

GET IN TOUCH

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GIVING IN NNI



It makes me happy knowing my support is helping to improve the lives of patients and their caregivers, while I continue to seek answers that will benefit future generations.

Dr Zhou Zhidong
Associate Clinician Scientist, Translational Therapeutics Laboratory, NNI



I support NNI needy patients because charity starts at home.

Ms Esther Vanessa Chua
Nurse Clinician, Neurology, NNI



NNI GIVING

STEWARDSHIP REPORT FY2017



National Neuroscience Institute

The National Neuroscience Institute (NNI), Singapore is the national specialist centre and regional centre for clinical referrals for the management and treatment of the neurosciences, as well as for education and research conducted.



National
Neuroscience Institute
SingHealth

THANK YOU

For transforming care and influencing the lives of disadvantaged patients...

Through the NNI Fund (Part of SingHealth Fund)

You have brought relief and made a difference to the lives of patients who do not have any access to financial assistance.

For being a part of the cure...

Through the NNI Health Research Endowment Fund

You have helped us to improve the outcome of patients, so that our people and community will enjoy quality, healthier and more productive lives.

**Together,
We shape neuroscience care
for a better tomorrow.**

MD'S MESSAGE

Dear friends,

The National Neuroscience Institute (NNI) is happy to present our first Stewardship Report. We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of you, our donors, who have supported us for the past year or more.

Your generosity makes significant impact to the patients we care for every day. Not only have your gifts helped some of our patients with their medical expenses, they have also allowed our researchers to continue making medical breakthroughs to develop better treatment for our patients.

These include Mr William Ngo and his journey to freedom, as well as A/Prof Au Wing Lok who created a device that helps patients with Parkinson's Disease. I hope that their stories and the others that are captured in this report will inspire you in your journey of giving.

As Winston Churchill said, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." More than the impact that you have on the life of our patients and our research, I hope that the contributions made have also enriched your life and given you a sense of fulfillment.

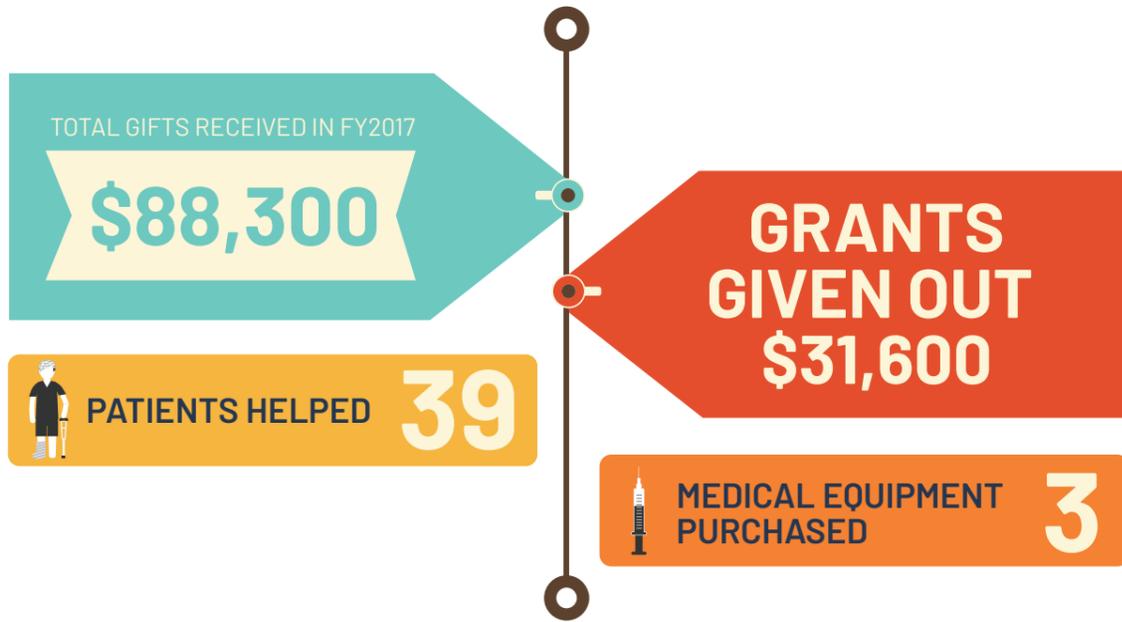
Thank you for sharing our vision to shape neuroscience care for a better tomorrow. Let's continue to create change and bring about a brighter future for the less fortunate in our community.

Associate Professor Ng Wai Hoe
Medical Director, NNI



NNI FUND (PATIENTS)

On 1 November 2017, the NNI Health Endowment Fund became part of the SingHealth Fund (SHF) and was renamed - SingHealth Fund - NNI Fund (NNIF). SHF was incorporated on 2 September 2016 as a Company Limited by Guarantee to operate charity funds for the SingHealth cluster. All donations to the NNIF are ring-fenced under the SHF for NNIF purposes and will be used in accordance with the donors' intent for neuroscience causes. As an Institution of Public Character (IPC), SHF is committed to maintaining the highest standards of governance and abides by the Code of Governance for Charities and IPCs.



PURPOSE OF FUND

To provide financial assistance to patients who are in financial straits and any other project deemed to be of a charitable nature.

ELIGIBILITY TO GRANT

Outpatients of NNI will be assessed on their eligibility for funding by Medical Social Workers for bills incurred at NNI. Only Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents will be considered. Applicants must seek assistance from other government funding / other assistance schemes before applying to this fund. Patients who do not qualify for other funding schemes will then be supported by the NNIF.

CHANGE-MAKER

Mr Samuel Seong Koon

Samuel was an extraordinary man. An avid volunteer at the NNI Motor Neuron Disease (MND) Support Group, he would bring smiles every day with his boundless humour. Even while battling Stage 4 colon cancer, Samuel continued teaching English to Bangladeshi workers and visiting patients to encourage them.

He used his gift of music to help others who are going through hard times and also raised more than \$14,000 to date from the proceeds of his self-composed song "Yong Gan Xiang Qian" (Facing Our Future with Courage).

Though Samuel passed away on 5 October 2017, his mission to help others soldiers on. He had requested before his passing for all memorial donations - which amounted to \$22,000 - to be given to the MND Support Group.



YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE

Mr William Ngo

William cannot walk, button up his shirt or lift a cup of coffee, but being mobile makes it possible for him to earn a living by painting landscape watercolours.

When William was 17, he was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy during a routine National Service health check. This genetic condition causes skeletal muscles to gradually waste away. After 10 years, William's arms became too weak to continue his work in a jewellery factory. He started selling lottery tickets instead.

At 48, William attended his first art class. Encouragement from his teacher and friends, together with lots of practice, William gradually improved.

After just nine months of doing watercolours, the quality of his painting was good enough to be accepted by the Mouth & Foot Painting Artists - a for-profit foundation run by disabled artists to help them earn a living through their paintings.

William earns enough for his daily necessities. Unfortunately, his electric wheelchair needed to be replaced last year. Thankfully, his specialist in NNI, Dr T. Umaphathi, helped him access the NNIF which covered the balance cost of the wheelchair.

William says, "To those who give to the fund, thank you from the bottom of my heart. Your gift is so much more than a set of wheels - it has given me the power of freedom so that I can leave home to work and continue to give back to society by sharing my journey with others."

Contributed by SingHealth Development Communications

NNI HEALTH RESEARCH ENDOWMENT FUND (NNI HREF)

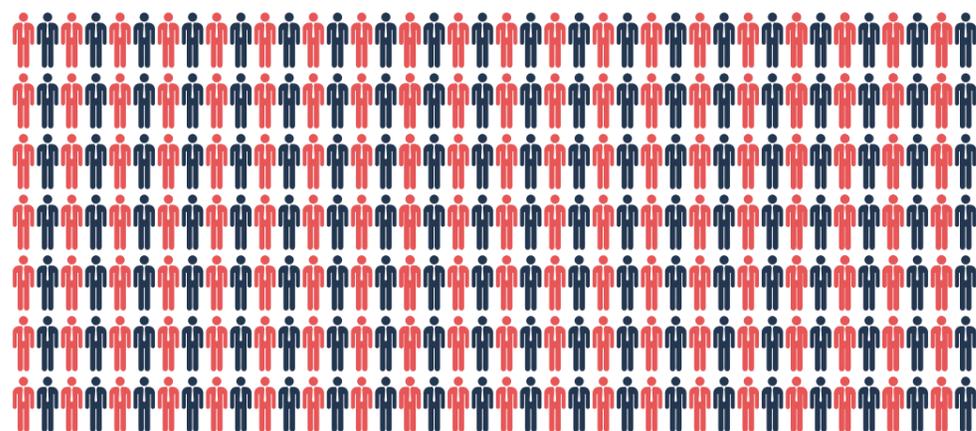
TOTAL GIFTS RECEIVED IN FY2017

\$633,200

GRANTS GIVEN OUT

\$634,200

7 RESEARCH PROJECTS SUPPORTED



280 DONORS



52 STAFF DONORS

PURPOSE OF FUND

The NNI HREF was set up to receive donations and contributions for the pursuit of medical research and the promotion, development and provision of health related services in Singapore. As an Institution of Public Character (IPC), NNI HREF is committed to maintaining the highest standards of governance and abides by the Code of Governance for Charities and IPCs.

ELIGIBILITY TO GRANT

A grant-making committee will evaluate the research projects for the eligibility of funding.

CHANGE-MAKER

Echo of Love Society

Formed in 2000 by the late Mr Chiang Yung Yi, a famous Singapore-based composer, the Echo of Love Society (EoLS) is a volunteer-run group of amateur singing enthusiasts who have held numerous concerts over the years to raise funds for various beneficiaries.

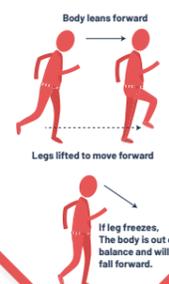
In 2017, EoLS organised a concert titled "Ai Xin Qing Shen" (Love is Deep) to raise funds for the NNI Health Research Endowment Fund. More than \$300,000 was raised through the group's lively and heartfelt music. With EoLS's gift, NNI was able to bring in the BrainPath/Myriad system for operation on stroke and brain tumour patients.

Their passion for philanthropy has revolutionised brain surgery in Singapore. This new system allows access to blood clots without causing damage to surrounding brain tissue. It has also allowed surgical intervention for patients without surgery options previously due to the location or size of the surgical target.



YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE

Freezing of Gait (FOG)



Freezing of Gait (FOG)

Research led by Associate Professor Au Wing Lok

With a grant from the NNI HREF, A/Prof Au and his team are now developing a Freezing of Gait (FOG) detection and biofeedback device. This device will help patients with Parkinson's Disease (PD) and its related disorders overcome the freezing attacks which are distressing to patients.

FOG is a sudden momentary block in walking. It may be overcome by a conscientious and conscious effort to lift the legs and open up the steps. Unfortunately, compliance to these rehabilitation strategies is low because of patients' fatigue and apathy, both of which are also symptoms of PD.

This new device will be able to detect the onset of FOG in real-time and supply these signals with guiding cues back to patients to help them overcome their impairment and prevent falls. This will facilitate better rehabilitation and ultimately better quality of lives for the patients.

Prevention of falls will reduce cost for the patients, their families, and the healthcare system. It is especially important given the increasing elderly population in Singapore.

Neuronal Intranuclear Inclusion Disease (NIID)

Research led by Associate Professor Tchoyoson Lim

Neuronal intranuclear inclusion disease (NIID) has been described in Japanese patients as a rare, progressive neurodegenerative disease. Symptoms of NIID worsen over time and include dementia, limb weakness, Parkinson's disease, seizures and disorder of autonomic nervous systems.

Surprisingly, this disease has not yet been identified outside of Japan. With a grant from the NNI HREF, A/Prof Lim and his team of researchers are able to study if NIID affects our local aged adults. There are characteristic Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) findings that can be useful for diagnosis, which the team is hoping to use to detect previously undiagnosed cases of NIID. Subsequently, the diagnosis can be confirmed through skin biopsies.

These findings will allow more timely and accurate diagnosis of the previously unknown disease by combining MRI with non-invasive skin biopsies to better understand this rare degenerative disease.