

30 October 2015

*For immediate release*

## **Celebrating Singapore's Golden Jubilee in honour of our Pioneer General Practitioners (GPs)**

A celebratory dinner was organised today in conjunction with Singapore's Golden Jubilee, to recognise and thank our Pioneer GPs for their dedication and contributions towards Singapore's healthcare sector. The event was graced by Minister for Health, Mr Gan Kim Yong and Special Guest, Minister of State for Health, Dr Lam Pin Min.

2. Jointly organised by the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC), the College of Family Physicians Singapore (CFPS) and the Ministry of Health (MOH), the dinner was held at the Waterfront Ballroom, Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel Singapore. It was attended by more than 150 guests including Pioneer GPs and medical undergraduates.

3. "As we acknowledge the contributions of our Pioneer GPs, we would also like to take this opportunity to thank our GP colleagues, who have always been responsive to meeting national needs such as SARS, H1N1 and supporting the haze subsidy scheme. The primary care sector is constantly evolving, MOH and AIC have been working closely with the GPs to achieve more integrated and holistic care for patients in the community. Our GPs have contributed many fresh and innovative

suggestions to transform care in the community, and we are working with them to implement these good ideas.” said Deputy CEO of AIC, Dr Wong Kirk Chuan.

4. In the past 50 years, Singapore has undergone major changes in healthcare and Singapore has witnessed an unprecedented transformation of the healthcare industry, with more emphasis on a patient-centric model of care. Patients are now more empowered to choose the type of healthcare services they prefer. With our rising ageing population, Singapore will require more GPs and Family Physicians in the future to meet and manage the demands of community-based healthcare needs.

5. To support these GPs, AIC has a team of account managers who engages GPs directly on a regular basis to better understand their challenges on the ground and gather feedback on various MOH initiatives such as CHAS, PHPC scheme. AIC has also facilitated the building of closer and trusting relationships between MOH and the GP community through the National GP Advisory Panel and Focus Group Discussion platforms. These platforms allow GPs to contribute their valuable experience and insight to help shape policies and implementation and to tackle issues faced on the ground. AIC will continue to engage the GPs and involve them in any new initiatives in the Primary Care sector.

6. The CFPS as the official voice and industry body of the GPs and family physician community in Singapore, also plays an important role in advising and working with MOH and AIC on various fronts to support Singapore’s national healthcare programmes. “Today is a momentous occasion where we come together to honour our Pioneer GPs and look back with pride on their accomplishments. GPs are the custodians of our community’s health and have been since the birth of our great nation. They are now being called upon to play an even bigger role in our healthcare system by supporting various health schemes such as the Community Health Assist Scheme (CHAS), and Pioneer Generation (PG) Package. The MOH is also providing annual subsidies for post-graduate training to encourage more family doctors to enhance their qualifications, knowledge and training. These efforts collectively will help ensure that our doctors continue to play a critical role in addressing the needs of Singapore’s changing patient profile,” said Associate Professor Lee Kheng Hock, President, College of Family Physicians Singapore.

7. It is therefore timely for GPs to consider the post graduate training available for family medicine which will aid the close monitoring, rehabilitation and treatment of patients after their discharge from hospital.

8. To enhance their skills further, GPs can apply for the Community Care – GP Partnership award which provide training in palliative, geriatric and family medicine graduate diplomas. Under this award, GPs will receive 70% funding of their course fees for the Graduate Diploma in Geriatric Medicine, Graduate Diploma in Family Medicine and Graduate Diploma in Palliative Medicine programmes from MOH. The Community Care – GP Partnership Training Award is administered by AIC.

9. The Graduate Diploma in Family Medicine is a comprehensive and structured programme for doctors working the primary care setting. Upon completion, they will be able to gain an enhanced level of knowledge and management skills in catering to the healthcare needs of the people.

10. In addition, the CFPS has started a new Family Medicine Clinical Special Interest Group Mentorship Collaboration for medical undergraduates. The main aim is to encourage students to develop interest in Family Medicine (FM) through role-modelling and as a result fostering greater FM fraternity. It will also provide a point of contact on FM-related matters with the students during their undergraduate studies and after their graduation.

11. Primary care practices must include a wider range of disciplines in view of the more complex care needs of Singapore’s ageing population. Other health professionals and clinicians will naturally form part of the primary care network and extend their services to the community. We envision that for GPs to collaborate with the hospitals and other centre-based care services are increasingly important to improve integration of care. As such, AIC will continue to play an active role in “match-making” the GPs with the various tertiary care institutions and thus supporting the integration as we prepare the primary care sector for the next 50 years.

###

## **Media Contact and Enquiries:**

Janet Ling (Ms)  
Manager  
Corporate and Marketing Communications  
Agency for Integrated Care (AIC)  
DID: 6632-1101  
Mobile: 9665-5964  
Fax: 6820-0728  
Email: [janet.ling@aic.sg](mailto:janet.ling@aic.sg)

## **About the Agency for Integrated Care**

The Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) seeks to create a vibrant Care Community enabling people to live well and age gracefully. AIC coordinates and facilitates efforts in care integration to achieve the best care outcomes for our clients. We do this by empowering them with health and social care information and arranging for their care when they are discharged from hospitals. We enable stakeholders to raise the quality of care, and also enhance collaboration by working with health and social care providers to increase services to support the ageing population. Our work in the community brings care services and information closer to those in need. For more information, please visit [www.aic.sg](http://www.aic.sg).