



SINGAPORE DENTAL ASSOCIATION

ORGANISER

# Dental Practice Forum 2023



## SPEAKERS

DR TANG KW

DR R. YAP

DR E. LEONG

DR GOH SH

PROF QUAH TC

DR J. FOSTER



Date: 29 October 2023  
Time: 1300-1800



Venue: Event hall 2-1 @ Level 2  
Lifelong Learning Institute  
Paya Lebar Central  
11 Eunos Road 8, S(408601)

SDA Members: Free

Non-SDA Members: **\$64.80** (with GST)

For enquiries, please contact 6258 9252  
or email [welfare@sda.org.sg](mailto:welfare@sda.org.sg)

To register, click [here](#) or scan the code today



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Confirmation of registration only upon receipt of payment & will be sent by email. Registration is subject to availability of seats and is on a first-come-first-served basis. Please note that there is a cancellation policy.

# Dental Practice Forum

# 2023

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## AGENDA

1300 **Do You Have What It Takes?**  
Dr Tang Kok Weng

1345 **Mastery in Dentistry: Does Ethics Conflict With Success?**  
Dr Ronnie Yap

1430 **So You Want To Specialize? Is One Specialty Good Enough In Modern Times?**  
Dr Elvin Leong

1515 Break

1545 **What You Need To Know before Setting Up A Practice**  
Dr Goh Siew Hor

1615 **What's Love Got To Do With It**  
Emeritus Prof Quah Thuan Chong

1700 **When Complaints Strike!**  
Dr James Foster

1800 End of Day

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# Do You Have What It Takes?



*Now that you are armed with a basic BDS degree, do you feel that the world is now yours to conquer? Think again, for you are ill equipped to face the challenges in clinical practice! As a veteran general dentist, Dr Tang will share his personal experiences in picking postgraduate courses to attend, as well as the rationale for his choices.*

## **SPEAKER: DR TANG KOK WENG**

A recipient of ASEAN Scholarship, Singapore PSC Merit Scholarship, Dr Tang graduated with BDS (NUS) in 1981, obtained the DGD, RCS (UK) in 1997. In 2005, he completed an advance oral implantology training program at University of Michigan, USA. He is a fellow of International Congress of Oral Implantologists (ICOI), the International College of Dentistry (FICD) as well as the Academy of Dentistry International (FADI). In 2010, he was examined and conferred the MSc (Implantology) with Distinction, by the University of Warwick, UK.

Dr Tang served as Vice President of SDA before becoming President of SDA from 2002-2004. Together with Dr Lewis Lee, he brought IDEM to SDA. He had served in various SDA committees including Ethics Committee (Chairman), IDEM (Chairman), Internal Audit Committee (Chairman), Welfare and CPE. He was also a member of the MOH Oral Health Task Force from 2002-2004. He co-founded College of General Dental Practitioners (Singapore) in 2000, and served as its Vice President and President subsequently. His active involvement in voluntary dental mission trips brought him to many countries in Asia, Nepal, and Africa. Dr Tang is also the Dental Convenor for TIMA (Tzu Chi International Medical Association) since 2004; and set up the Dental Free Clinic, MINDS Dental Project, Nursing Home projects in Lee Ah Mooi and Renci Hospital, as well as the Home Dental Service. He was also a regular volunteer at Healthserve Free Clinic for many years, serving foreign workers. In recognition of his years of service in serving the needy in Singapore, he was awarded the MOH Healthcare Humanity Award in 2019. He is currently a postgraduate student in Geriatric Dentistry, and serving as the Vice President of SDA.



# Mastery in Dentistry: Does Ethics Conflict With Success?



## **SPEAKER: DR RONNIE YAP**

*As dentists, we are all really part doctor, part engineer and part artist; part scientist even. However, as the majority of dentists are also in private practice there is the added reality of the pressure of financial success besides just clinical success. Are these two in conflict or are they complementary?*

*In this presentation, Dr. Ronnie Yap will share his personal view and experience on the ethics of dentistry and how it influences his journey in the never ending mastery of our craft under the pressure of profitability.*

Dr. Yap earned BDS in Singapore, DGDGP from UK and FRACDS from Australia. He was awarded both the FAC Ohlers Gold Medal for Best Clinical Student, and the University Silver Medal for the Best Student of that graduating year. Ronnie's main interest is in the field of aesthetic restorative dentistry and aligner orthodontics.

He was formerly on the APAC GP Advisory Board for Align Technology, past President of the Asian Academy of Aesthetic Dentistry and past adjunct senior lecturer at the National University of Singapore. Currently he is on the Editorial Board of the International Journal of Esthetic Dentistry.

He is in private practice and a partner in Orchard Scotts Dental (OSD). OSD has been the official dentist to the Miss Universe Singapore Pageant since 2009. In addition, he is also the founding shareholder of the De Pacific chain of family dental clinics in Singapore.

He has been lecturing extensively across Asia including Japan, China, Australia, Korea, Indonesia and Hong Kong. He is also an instructor at the Advanced Digital Dentistry Academy, which provides quality education and hands on courses for dentists with Live-Patient demonstration.

# So You Want To Specialize? Is One Specialty Good Enough In Modern Times?



**SPEAKER: DR ELVIN LEONG**

*So you want to specialise? Is one good enough in modern day dentistry? The definition of specialise is to concentrate on and become expert in a particular subject or skill. Broadly speaking, general dentistry enables a broader scope of dental practice involving treatments across ALL disciplines in Dentistry. Specialty dentistry supposedly allows the practice of more advanced and specific treatments in a particular field of dentistry.*

*A young dentist who graduated not long out of dental school usually will reach the crossroads of whether to specialise or to generalize. This informal and certainly not exhaustive presentation aims to provide some points of consideration for both sides of the “debate” of specialist vs generalist so that the audience would have some ideas and can at least make some decisions in their practice of the ever changing field of Dentistry.*

Dr. Elvin Leong, an accredited Dental Specialist in Prosthodontics with the Singapore Dental Council, received his basic dental training in the National University of Singapore (NUS). He went on to pursue specialty training in Prosthodontics and obtained both a Master of Dental Surgery (Prosthodontics) from the National University of Singapore and a Membership in Restorative Dentistry (Prosthodontics) of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh. Dr. Leong is also a Fellow of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore, a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons and a Member of the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons in the specialty of Prosthodontics.

He is an Adjunct Lecturer to both undergraduates and postgraduates in NUS, and an Adjunct Associate Professor with International Medical University Malaysia. He was previously the Chairman of the Chapter of Prosthodontists, College of Dental Surgeons, Singapore.

Dr Leong was an executive committee member of the Prosthodontic Society (Singapore) from 2008 to 2015 and he served as President from 2010 to 2012. He is currently an executive committee member of the Aesthetic Dentistry Society (Singapore). He was an abstract writer/reviewer for the International Journal of Prosthodontics and has made presentations at conferences internationally and has published in scientific journals both in Singapore and internationally.

# What You Need To Know before Setting Up A Practice

*"Want to be a boss? What do you need to know before starting a practice?"*



**SPEAKER: DR GOH SIEW HOR**

*Many of us may have considered or are considering starting a dental practice. For some, it is the freedom to decide on practice philosophy and culture. To others, the thrill and sense of achievement in being able to run a successful business. However, these often come with much personal sacrifices and unplanned costs.*

*This session is a dialogue on the practical aspects of managing a business. For those looking to build the next listed company, you signed up for the wrong session.*

Director of Clinical Services;  
Head, Denticare / Family Medicine Clinic / Allied Health  
Co-Head, Residential Care Division  
NTUC Health Co-operative Ltd

Dr Goh Siew Hor is presently the Director of Clinical Services at NTUC Health where he heads the Dental, Family Medicine, Residential Care and Allied Health services. He is currently the Immediate Past President of the Singapore Dental Association, President of the Singapore Dental Health Foundation and Member of the Medical Advisory Committee at St Luke's Community Hospital. In 2018, he was awarded the Singapore Patient Advocacy Award for his contributions to dental care in the nursing home.



# What's Love got To Do With It



*Emeritus Prof Quah is very impressed with the youngsters — typical Singaporeans with excellent knowledge and hard work, but also senses something missing in many of them — the human touch.*

*In this lecture, he hopes to share with his dental colleagues what he has shared with his medical students and young pediatricians.*

**SPEAKER: EMERITUS PROF QUAH THUAN CHONG**



Emeritus Prof Quah is a pediatric oncologist, semi-retired, but still seen in NUH Mondays to Saturdays, every week! He was born in Penang, but landed up in Singapore in 1971 to study medicine in the then University of Singapore. He has been a pediatrician since 1980, and thanks God for giving him a chance to practice pediatric oncology — a field which demands not only professional knowledge and expertise which is constantly advancing, but also makes demand on the spirit — to help the patients and families in all ways. He keeps an eye not only on his patients, but his students and junior doctors too!

# When Complaints Strike!



*When a patient or their relative complains, what immediate steps should we take to achieve an appropriate resolution and try to prevent the complaint escalating to become a claim in negligence or a dental council complaint. Using real cases from Dental Protection, this session will explore common complaints and their themes and the appropriate actions we can take to protect (and build) our reputation and prevent escalation.*

*Areas for consideration:*

- Why do patient complain in the first place?*
- Understanding complaints*
- In house complaints procedures*
- Communication skills*
- Ten steps to respond successfully*
- Learning from complaints*
- Clinician wellbeing and counselling service*

## **SPEAKER: DR JAMES FOSTER**

Dr. James Foster qualified from Newcastle Dental School in 1990 and was in General Practice for 16 years during which time he ran two practices in Northumberland. James had various roles with the Northern Deanery which included 7 years as a VT Adviser (latterly as a GPT scheme adviser), Workforce Adviser, Dental Tutor and a PCD Tutor. He also worked as a Clinical Supervisor in Prosthodontics at Newcastle Dental hospital for 4 years.

Dr. James obtained a master's degree in medical law in 2005, and has further obtained the MFGDP(UK) and a Certificate in Clinical Education. James is also a trained Mentor and following his appointment as a local adviser to Dental Protection in 2004, he was further appointed as an Associate Dento-Legal Adviser in 2004 before becoming a full-time Dento-Legal Adviser in March 2008.

Dr. James handles cases from several International jurisdictions and in 2014 he was appointed Head of Dental Services for Australia and New Zealand and has now been appointed Deputy Dental Director and Dental Lead for both Australasia and Asia. In November 2019, James was awarded the Foundation Fellowship of the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians.