



# SINGAPORE DENTAL COUNCIL

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## PRESS RELEASE

The Ministry of Health will have a new Chief Dental Officer on 1 May 2018. Dr Chng Chai Kiat, 42, will succeed Associate Professor Patrick Tseng, 58, as the new Chief Dental Officer (CDO) in the Ministry of Health (MOH) to oversee the strategic development of the dental profession in Singapore. Dr Chng will also be the Registrar of the Singapore Dental Council (SDC) as a concurrent appointment when he assumes the role of the CDO. A/Prof Patrick Tseng will be returning to full time clinical practice at the National University Hospital (NUH) upon stepping down as CDO. Mr Peter Lee, 47, Deputy Director, Licensing, Inspection & Audit Branch of the Regulatory Compliance and Enforcement Division in MOH, will take over as Executive Secretary of SDC on 1 May 2018.

2. In his current role, Dr Chng is the Executive Secretary of the SDC and oversees the management and day to day running of the council with regards to Dentists and Oral Health Therapists registration, regulations, ethics and conduct and investigations of complaints. He is also Head and Senior Consultant of the Dental Service at the KK Women's and Children's Hospital (KKH) and has contributed significantly to the overall care of Cleft and Craniofacial patients in his secondary role as Head of the Cleft and Craniofacial Unit at KKH. Dr Chng is well regarded in the dental fraternity, with deep insights on the evolving dental landscape. In addition to his portfolio at KKH, he has been a Consultant in MOH's CDO Office since March 2008 and the Executive Secretary of the SDC since June 2011. He contributed to various dental policy reviews such as the development of the Dental Officer Posting Exercise as well as dental subsidies. In the review of dental subsidies, he advocated dental subsidy for groups of patients with craniofacial anomalies or special needs, as well as those who sought hospital-based dentistry.

3. In addition, Dr Chng has worked with the Centre for Advanced Dental Education at National University of Singapore to introduce the Graduate Diploma in Advanced General Dentistry. He has also been working with MOH Holdings on the digitisation and contribution of dental summary records to the National Electronic Health Record.

4. The Singapore Dental Council deeply appreciates the contributions of A/Prof Patrick Tseng. In his twelve-year tenure as CDO and Registrar SDC, A/Prof Tseng has made notable contributions in strengthening the regulation and professional development of Dentistry in Singapore.

5. A/Prof Tseng played a key role in the establishment of the Dental Specialists Accreditation Board in 2008 which commenced the registration of dental specialists. This was necessary for the growth and development of specialist dental practice for the management of more complex dental cases. Under the guidance of A/Prof Tseng, the registration and regulation of Oral Health Therapists (OHTs) started in 2008, to ensure that OHTs are appropriately trained and accredited for the skilled provision of basic dental care procedures to prepare for a more dentally aware and rapidly aging population.

6. To maintain the high standard and quality of dental services in Singapore, the guidelines and criteria for registration and accreditation of dental professionals have been continuously reviewed to ensure relevance, alongside the development of competency frameworks, continual professional development and training of dental professionals. Compulsory Continuing Professional Education for dentists was implemented and enacted by the Dental Registration Act during A/Prof Tseng's term since 2008, to ensure that dentists keep up with the rapid changes made in scientific knowledge and dental practice, as well as developments in new materials, techniques and technologies. A/Prof Tseng also led a comprehensive review in dental subsidies and another with the Dental Services Advisory Committee, which consolidated and rationalised the provision of public dental services to meet the increasing demand and changing needs of our population. His work in these areas has contributed significantly to enhancing the accessibility and affordability of dental care for Singaporeans.

7. A/Prof Tseng is a highly respected leader in the dental community both locally and globally. He has placed Dentistry in Singapore on the international map through his leadership and membership in local and international professional bodies and advisory panels. For representing the best of his profession and outstanding contributions towards the improvement of Singapore's dental healthcare system, A/Prof Tseng was awarded the Public Administration Medal (Silver) in 2014. He will be returning to full time clinical practice at the National University Hospital (NUH) upon stepping down as CDO and Registrar of SDC.

8. Dr Chng's experience and leadership in KKH, coupled with a strong track record during his term at SDC and CDO Office, will provide a strong foundation to contribute well in his new role as CDO, and advance the dental profession both in Singapore and internationally.

9. The Singapore Dental Council wishes to express its deepest appreciation to A/Prof Patrick Tseng for his able leadership in advancing the dental profession in Singapore, and at the same time, extends its congratulations to Dr Chng Chai Kiat as the new CDO of MOH and Registrar of the SDC.

## **SINGAPORE DENTAL COUNCIL**

16 April 2018



A/Prof Patrick Tseng



Dr Chng Chai Kiat