

A group of people, including a man and a woman, are exercising at a community center. They are using various pieces of exercise equipment. The scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

**TURNING
DISCOVERY INTO
HEALTHIER
COMMUNITIES**



ABOUT THE SCHOOL

The history of Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health (SSHSPH) dates back to over 60 years ago when it started as a small department during the early post-war years.

Keeping up with the progress and development of Singapore, it has grown to a full-fledged school that it is today. On 1st October 2011, the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health was established, expanding its role to also train leaders in public health to improve the health of the populations in Singapore and other countries in the region.

Public health challenges threaten both developing as well as the most developed nations with the most advanced health systems. The solutions to today's public health challenges not only require a depth in core public health disciplines, such as epidemiology, biostatistics, and aetiologic research but also demand that we look beyond and incorporate other disciplines relevant to population health as a whole.

The founding of the School is an important milestone in public health in Singapore. At the School, we make discoveries which benefit the populations not just in Singapore and the region, but also the rest of the world. The School's cross disciplinary approach together with its rigorous training, applicable research and regional partnerships drive SSHSPH into the forefront of discovery and the practice of public health in Asia.

As Singapore's national school of public health, we are situated within the National University of Singapore, a comprehensive research university as well as Singapore's flagship tertiary institution.

The ultimate goal of SSHSPH is to expand and translate its aetiologic research into programmes and policies to catalyse the changes that improve the health and wellness of populations in Singapore and beyond.

MISSION

Turning discovery into healthier communities through education, research and partnership.

VISION

Making the difference to the health of populations. Within Singapore and beyond, we catalyse the changes that improve the health and wellness of populations.

VALUES

Excellence. We will be outstanding in our fields. Partnership. We care, share and work together. Integrity. We will do what is right. Innovation. We find new ways to do better.





**PROFESSOR
TEO YIK YING**

Dean

NUS Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health

“

Our very survival depends on our ability to stay awake, to adjust to new ideas, to remain vigilant and to face the challenge of change.

Martin Luther King Jr.

”

The Covid-19 pandemic brought to the forefront public health challenges, faced by developing as well as developed nations that have the best health systems. Some of these challenges are not new but have been exacerbated by the pandemic.

With the ever-growing burden of current chronic diseases, new ones including mental health or future black swan events, the role of public health as a change agent in human history has never been more important.

We may not have the answer to some of these challenges yet, but the solutions to the public health challenges today and in the future, lie beyond core public health disciplines, such as epidemiology, biostatistics, and aetiologic research. We will need to look holistically and incorporate other disciplines in our public health work, in order to play a key role towards the sustainable and resilient communities of the future.

Since the founding of the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health in 2011, we have championed a culture of collaboration, by encouraging faculty and staff to work alongside colleagues and peers in different areas of expertise both within and beyond the School. This approach has enabled us to develop novel, innovative, and translation-focused solutions to address various local and regional public health challenges.

Over the years, the School has:

- Established a regional infection diseases research network – ADVANcing clinical Evidence in Infectious Diseases (ADVANCE ID) - to develop new capacity and capabilities among researchers and public health professionals in conducting clinical trials for drug-resistant infections;
- Led research to tackle diabetes and enable healthy longevity among the ageing population in Singapore;
- Partnered the SingHealth Duke-NUS Global Health Institute to set up a joint funding initiative for global health research in Asia;
- Curated a series of executive programmes and workshops to enhance the public health knowledge of leaders in Asia, and;
- Contributed to Singapore's Covid-19 policies

And our work is just beginning. We will continue to push past our comfort zones in developing solutions that will reap maximum returns across the full spectrum of health. As Covid-19 has taught us, we have to look beyond the status quo of a medical or risk-factor approach to one that involves input from non-medical disciplines and end-users to create solutions that will prevent future diseases and foster better health in the communities.

The Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health will continue to innovate, adapt and address the public health challenges facing Singapore and the world for decades to come. This is our moment of truth.



Interest in a Career in Public Health?

The Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health offers a range of courses to help you get started in a career in Public Health.

The School's robust educational programmes are designed to prepare students in becoming future generations of public health leaders. Students are guided by experts from diverse fields to translate cross-disciplinary research into practical applications, policies and programmes in order to enhance the health and well-being of populations.

POSTGRADUATE

Master of Public Health

The Master of Public Health (MPH) programme equips public health professionals and practitioners to use systems and evidence-based approaches to identify and solve public health problems so as to improve the health of communities in Singapore and the region. Our students come from government organisations, private sectors and social service agencies/ NGOs.





Education Programme

Second Major in Public Health

The Second Major in Public Health welcomes undergraduates who are keen to learn the approaches and skills necessary to understand the individual and social factors that impact the health of individuals, families and communities.

The curriculum is designed to complement the student's first major, grooming their soft skills and perspectives to work effectively as public health professionals or in public health teams. This empowers students to improve the health of not only individuals but that of entire communities. Students will graduate with the knowledge and approaches needed to address today's public health challenges and improve health of the populations in Singapore, Asia and the world.

Minor in Public Health

The Minor in Public Health offers to all NUS undergraduates the opportunity to discover if public health is the right fit for them. The Minor allows students to appreciate the multidisciplinary role of public health in preventing disease and improving the health of communities.

We welcome all NUS undergraduates who want to develop the knowledge, skills and approaches needed to understand and address today's public health issues in Singapore and the region. More often than not, students will find that the minor programme complements their NUS majors.

Master of Science/ Doctor of Philosophy

Our Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy programmes are research-intensive programmes that emphasise both the mastery of research skills and acquisition of core knowledge in the students' area of interest. Students may choose to receive advanced training in one of the following domains of Public Health research: Biostatistics & Modelling, Epidemiology and Health Systems & Behavioural Sciences.

Continuing Education & Training Courses

The School offers a range of professional and education courses for working professionals to enhance their skills and training in public health. These include academic modules, short courses, graduate certificates and professional certificates.

Medical Curriculum

The School supports the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine in the training of medical undergraduates. Conducted in the first to fourth years of the five-year medical course, the curriculum taught by the School will allow for students to understand and apply concepts of preventive healthcare at the population and individual level, and equip them to provide holistic, patient-centred and multidisciplinary training.

Research Capabilities

Epidemiology

The Epidemiology domain conducts research providing insight into the frequency and distribution of diseases in populations and its determinants, which generates information that will contribute to designing interventions and evaluating health promotion initiatives, among others. The domain's research strengths include molecular, nutritional, clinical and translational epidemiology.

Biostatistics & Modelling

The Biostatistics & Modelling domain focuses on the generation of health statistics through data management and analysis, as well as areas such as public health genomics. Current research includes developing methods for mining large genetic and epidemiological data sets for complex diseases in humans.

The School fosters new health discoveries to impact policies and programmes, strengthen health capacities and services and improve population health through core capabilities in Epidemiology, Biostatistics & Modelling and Health Systems & Behavioural Sciences, as well as the School's research centres.



Health Systems & Behavioural Sciences

The Health Systems & Behavioural Sciences domain brings together two main areas – Health Systems and Policy which examines the whole spectrum of healthcare by adopting a cross-disciplinary approach, and Health Behaviour and Promotion which focuses on the design, implementation and evaluation of behavioural and community interventions in the prevention and control of infectious diseases, injury and violence, mental health problems and non-communicable diseases.

Centre for Epidemic Research and Modelling (CERM)

The Centre for Epidemic Research and Modelling undertakes quantitative research on the evolution and prevention of outbreaks, contributing modelling expertise to inform policies nationally and in the region. It also provides training in quantitative public health techniques.

Health Intervention and Policy Evaluation Research (HIPER)

The Health Intervention and Policy Evaluation Research unit aims to build Health Technology Assessment (HTA) capacity in developing countries through a range of activities, including consulting services and advisory work, development of software tools to support HTA research, education, and networking at domestic and international levels.

Global Health Office

The Global Health Office supports the School's mission to achieve regional and global impact. It facilitates and directs the School's global health expertise and resources to coordinate activities at the regional and international level. This includes partnerships with external organisations, training of global health leaders, sourcing and administering research grants from international funders, and providing research and development opportunities for our faculty, staff and students.

Leadership Institute for Global Health Transformation (LIGHT)

The Leadership Institute for Global Health Transformation (LIGHT) was established by the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health in 2016 to address global health issues that are relevant to Singapore and the region. With support from the School and University, LIGHT consolidates and forges new regional partnerships with governments, academia, local communities and non-governmental organisations, with the purpose of transforming health development and disease prevention in a cross-disciplinary and cross-geographical manner.

Growing from Strength to Strength

The history of the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health dates back to over 60 years ago when it started as the Department of Social Medicine and Public Health during the post-war years of Singapore.

Every milestone the School has achieved over the years has been inextricably interwoven with our relentless pursuit of new solutions to address the public health challenges facing our communities.

Martin Lo

1948

The Department of Social Medicine and Public Health was formed following the merger of the former Raffles College and the King Edward VII College of Medicine to form the University of Malaya. It was then situated in Sepoy Lines Golf Club at College Road.

Dr John H Strahan was appointed as first Head of Department, serving until 1953.

1953

The Department relocated to Nissan Huts at McAlister Road, with Professor Trevor Lloyd-Davies taking over as Head of Department until 1961.

Occupational health was introduced to the curriculum. The Diploma of Public Health (DPH) course was announced, becoming the pioneer postgraduate medical course in Singapore and one of the first in the region.

1957

The Department moved into the Institute of Health at Outram Hill.

1961

Professor Winifred Danaraj served as Head of Department until 1964.

1964

Professor Michael J Colbourne served as Head of Department until 1969.

1970

Professor Phoon Wai On became the longest-serving Head of Department, serving for 17 years from 1970 to 1987.

1973

The Diploma of Public Health (DPH) was replaced as the course leading to the Master of Science (Public Health). The Master of Science (Occupational Medicine) (MSc(OM)) was also established, becoming the region's first postgraduate degree course in occupational medicine.

1986

Together with the Faculty of Medicine, the Department relocated to the main campus of the National University of Singapore at Kent Ridge when the National University Hospital (NUH) was completed.

1987

The Department was renamed the Department of Community, Occupational and Family Medicine (COFM). It was reorganised into five divisions – Epidemiology, Biostatistics & Health Informatics, Health Care, Occupational Medicine and Family Medicine.

Professor Lee Hin Peng took over as Head of Department, serving 14 years until 2001.



Milestones in SSHSPH

1992

The Master of Science (Public Health) and Master of Science (Occupational Medicine) were reorganised into courses leading to the degrees of Master of Medicine (Public Health) and Master of Medicine (Occupational Medicine).

COFM was designated a World Health Organization Collaborating Centre in Occupational Health.

1993

The Master of Medicine (Family Medicine) (MMed (FM)) course was introduced.

1996

The Centre for Environmental and Occupational Health Research (CEOHR) was established under the Directorship of Professor Ong Choon Nam

1998

After 12 years at NUS, the Department moved to a new purpose-built building within the NUS Biomedical Complex.

2001

Professor David Koh began his service as Head, leading the Department into the new millennium filled with modern challenges in Public Health.

2002

The Centre for Molecular Epidemiology to discover gene-environment interactions for the promotion of public health was set up with Professor Chia Kee Seng as its Director.

The Master in Public Health programme was introduced, merging the Master of Science (Public Health) and Master of Science (Occupational Medicine).

In keeping with the interdisciplinary demands of modern public health, the course opened admission to both medically qualified professionals and health professionals with public health experience.

2008

COFM celebrated 60 years of excellence in public health teaching, research and policy.

2011

The Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health (SSHSPH) came into being on 1 October 2011 to train future leaders in public health and improve the health of communities in Singapore and the region through cutting-edge research and work on innovative models of public health and cost-effective healthcare delivery to Asia.

Professor Chia Kee Seng took over as the School's new Dean.

2015

The School restructures and streamlines its research and training capabilities along three domains (Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Modelling, and Health Systems and Behavioural Sciences), research programmes and centres, leveraging the varied expertise of the School's faculty and partners, to drive the School's translational and cross-disciplinary vision. The School also shifts to its new premises located at levels 8 to 11 of the Tahir Foundation Building.

2018

Professor Teo Yik Ying begins his tenure as the School's second Dean.

2021

The School celebrated its 10th anniversary and grew its regional footprint. A regional office with Cambodia's University of Health Sciences was established to focus on infectious disease research and has expanded its research foci to include other major public health concerns. These include antimicrobial resistance, HIV, tuberculosis, non-communicable diseases, substance abuse, gender-based violence, mental health, and maternal and child health.

Our Late Benefactor



“

I am delighted to provide this strategic gift to enable NUS to establish a School of Public Health to undertake cutting-edge research and education in all aspects of public health. It is my wish for the School to play a key role in helping to improve the standard of public health care in Singapore and the region in the years ahead.

”

Professor Saw Swee Hock

TRANSFORMATIONAL GIFT FROM PROFESSOR SAW SWEE HOCK

Building on 60 years of experience in research, teaching and practice in epidemiology and public health, the National University of Singapore, Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health was established on 1st October 2011.

The founding of the School signifies an important milestone for public health in Singapore. And it was made possible by a landmark gift of S\$30 million from its distinguished alumnus and philanthropist, the late Professor Saw Swee Hock, who passed away on 16 February 2021.

This generous gift, together with the matching grant from the government, will help to blaze a path for the new School to reach the highest levels of excellence to become Asia's leader in public health education, training and research in years

ahead. The School is named after Professor Saw in honour of his philanthropy and his long-standing contribution to the University.

Professor Saw's unprecedented endowed gift was timely as major public health issues confronting us today are becoming increasingly complex and requiring multiple levels of interventions, and public health specialists of the future will need to have a broader set of skills and perspective in order to lead the fight against the epidemic of non-communicable diseases.

The gift enabled the School to invest and expand much-needed facilities, cutting-edge research, and world-class educational programmes, professorships and to dream big and pursue excellence in turning discovery into healthier communities.

The School also hired game-changing faculty and researchers to expand the boundaries of traditional aetiologic research to better serve the end goal of meaningful real-world translation with public health applications and new methodologies for programme evaluation and devising systems to better integrate healthcare informatics for the prevention and management of chronic diseases. Our sophisticated mathematical and econometric modeling system, Population Health Metrics and Analytics (PHMA), can monitor and integrate a massive volume of data to assist researches understand health and disease, and provide guidance to policymakers.

Professor Saw was the President's Honorary Professor of Statistics in the Department of Statistics and Applied Probability, NUS, and Professorial Fellow in the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS). He served the university as a member of the NUS Board of Trustees and its various sub-committees.

He was also an Honorary Fellow of the London School of Economics (LSE) and an Honorary Professor in both the University of Hong Kong and the Xiamen University. His first degree was from NUS and his doctorate in Statistics is from LSE. During his lifetime, Professor Saw published some 46 books and over 100 articles on statistics, demography and investment.

Professor Saw also provided philanthropic support to many charitable causes, particularly in the area of education in the form of gold medals, bursaries, scholarships, institutes, schools and buildings. Recipients of his donations

Our Late Benefactor

include the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), NUS, LSE, Xiamen University, University of Hong Kong, Nanyang Technological University and Singapore Management University. In NUS, he has set up an endowed bursary fund which has so far benefited over 110 final year needy students across all faculties and schools.

Whether you are still university looking forward to a career, or enhancing your career in the health or health related industry, that helps to improve the communities we live in, the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health offers courses to help you gain or upgrade your knowledge and skills in Public Health.

The School designed robust educational programmes designed to tap on the expertise and ingenuity of diverse fields of study to help prepare students become future generations of public health leaders who will recognise the importance of taking basic research knowledge across disciplines to practical applications, policies and programmes to enhance the health and well-being of populations.

Our Master of Public Health trains our students with the rigorous academic skills, practical experience, and multi-disciplinary studies that will enable them to meet the public health challenges.

To learn how gifts open opportunities to students and advance research at SSHSPH, read our Giving stories at: sph.nus.edu.sg/giving/.



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