlight the important clinical and translational aspects of vision and ophthalmic research. Previously known as SERI-ARVO for meetings held in 2003 and 2005, the name was changed in 2005 to reflect ARVO's commitment to partnering with the many countries in Asia that have expanding eye research programs.

Over 800 delegates attended the meeting, with 36 countries participating, and over 600 abstracts presented.

<http://www.seri.com.sg/arvo2007/seri/index.asp>

Orthopaedic Surgery

Prof Shamal Das De was invited as a Guest Lecturer at the Indian Arthroplasty Association Meeting 2007, 24-25 Feb 2007, Chandigarh, India.

Prof Wong Hee Kit was invited as a Guest Faculty Lecturer at the APOA Operative Spine Conference, 8-11 Mar 2007, Ganga Hospital, Coimbatore, India.

Paediatrics

Dr Zubair Amin was invited by the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, for their Academic Staff Development for Educational Programmes, 25-27 Feb 2007. He held talks on written assessment and clinical teaching.

Pharmacology

Assoc Prof Urs Boelsterli was invited as a speaker for the Gordon Conference on "Adverse Drug Reactions", 10-15 Jun 2007, Colby College, Waterville, Maine (Mitochondrial toxicity).

Besides being invited as a Plenary Speaker for the International ISSX Meeting, 8-13 Oct 2007, Sendai, Japan, Assoc Prof Urs Boelsterli was also invited to hold the position of Associate Editor for "Current Drug Metabolism" (Impact Factor 5.4).

Microbiology

Prof Mike Kemeny's PhD Student, Wong Kok Loon, won first prize in the OLS poster competition, at CeLS on 6 Feb 2007, which attracted over 140 entries from the different OLS programmes.

Appointments

Anatomy

Prof P Gopalakrishnakone has been appointed as a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the "Journal of Medical Chemical, Biological and Radiological Defense". This Journal is supported by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, Chemical and Biological Technology Directorate, USA.

Prof P Gopalakrishnakone has been offered an honorary appointment as a "Visiting Professor and Consultant to Vietnam Military Medical University", in addition to the positions that he already holds as an Advisor and Consultant to the Ministry of Health, Vietnam.

Medicine

Assoc Prof Erle Lim was appointed as the Assistant Dean for Education (Clinical, Admissions and Student Affairs) at the Dean's Office.

Pathology

Assoc Prof Manuel Salto-Tellez was appointed as the Assistant Dean for Research at the Dean's Office.

Surgery

Dr John Tam Kit Chung was appointed as M3-M5 Coordinator of the Education Team supporting the mandate of the Vice-Dean of Education. The appointment is from 20 January 2007 to 30 June 2009.

NEW STAFF APPOINTMENTS

Microbiology	Assoc Prof Abastado Jean-Pierre	Adjunct Assoc Prof
	Dr Stephan Gasser	Asst Prof
Pharmacology	Dr Wachiraporn Noracharttiyapot	Research Fellow

Giving Hope, Saving Lives Charity Gala Dinner – In Aid of Needy Surgery Patients

Surgery

Prof CN Lee and Mrs Shalini Chand co-chaired a group for a charity dinner: "Giving Hope, Saving Lives Charity Gala Dinner – In Aid of Needy Surgery Patients" at Goodwood Park Hotel on 1 Mar 2007.

The charity dinner raised over \$580,000, to aid needy surgery patients and their families. The funds raised exceeded the targeted amount of \$400,000. A small part of this may be used for research and training. A set of guidelines and a department committee will govern the use of this fund.

Student Publication

Surgery

Best Paper – Singapore Urological Association

Ms Seow Shih Wee (postgraduate student under Dept of Surgery), with guidance from Dr Ratha Mahendran (Senior Research Fellow), won the "Best Paper" award at the Singapore Urological Association- Annual scientific meeting held on 2 Mar 2007.

The title of her paper was "Exploring the Potential of Lactobacillus Rhamnosus Strain GG (LGG) as an Adjuvant Therapy for Bladder Cancer using Murine Model". The other authors are Juwita Norasmara (Laboratory Officer, Dept of Surgery), Bay Boon Huat, Lee Yuan Kun and Dr Ratha Mahendran.

NUS-New Zealand Life Sciences Week

April 24 – 27, 2007

YLLSoM, the New Zealand High Commission, the University of Auckland Liggins Institute, University of Otago are pleased to present the New Zealand Life Sciences Week, aimed at fostering knowledge exchange in scientific research and clinical practice between New Zealand and Singapore. The NZ week will feature:

Date & Time	Title	Venue
April 24, 5.30 pm	Opening Seminar: "Commercializing Research" RSVP: Ms Siti Kamalia Bte Laili (6516 7919, medskl@nus.edu.sg)	CRC Auditorium
April 26, 5.30 pm	Public Lecture: "Genes, Society and the Future" RSVP: Ms Jermaine Toh (6516 7201, medtohlk@nus.edu.sg)	CRC Auditorium
April 27, 10.45 am 6.00 pm	NUS-Liggins Symposium: "Recalling the Fetus' Experience in Adults" Public Lecture: "Mismatch: How our world no longer fits our bodies" RSVP: Ms Siti Kamalia Bte Laili (6516 7919, medskl@nus.edu.sg)	CeLS Auditorium

MEET THE FACULTY – 27 FEBRUARY 2007

For February's Meet the Faculty session, the Dean, Prof John Wong, addressed faculty members on the Academic Medical Centre, the curriculum review and new research incentives. Highlights of his talk are presented below.

Academic Medical Centre

In December 2006, the Biomedical Sciences International Advisory Council recommended the formation of an academic medical centre (AMC) to support Singapore's push to develop Biomedical Sciences as a new economic pillar. An NUS-NUH Study Team chaired by Permanent Secretary (Health) Ms Yong Ying-I and co-chaired by NUS Senior Deputy President Professor Tan Chorh Chuan has been looking into the feasibility of Kent Ridge Campus being developed as an AMC.

As a medical institution that places equal emphasis on clinical, research and teaching excellence, an AMC should be committed to fulfilling three missions.

The AMC's clinical mission should encompass the provision of public service, continuous innovation in patient care, clinical excellence, leadership by continuous analysis and improvement of performance, and rare and high-tech services. Its research mission is to provide an environment of rigorous, peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary translational research, and leadership in research. Its education mission is to provide an environment for lifelong learning, continuous improvement, allow its students to acquire command of biomedical information, and to measure clinical performance as a surrogate for effective education.

These missions are essentially interdependent. Excellent medical education occurs only in settings where teachers and learners participate in the discovery of new knowledge and apply that knowledge to patient care. With the explosion in medical knowledge, educational content becomes rapidly outdated. This underscores the importance of lifelong learning – a skill best instilled in environments in which research occurs alongside education.

Curriculum Update

The curriculum review is progressing on schedule, with the appointments of leaders for the seven Phase 1 modules (Introduction to Health and Diseases; Musculoskeletal; Neuroscience and Behaviour; Renal, Fluid and Electrolyte; Cardiovascular, Respiratory and Blood; GIT, Nutrition and Metabolism; Endocrine and Reproduction) and Longitudinal tracks (Health Ethics, Law and Professionalism; Medicine and Society / Information Literacy; Patient-based Program). These leaders have provided basic content roadmaps for the review.

The Committee for Review of Clinical Teaching (CRCT) has also been formed. Made up of senior clinicians chaired by Prof Lee Chuen Neng, the CRCT will propose improvements to fall in line with the proposed new curriculum and its overall vision, integrate medical and clinical sciences, and review the existing curriculum and propose areas which need improvement.

Research Incentives

Another recent development is the introduction of research incentives to better recognize and acknowledge the efforts and research of faculty members. These monetary incentives will be awarded based on 3 criteria: the number of impactful (super tier) research publications, the number of competitive grants awarded and the number of MSc and PhD students trained. Full-time SoM faculty who are Principal Investigators of articles published in Super Tier journals would be awarded \$2,000. Winners of competitive grants will also be awarded, as will supervisors of graduating MSc and PhD students.



NUS Student Lion Dance



Prof John Wong and SoM Colleagues – Loi Hei at CRC Foyer

SoM Update

FORTHCOMING GRANT CALLS

Forthcoming Grant Details	Deadlines
BMRC/NMRC Joint Call	May 2007
WADA call for Research Grants	30 May 2007
Singapore-Poland Science & Technology Co-Operation: 2nd Call for Joint Proposals	8 Jun 2007 (Full Paper)

Division of Research

BMRC/NMRC Joint Call – To be Announced
Tentative Deadline: May 2007

WADA call for Research Grants

Deadline: 30 May 2007

Please submit your application directly to WADA by 20 May 2007 with a copy to Ms Poonam Rai (medprai, tel: 6516 4235) or Ms Masrinie (medmmr, tel: 6516 5292).

Research interests for this year include:

1. Compounds and/or methods enhancing oxygen delivery
2. Non-steroidal compounds or methods enhancing growth
3. Projects relating to the Prohibited List: classic methodologies
4. Projects relating to the Prohibited List: novel methodologies
5. Identification and/or detection of substances with suspected doping potential

More details are available at <http://www.wada-ama.org/en/newsarticle.ch2?articleId=3115388>.

Singapore-Poland Science & Technology Co-Operation: 2nd Call for Joint Proposals

Deadline: 8 June 2007 (Full Paper)

We are pleased to invite applications for "Full proposal" in the research areas mentioned below, from SERC on the second Call for Joint Proposals under the Singapore-Poland Science & Technology Co-operation with the Polish Ministry of Science & Higher Education (MSHE).

Proposals are being invited in the following areas:

- (I) Information technologies - Methods and tools supporting the development of an information society including:
 - a. Intelligent modeling and decision support systems for controlling and optimizing complex real systems.
 - b. Diagnosis and therapy support systems and systems for exchanging medical data through on-line and mobile platforms.
 - c. Mobile technologies.
- (II) Energy and its resources (pilot theme) - Generation and storage of energy from renewable sources and clean coal technologies e.g. Biomass, fuel cells, organic photovoltaic, energy efficiency.

Funding application for support for travel by Polish researchers to Singapore in conjunction with discussion and preparation of joint proposals is also open.

We would appreciate your kind assistance in forwarding the submissions through your Head of Department by the following dates:

- Submission of forms for the Full Proposal to Research Division, YLL SoM by 8 June 2007

Further details and application forms are available at:

https://www.nus.edu.sg/staff/ore/extl_grant/ore_funding_serc_singpol2.htm

Anatomy

Wenbo Li, Bin Zhang, Junhong Tang, Qiong Cao, Yajun Wu, Jing Guo, Eng-Ang Ling and Fengyi Liang. Sirtuin2, a Mammalian Homolog of Yeast Silent Information Regulator-2 Longevity Regulator, Is an Oligodendroglial Protein That Decelerates Cell Differentiation through Deacetylating α -Tubulin. *The Journal of Neuroscience*, March 7, 2007 – 27(10):2606-2616.

Biochemistry

Shao K, Hou Q, Go ML, Duan W, Cheung NS, Feng SS, Wong KP, Yoram A, Zhang W, Huang Z and Li QT. Sulfatide-tenascin interaction mediates binding to the extracellular matrix and endocytic uptake of liposomes in glioma cells. *Cell Mol Life Sci*. 2007 Feb; 64(4): 506-615.

Koh CH, Peng ZF, Ou K, Melendez A, Manikandan J, Qi RZ and Cheung NS. Neuronal apoptosis mediated by inhibition of intracellular cholesterol transport: Microarray and proteomics analyses in cultured murine cortical neurons. *J Cell Physiol*. 2007 Apr; 211(1): 63-87.

Whiteman M, Chu SH, Siau JL, Rose P, Sabapathy K, Schantz JT, Cheung NS, Spencer JP and Armstrong JS. The pro-inflammatory oxidant hypochlorous acid induces Bax-dependent mitochondrial permeabilisation and cell death through AIF-/EndoG-dependent pathways. *Cell Signal*. 2007 Apr; 19(4):705-714. Epub 2006 Nov 14.

COFM and CME

Lee CH, Low A, Tai BC, Co M, Chan MY, Lim J, Lim YT and Tan HC (2007). Pretreatment with intracoronary adenosine reduces the incidence of myonecrosis after non-urgent percutaneous coronary intervention: a prospective randomized study. *European Heart Journal*, 28: 19 – 25.

HSR

Xie F, Li SC, Luo N, Lo NN, Yeo SJ, Yang KY, Fong KY, Thumboo J. A Comparison of EQ-5D and SF-6D in Multiethnic Asian Patients with Knee Osteoarthritis in Singapore. *Arthritis Rheumatism*, In press, 2006.

Medicine

Gehring AJ, Sun D, Kennedy PT, Nolte-t Hoen E, Lim SG, Wasser S, Selden C, Maini MK, Davis DM, Nassal M, Bertoletti A. The level of viral antigen presented by hepatocytes influences CD8 T-cell function. *J Virol*. 2007 Mar;81(6):2940-9. Epub 2007 Jan 3.

Carolyn S. P. Lam, MBBS, MRCP, John C. Burnett, JR, MD, Lisa Costello-Boerrigter, MD, PHD, Richard J. Rodeheffer, MD, FACC, Margaret M, Redfield, MD, FACC. Alternate Circulating Pro-B-Type Natriuretic Peptide and B-Type Natriuretic Peptide Forms in the General Population. Rochester, Minnesota; and Singapore; *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2007;49:1193-202

NUMI

Kuleshova LL, Guok SS, Hutmacher DW. Vitrification as a prospect for cryopreservation of tissue-engineered constructs. *Biomaterials* 2007 Mar;28(9):1585-96.

Ophthalmology

Baskaran M, Oen FT, Chan YH, Hoh ST, Ho CL, Kashiwagi K, Foster PJ, Aung T. Comparison of the Scanning Peripheral Anterior Chamber Depth Analyzer and the Modified van Herick Grading System in the Assessment of Angle Closure. *Ophthalmology*. 2007 Mar; 114(3):501-6. Epub 2006 Nov 30.

Cheung N, Islam FM, Saw SM, Shankar A, de Haseth K, Mitchell P, Wong TY. Distribution and associations of retinal vascular caliber with ethnicity, gender, and birth parameters in young children. *Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science*. 2007 Mar; 48(3):1018-24.

Mohamed Q, McIntosh RL, Saw SM, Wong TY. Interventions for central retinal vein occlusion: an evidence-based systematic review. *Ophthalmology*. 2007 Mar;114(3):507-19, 524.

Gillies MC, Wong TY. Ranibizumab for neovascular age-related macular degeneration. *New England Journal of Medicine*. 2007 Feb 15; 356(7):748-9; author reply 749-50.

Bacsal K, and Chee SP. Ocular toxoplasmosis. *Ophthalmology*. 2007 Mar; 114(3):616.

Orthopaedic Surgery

Lian Q, Lye E, Yeo KS, Tan EK, Salto-Tellez M, Liu TM, Palanisamy N, El Oakley RM, Lee EH, Lim B, Lim SK. Derivation of clinically compliant MSCs from CD105+, CD24- differentiated human ESCs. *Stem Cells* 2007 Feb;25(2):425-36.

Liu TM, Martina M, Hutmacher DW, Hui J, Lee EH, Lim B. Identification of common pathways mediating differentiation of bone marrow and adipose tissues derived human mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) into three mesenchymal lineages. *Stem Cells* 2007 Mar;25(3):750-60.

Daley GQ, Richter LA, Auerbach JM, Benvenisty N, Charo RA, Chen G, Deng HK, Goldstein LS, Hudson KL, Hyun I, Junn SC, Love J, Lee EH, McLaren A, Mummery CL, Nakatsuji N, Racowsky C, Rooke H, Rossant J, Scholer HR, Solbakk JH, Taylor P, Trounson AO, Weissman IL, Wilmut I, Yu J, Zoloth L. The ISSCR Guidelines for human embryonic stem cell research. *Science*. 2007 Feb 2;315(5812):603-4.

Zhou Y, Chen F, Ho ST, Wodruoff MA, Lim TM, Hutmacher DW. Combined marrow stromal cell-sheet techniques and high strength biodegradable composite scaffolds for engineered functional bone grafts. *Biomaterials* 2007 Feb;28(5):814-24.

Otolaryngology

Liang XH, Cheung W, Heng CK, Liu JJ, Lim B, Wang DY. CD14 promoter polymorphisms have no functional significance and are not associated with atopic phenotypes. *Pharmacogenetics and Genomics* 2006; 16: 229-236.

TIER 1 JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

Physiology

Drenkard D., Becke F.M., Langstein J., Spruss T., Kunz-Schughart L.A., Tan T.E., Lim Y.C. and Schwarz H. CD137 is Expressed on Blood Vessel Walls at Sites of Inflammation and Enhances Monocyte Migratory Activity. *Faseb Journal*, 21(2):456-63, 2007.

Niida H, Katsuno Y, Banerjee B, Hande MP, Nakanishi M 2007 Specific Role of Chk1 Phosphorylations in Cell Survival and Checkpoint Activation *Molecular and Cellular Biology* 27: 2572-2581.

Surgery

Klima U, Kofidis T, Beilner J, Bagaev E, Fischer S, Lotz J. MRI-Based Safety Evaluation of the Ventrica Magnetic Coronary Anastomotic System. *Asian Cardiovasc Thorac Ann.* 2007 Jan;15(1):24-9.

Chen F, Lee CN, Teoh SH. Nanofibrous Modification on Ultra-Thin Poly (e-caprolactone) Membrane via Electrospinning. *Materials Science and Engineering. C* 27 (2007) 325 – 332.

Chong MSK, Lee CN, Teoh SH. Characterization of Smooth Muscle Cells on Poly (e-caprolactone) films. *Materials Science and Engineering. C* 27 (2007) 309-312.

Lian Q, Lye E, Yeo KS, Tan EK, Salto-Tellez M, Liu TM, Palanisamy N, El Oakley RM, Lee EH, Lim B, Lim SK. Derivation of clinically compliant MSCs from CD105+, CD24- differentiated human ESCs. *Stem Cells* 2007 Feb;25(2):425-36.

Liu TM, Martina M, Hutmacher DW, Hui J, Lee EH, Lim B. Identification of common pathways mediating differentiation of bone marrow and adipose tissues derived human mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) into three mesenchymal lineages. *Stem Cells* 200 Mar;25(3):750-60.

Daley GQ, Richter LA, Auerbach JM, Benvenisty N, Charo RA, Chen G, Deng HK, Goldstein LS, Hudson KL, Hyun I, Junn SC, Love J, Lee EH, McLaren A, Mummery CL, Nakatsuji N, Racowsky C, Rooke H, Rossant J, Scholer HR, Solbakk JH, Taylor P, Trounson AO, Weissman IL, Wilmut I, Yu J, Zoloth L. The ISSCR Guidelines for human embryonic stem cell research. *Science.* 2007 Feb 2;315(5812):603-4.

Zhou Y, Chen F, Ho ST, Wodruff MA, Lim TM, Hutmacher DW. Combined marrow stromal cell-sheet techniques and high strength biodegradable composite scaffolds for engineered functional bone grafts. *Biomaterials* 2007 Feb;28(5):814-24.

Otolaryngology

Liang XH, Cheung W, Heng CK, Liu JJ, Lim B, Wang DY. CD14 promoter polymorphisms have no functional significance and are not associated with atopic phenotypes. *Pharmacogenetics and Genomics* 2006; 16: 229-236.

Paediatrics

Naik MT, Chang CF, Kuo IC, Yu T, Fang PJ, Chua KY, Huang TH. Complete (1)H, (13)C and (15)N resonance assignments of Blo t 5, a major mite allergen from *Blomia tropicalis*. *J Biomol NMR.* 2007 Jan 6; [Epub ahead of print] No abstract available.

Yi FC, Shek LP, Cheong N, Chua KY, Lee BW. Molecular cloning of *Blomia tropicalis* allergens--a major source of dust mite allergens in the tropics and subtropics. *Inflamm Allergy Drug Targets.* 2006 Dec;5(4):261-6. Review.

Physiology

Drenkard D., Becke F.M., Langstein J., Spruss T., Kunz-Schughart L.A., Tan T.E., Lim Y.C. and Schwarz H. CD137 is Expressed on Blood Vessel Walls at Sites of Inflammation and Enhances Monocyte Migratory Activity. *Faseb Journal*, 21(2):456-63, 2007.

Niida H, Katsuno Y, Banerjee B, Hande MP, Nakanishi M 2007 Specific Role of Chk1 Phosphorylations in Cell Survival and Checkpoint Activation. *Molecular and Cellular Biology* 27: 2572-2581.

Correction - February 2007 Issue, Tier1 Journal Publications

O&G

Koh S C L and Singh K. The effect of levonorgestrel-releasing intrauterine system use on menstrual blood loss and haemostatic, fibrinolytic / inhibitor systems in women with menorrhagia. *Thrombosis and Haemostasis.* Volume 5 No 1 Jan 2007 pp 133-138.

The correct title of the journal should be **Journal of Thrombosis and Haemostasis** and not Thrombosis and Haemostasis.

UPCOMING EVENTS, COURSES & WORKSHOPS

COFM and CME

Short course on Epidemiology by Harvard School of Public Health

Date: 14-17 May 2007

Prof Trichopoulos and Dr Lagiou from Harvard School of Public Health will be conducting a short course on Epidemiology (14-17 May 07). Interested parties may contact Ms Doris Chen at cofcj@nus.edu.sg.

NUH-NUS Medical Publications Support Unit (PSU)

Cochrane Workshop on Systematic Reviews

Date: 9 & 10 May 2007, Wednesday & Thursday

By: Singapore Branch of the Australasia Cochrane Centre

Registration Fee: \$367.50 per person

Basic & Intermediate Biostatistics & SPSS Workshop

Date: Group 1 - 28 - 30 May 2007, Monday - Wednesday (limited to 24 persons)

Group 2 - 4 - 6 Jun 2007, Monday - Wednesday (limited to 24 persons)

Registration Fee: \$367.50 per person

For more information on all above NUH-NUS Medical Publications Support Unit events, please contact the PSU Secretariat (Fax: 6872 1454; Email: psu@nus.edu.sg):

Ms Tan Shuyu, Tel: 6516 5586

Ms Jap Ren Fang, Tel: 6516 1049

Orthopaedic Surgery

2007 R W H Pho Lectureship, 21-26 May 2007

Guest Lecturer: Prof John Healey, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, USA

For more information, please contact Ms Janet Han, Tel: 6772 4340; Email: dossec@nus.edu.sg

28th Postgraduate Course in Orthopaedics, 9-14 July 2007

Guest Lecturers: (1) Mr David Jaffray, Robert Jones & Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic & District Hospital, Oswestry, UK

(2) Prof Benjamin Joseph, Kasturba Medical College, Manipal, India

For more information, please contact Ms Christine Lye, Tel: 6772 4544; Email: dossec@nus.edu.sg