



A GLIMPSE INTO CHI INNOVATE 2023

CHI INNOVATE 2023 welcomed over 600 participants, to the sold-out conference on 28 July. Themed “Building Bridges: Health & Social Care”, the conference convened professionals from sectors including and beyond health and social care, as well as healthcare institutions, agencies, academia, industry partners and foundations.

This year, the conference expanded its focus from healthcare to health; from patients to people; from clinical centres to communities of care. The conference programme, aimed to galvanise the participants to breach traditional boundaries and work with community partners to catalyse health and social change, ultimately creating more sustainable healthcare and healthy communities.

The event featured 27 speakers from Singapore, Thailand, United Kingdom and United States, delivering global and regional perspectives, shared ideas and experience that were relevant for the future landscape in health and social care.

Participants also had the opportunity to engage with 23 of the latest innovative companies and technologies at the exhibition.

Exhibitors and the conference participants had the opportunity to connect with industry leaders, sparking collaborative opportunities and meaningful conversations.



Programme Highlights

The conference was organised to feature 3 steps towards building bridges for health & social care. Leading the first step “Who Needs to Build Bridges?” is Lee Poh Wah, CEO of Lien Foundation, who urged everyone to “Break the rules and make your own rules!” He emphasised that innovation requires bridges, and shared what it was like to dodge the traffic of conformity, design different paths, and discover new possibilities with a jaywalker’s fortitude, agility - and idiocy.

This was followed by a 5-persona panel, moderated by Douglas O’Loughlin, principal of the Dao of Thriving, with leaders from social care. Together, they shared more on the personas categorised as “children, youth & family”; ‘disability’; ‘mental health’; ‘caregiver’ and ‘elder care’.



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Renowned Johns Hopkins University political scientist Prof Hahrie Han takes centre stage with her sharing on “Organising & Mobilising for Positive Change”, where she used research to illustrate how to engage people around a common cause, and defined transformation as building a tier of leadership, that would build momentum towards a sustainable change.



Prof Hahrie Han shared that she used research to illustrate how to engage people around a common cause, and her definition of transformation towards change.

In learning from experience, the second section was “Who has Built Bridges Before?”, featuring leaders with experience in introducing radical changes. Zooming in was Thailand’s “Condom King”, Prof Mechai Viravaidya, Founder & Chairman of Population and Community (PDA), Thailand, whose audacious and innovative advocacy for family planning, HIV prevention and community activation has saved millions of lives and continues to share a brighter future.

He shared the five journeys he took to drive this innovative advocacy. In applying it in health and social care, he shared the following guiding principles - be innovative; take no as a question; and find reliable allies. The conversation was moderated by Dr Wong Sweet Fun, Clinical Director, Population Health & Community Transformation, Khoo Teck Puat Hospital & Yishun Health

Dr Junaid Bajwa, Chief Medical Scientist at Microsoft Research, in his session on “Tech with a Beating Heart”, shared how technology plays an increasingly significant role in enhancing healthcare systems, emphasising six essential factors: demographic, epidemiological, political, economical, socio-cultural, and technological. These factors collectively contribute to ensuring the best possible delivery of care.

According to Dr Bajwa, the future of healthcare will heavily rely on technology and data. He stressed that healthcare systems will increasingly be driven by tech-based solutions, and the utilisation of AI tools is crucial in providing the most effective and efficient care at present.

This year’s conference also marked the return of FaceOff, the popular debate session that is both entertaining and thought provoking. “Singaporeans’ health behaviours will only change with governmental interventions” - was the motion for this year.

Chaired by Jared Poon, principal consultant of Counter-Fictional, debaters drew swords in the form of cheeky references and skits. In the end, the audience were swayed by the proposition team. This edition also honoured the late Adrian Tan, a favourite FaceOff debater, by naming the best speaker award after him. The first to receive this award is Nur Khairah Abdul Rahim, co-founder of Independents, from the proposition for her outstanding performance.



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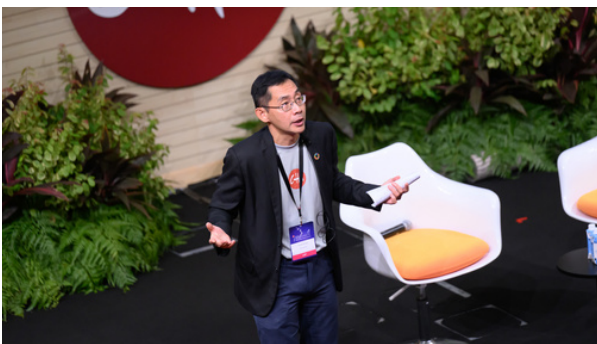
Nur Khairah Abdul Rahim receiving the award for best speaker from Jared Poon.

One of the unique features of CHI INNOVATE, is how esteemed members from various countries came together to participate in stimulating discussions and share ideas aimed at addressing issues in health and social care.

In the section titled “Bridging Friends Forever” or BFF, health and social care leaders from different countries are paired up to discuss a wide range of essential care aspects, such as improving communication among healthcare workers, promoting better accessibility for individuals with disabilities, encouraging openness to innovative approaches, and addressing critical mental health concerns.



Dr Jonathon Gray, Director of Improvement and Innovation Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, and Nancy Ng Director, Family Support Division, Family Life Group Ministry of Social and Family Development, in the BFF section.



Prof Teo Yik-Ying, emphasised the paramount significance of bridging the gap between health and social care.

To conclude CHI INNOVATE, the final Centrestage speaker, Prof Teo Yik-Ying, Dean of NUS’ Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, emphasised the paramount significance of bridging the gap between health and social care to fortify and safeguard our healthcare systems.

With expertise and profound insights, Prof Teo shared the latest developments and advancements shaping healthcare, not only in Singapore but also on a global scale. His enlightening discourse left a lasting impact, inspiring attendees to envision a more interconnected and resilient healthcare landscape for the benefit of all.

The exhilarating day ended on a high as everyone left with renewed commitment to collaborate between health and social care to bring better care for the community, through better understanding of one another. While reeling from the abundance of knowledge and engagement, the cogs and gears have already begun turning to reconvene for CHI INNOVATE on 4-5 July 2024! See you then!

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