

SINGAPORE DENTAL COUNCIL

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26 July 2021

SINGAPORE DENTAL COUNCIL ANNOUNCES NEW PRESIDENT AND CONSTITUTION FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM

1. Associate Professor Tseng Seng Kwong Patrick, Assistant Chief Executive of the National University Health System (NUHS), Senior Consultant at the National University Centre of Oral Health (NUCOHS) and Senior Consultant at the Chief Dental Officer Office, Ministry of Health, has succeeded Emeritus Professor Chew Chong Lin as President of the Singapore Dental Council (SDC). Professor Chew, a renowned Prosthodontist and a well-respected leader in the dental community, completed his term in the Council on 30 April 2021, after being at the helm as its President for more than a decade.

2. Under Professor Chew's astute leadership and vision to ensure that Council will fulfil its objective of protecting the health and safety of patients, SDC accomplished several milestones. In 2005, Professor Chew initiated compulsory Continuing Professional Education (CPE) for all dental practitioners. The CPE initiative allowed for dental practitioners to continue to enhance their knowledge and upskill their practice standards to keep up with the changing demands of the population's oral care needs.

3. In anticipation that more foreign trained dentists would apply to register to practise dentistry in Singapore following the amendments to the Dental Registration Act in 2008, Professor Chew launched the Supervisory Practice Management framework to ensure that foreign trained dentists would be properly supervised and appraised by senior dentists before they can apply to be converted to Full registration to practise independently. More importantly, the framework underscores the importance to safeguard patient's wellbeing.

4. As the Chairman of the Ethics Committee, Professor Chew led the revision of the Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines (ECEG) which came into effect since 1 Jan 2019. The ECEG is a code of conduct for dental practitioners to refer to when traversing ethical grey areas during their practice. Recognising how emerging technological platforms would change the practice of dentistry, Professor Chew led the Council to come up with guidelines on how dental practitioners should conduct themselves in the fast-moving age of technological era. The SDC expresses its heartfelt appreciation to Professor Chew for his dedication to the profession, and invaluable contributions to the Council and the dental community at large.

5. The Council extends a warm welcome to Associate Professor Patrick Tseng, who was elected by Council members as the new President of the SDC. Associate Professor Tseng, a specialist in Endodontics, was first appointed to the Council in

2006 as its Registrar. In his twelve-year tenure as Chief Dental Officer in the Ministry of Health and Registrar of SDC, Associate Professor Tseng made notable contributions to establish the national roadmap for dental services and strengthen the professional development and regulation of Dentistry in Singapore.

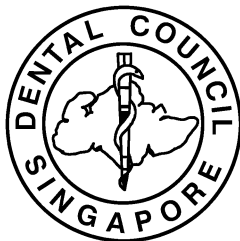
6. Associate Professor Tseng played a key role as the founding Chairman of the Dental Specialists Accreditation Board which he established in 2008 to commence the registration of dental specialists. This was instrumental for the growth and development of specialist dental practice for the management of more complex dental patients. Under the guidance of Associate Professor Tseng, the SDC started the registration and regulation of Oral Health Therapists (OHTs) in 2008, as part of a planned roadmap for OHTs to support dentists to care for the dental needs of the population. The regulation of OHTs ensured that they are appropriately trained and accredited for the provision of basic dental care procedures.

7. The accessibility and affordability of dental care in our healthcare ecosystem was enhanced over the past decade, credit to Associate Professor Tseng who led in the comprehensive review of dental subsidies, coupled with the consolidation and rationalisation of the provision of public dental services and the strategic review of the intermediate and long-term supply and demand of dental practitioners.

8. In view of his years of experience as a senior clinician, Associate Professor Tseng was appointed by MOH as a member of the Healthcare Ethics Capabilities Committee (HECC) in 2019. Together with the Committee members, Associate Professor Tseng assesses the ethics competency of healthcare professionals and oversees the review of the ethic competencies of all dental professionals. His dynamic involvement will go a long way in forging strong ethics capabilities in healthcare professionals.

9. The guidelines and criteria for registration and accreditation of dental professionals have been continuously reviewed under Associate Professor Tseng's direction over the past decade to ensure relevance, alongside the development of competency frameworks, continual professional development and training of dental professionals.

10. A highly respected leader in the dental community both locally and globally, Associate Professor Tseng 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, Associate Professor Tseng was awarded the Public Administration Medal (Silver) in 2014.



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Elected and Appointed members of Singapore Dental Council members

11. The Singapore Dental Council's new constitution took office on 1 May 2021, for a term of three years. This is part of succession planning in which representatives are brought in to provide new perspectives yet retain the transfer of knowledge on development of policies and operations of the Council. The SDC warmly welcomes the new constitution of Council members:

Appointed Members

1. A/Prof Tseng Seng Kwong Patrick – President
2. A/Prof Chng Chai Kiat – Registrar
3. Prof Patrick Finbarr Allen
4. Dr Shahul Hameed
5. Dr Goh Bee Tin
6. Mr Ong Ming Da
7. Ms Janelle Joy Foo
8. Ms Sree Gaithiri d/o Kunnasegaran

Elected Members

9. Dr Ang Ee Peng Raymond
10. Dr Choo Keang Hai
11. Dr Ng Fooi Chin
12. Dr Ng Jing Jing
13. Dr Tan Tien Wang

12. The immediate key areas which Associate Professor Tseng would focus on is to lead the Council in strengthening its regulatory role and protecting the safety of patients while ensuring the interests of the dental community are met. The Council will continue to engage the dental community, as well as streamline the processes of the SDC's Complaints and Disciplinary Committees. An important area of work which Associate Professor Tseng will be embarking on is enhancing the capabilities and competencies of dental practitioners through lifelong professional development. The Council will not rest on its laurels and will continue with the regular reviews of its registration, accreditation and supervisory framework policies as well as continuing professional education for dental practitioners.



Emeritus Professor Chew Chong Lin 周宗仁



Associate Professor Tseng Seng Kwong Patrick 曾承光