



National
Neuroscience Institute
SingHealth



**NNI
FUND**

Part of SingHealth Fund

CONNECTIONS FOR LIFE



GIVING REPORT 2021/2022



CONNECTIONS FOR LIFE

A connection that brings life, and a connection for a lifetime.

The vibrant discs form an artistic expression of synapses. Stemming from the Greek words “syn” (together) and “haptain” (to clasp), a synapse is where nerve impulses are transmitted from one neuron to another. It plays a critical role in processing messages and executing desired responses in the brain, spinal cord and throughout the body. Just as synapses are essential to a well-functioning body, so is the partnership between NNI Fund and each of us in advancing neuroscience care for our patients.

This artwork is dedicated to all our donors who believe in the National Neuroscience Institute’s commitment to do even better for our patients through seamless patient care, innovative research and transformative education.

The artwork is on display as NNI Fund’s donor wall at the entrance of National Neuroscience Institute @ Tan Tock Seng Hospital campus.

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**In Appreciation of
Our Donors and Partners**

Message from Our Chairman



2021 was a year of pivoting and adjusting. Changes to safe management measures in the COVID-19 pandemic kept us on our toes as we adapted to the evolving situation.

Our commitment to innovate amidst the changing landscape to transform the lives of our patients with brain, spine, nerve and muscle conditions continues to be possible with your steadfast partnership.

53 corporate partners came on board our signature fundraising event, the CHIONG AH! Charity Race 2022. To comply with the safe management measures at the time of planning, teams were kept to pairs, with a flexible time period given to participants to complete the race. 266 race participants 'chiong-ed' around Singapore in this inaugural race, completing tasks in the fastest time possible and raising \$114,200 for patient care, research, education and unmet needs at the NNI Fund.

We are heartened to have had the support of partners who stepped forth readily to raise awareness for neurological conditions through both online and offline media. Produced by local veteran composer, lyricist and performer Clement Chow, in partnership with local celebrity chefs, the 'One Heart, One Mind' Celebrity Chef Video Series was launched on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/nnifund) to help raise awareness for neurological conditions through cooking. Thanks to Lendlease Global Commercial REIT, our NNI Fund ambassador, Denni, was also showcased on the screens of 313@somerset to raise awareness for neurological conditions.

Your connection with us and support for our causes make a direct impact on patients' lives, such as Liquan who is living with spinal muscular atrophy and receives financial help to cope with the daily struggles of his condition. On behalf of our patients and the NNI Fund, we thank you for your steadfast partnership. Ours is a connection that has lasted challenging times, and a connection we will always treasure.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AU WING LOK

Chief Executive Officer, National Neuroscience Institute
Chairman, NNI Fund Committee

Our Board Committee

The Chairman and members of the NNI Fund Committee have oversight of the financials, fundraising and grant making activities of the NNI Fund, driving strategic direction for fundraising of patient care, medical research and education causes at the NNI Fund. The Committee will assess the eligibility of projects and disbursement of funds.



ASSOC PROF AU WING LOK



MR SENG HAN THONG



MR TAN PUAY HIANG



MS CHANG HWEE NEE



MS GOH POH KEE



**ASSOC PROF
DAVID LOW CHYI YEU**



MR TAN PHENG HOCK



PROF TAN ENG KING

Connecting with our Patients



About NNI Fund

The National Neuroscience Institute (NNI) is the national and regional specialist centre for conditions of the brain, spine, nerve and muscle. NNI serves close to 80% of Singapore's patients with neurological conditions, and offers treatment for over 20 subspecialties.

The NNI Fund is the official fundraising arm of NNI and part of the SingHealth Fund. Since its formation in 2017, the NNI Fund has been supporting NNI in the areas of patient care, medical research and education towards transforming lives of persons with neurological conditions such as dementia, stroke, Parkinson's disease and brain tumour. All donations to NNI Fund are used in accordance to the donors' intents for neuroscience causes.

The NNI Fund supports NNI's 3 pillars to help our patients cope with their conditions better:

Patient Care

Enhances patient care through the innovation of treatment methods, care models and equipment for neurological conditions; also supports financially challenged patients with their medical bills comprising medication, consultations, therapy sessions and assistive devices to support better breathing and mobility.

Medical Research

Accelerates medical research discoveries to better understand, prevent, diagnose, and treat neurological conditions. Research efforts will help to advance medicine and ultimately transform patient care.

Education

Supports the medical training of healthcare professionals to be equipped with up-to-date treatment methods. Advancement in education will raise the next generation of neuroscience leaders in improving the quality of care for neurological conditions.



Your Giving Impacts Lives

“

The NNI Fund has helped to ease my financial stress by providing for some of the recurring expenses required for my condition. This is one less thing to worry about in my everyday life.

Wen Liquan

I was a sickly child and was diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy at the age of one after several rounds of tests. This is a lifelong condition that causes my muscles to weaken over time. Since the diagnosis, the journey has been fraught with challenges and filled with many hospital visits for several years. The hospital visits stopped for a while as I got healthier and stronger. But in 2015, my breathing started to get weaker and visits to the doctors resumed. It was also at that time when I had to start using a ventilator to help me breathe. My arms have also weakened then and I use a motorised wheelchair to move around.

My mother's unwavering care and support, my family, and my faith saw me through the education system and into adulthood. Today, I'm 40 and working as a web developer. However, living with spinal muscular atrophy incurs significant costs. The NNI Fund has helped to ease my financial stress by providing for some of the recurring expenses required for my condition which include the rental of the ventilator to help me breathe better. This is one less thing to worry about in my everyday life. Knowing that there are people out there rooting for me makes a difference to my life, as my family and I remain strong and positive through every challenge.



“
Thanks to the NNI Fund, I have a motorised scooter which has helped with minimising my migraine triggers of fatigue and heat from walking.

Husinah

Looking back, I realise the migraines started when I was a teenager. The pain reached a peak in my 30s and I was referred to NNI after a polyclinic visit as I was blacking out from the excruciating pain which would sometimes last four to five days. As a mother of four children, it was an anxious time when my attending doctor certified me unfit for work and I had to stop working as a beauty therapist at a spa. To minimise the likelihood of a migraine attack, I have had to slow down and pace myself. I allow myself to take regular breaks in between household chores and have also developed a love for reading novels to pass time. On days when I am incapacitated by migraine attacks, my mother and neighbours help to take care of things like buying the groceries.

Thanks to the NNI Fund, I have a motorised scooter which has helped with minimising my migraine triggers of fatigue and heat from walking. This has provided much-needed relief as I continue to care for my intellectually challenged daughter who is in her final semester of school at APSN Delta. I believe in looking at the bright side of life, which has kept me going through the difficult times.

Making Connections for Better Care

A One-Stop Care Model for Parkinson's Disease

About three in every 1,000 individuals aged 50 years and above have Parkinson's disease (PD), making this the second most common neurodegenerative disease in Singapore, after Alzheimer's disease. PD is a neurodegenerative disorder that results in brain changes that worsen over time, affecting movement such as the uncontrollable shaking of arms and legs.

Associate Professor Prakash Kumar Manharlal, Head of Neurology, Sengkang General Hospital and Senior Consultant, Department of Neurology at NNI, helms the **"One-stop Integrated Care Model to Optimise Care Delivery for Patients with Parkinson's Disease"** programme. The one-stop programme utilises a two pronged approach to catalyse advancements in healthcare delivery for patients with PD in Singapore.



The first prong is the establishment of a one-stop service centre that patients can visit in-person or via tele-consultation to receive integrated and well-coordinated care from a team of healthcare professionals across disciplines, reducing the need for patients to visit multiple locations for their care needs. 35 patients and their caregivers are currently undergoing trials of the one-stop service centre at the NNI (Singapore General Hospital campus).

The second prong involves the development of an all-in-one mobile application, the Parkinson's Care module on the Health Buddy mobile application, which was launched in April 2022. The all-in-one app helps patients and their caregivers monitor the patients' condition while accessing information about PD conveniently, and connecting with other patients and caregivers through an interactive networking platform. Ongoing enhancements to the app are made following comments received from users. With the app, both patients and caregivers will also be able to provide more accurate feedback to the attending healthcare professionals at their next clinic visit for more effective care delivery.



Optimising Care Delivery with Team-based Care



ipecp

Interprofessional Education
& Collaborative Practice

When healthcare professionals from different disciplines come together to learn and collaborate in a team, better health outcomes result for their patients. As part of the Inter-Professional Education Programme, Inter-Professional Collaborative Practice is promoted to break down silos of fragmented and episodic care, and to facilitate coordinated and continuous care. Funded by the Lee Foundation, the programme aims to equip healthcare professionals with the skills for collaborative practice in care delivery.

The Inter-Professional Education Programme, helmed by Associate Professor Kevin Tan, Director of Education, NNI, has taken root with workshops conducted at the SingHealth cluster, national and regional level with members from the pioneer workgroup conducting these workshops.

One such workshop is VITAL Singapore, which was designed in collaboration with the Centre for Advancing Collaborative Healthcare and Education in Toronto. The workshop comprises seven modules and was launched online between 8 and 29 June 2021 for 38 participants, amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Research studies conducted on team-based care in NNI have also received regional and international recognition, with the receipt of a runner-up award in the Best Oral Presenter category at the 19th Asia Pacific Medical Education Conference 2022 and a presentation conducted at the American Academy of Neurology Annual Meeting amongst other awards won. In addition, the team has also published the study in medical journal, Journal of Interprofessional Care, and are doing follow-up studies as well.

With further funding, the team plans to catalyse Inter-Professional Collaborative Practice throughout the SingHealth cluster with the implementation of education programmes and the study of factors to develop strategies to optimise team-based care.



Connect with Us to Transform Lives

Bridging the Gaps in Stroke Recovery

A stroke occurs when a part of the brain gets damaged due to interrupted blood supply. Over 8,800 new strokes occur in Singapore every year with more than two-thirds of these new stroke patients suffering from long-term disability. Faced with the challenge of a fragmented system of care in the community, stroke survivors often do not have a common point of contact to serve their needs for post-stroke recovery. Herein lies a gap to be bridged – to make life after stroke more meaningful and productive for these survivors and their families.

The **Stroke BRIDGES** initiative is helmed by Associate Professor Deidre Anne De Silva, Head and Senior Consultant, Department of Neurology (Singapore General Hospital campus), Dr Carol Tham, Senior Consultant, Department of Neurology and Dr Ng Wai May, Deputy Director, Department of Nursing at NNI. It aims to bridge the gaps in care delivery and provide much needed support to stroke survivors in the areas of:

Befriending, Resource matching, Inclusion strategies, Detection and management of complications, Growing confidence, Empowerment and Social support.

By building a safety net of a common contact point for stroke survivors to seek post-stroke care support, while equipping them with skills and fitness training, existing gaps in post-stroke care can be bridged for stroke survivors to continue to live their best lives in the community.

A funding of \$570,000 will enable the Stroke BRIDGES initiative to be established to support stroke survivors.



Person-centred Care for Better Quality of Life

Studies have shown that persons suffering from neurological diseases, which affect the brain, spine, nerve and muscle, have substantial unmet needs along their trajectory of illness, and may live with these unmet needs for longer than cancer patients. Many informal caregivers in the family are needed to support a person with the disease as they suffer from physical disability, pain, psychological and spiritual distress. In addition, they also require assistance with daily living such as feeding and maintaining personal hygiene.

Helmed by Dr Ang Kexin, Senior Consultant, Department of Neurology, NNI, the **Shared Care Model for Better Neuroscience Care** initiative aims to facilitate the transition from acute care to after-care in the community for persons with neurological diseases.

The shared care model comprises three pillars:

1

A network of after-care services in the community

2

Advance care planning discussions conducted by healthcare professionals with patients

3

A pre-crisis caregiver support and training programme to train patients and families to prepare for any decline in the patient's condition



With funding of **\$550,000** over two years, the **Shared Care Model for Better Neuroscience Care** will be established at NNI to help patients with degenerative neurological conditions achieve a better quality of life in their disease journey. Following the programme's establishment, the team will also spearhead the expansion of the shared care model across the hospitals and institutions in the SingHealth cluster to integrate care for progressive or severe neurological disease patients at all sites under the SingHealth Duke-NUS Supportive and Palliative Care Centre.

To find out more information on these two programmes which require funding, please reach out to Clarisse Lim at CorpDev@nni.com.sg.

Your Support Connects us to a Better Future



\$749,028

Total funds raised
in FY2021



38

Needy patients
benefitted



706

Donors



15

Assistive devices
supported



198

Staff donors

NNI Fund

The NNI Fund raises funds to address and bridge gaps between existing government grants and support schemes to help NNI patients cope better with their conditions. The fund seeks to enhance patient care, while providing financial assistance to patients who have exhausted all funding schemes; advance medical research in neuroscience and nurture the next generation of neuroscience leaders.

Eligibility

The grant-making sub-committee on the NNI Fund Committee evaluates projects for funding eligibility. For disbursement of financial assistance through the NNI Fund, outpatients of NNI will be assessed on their eligibility for funding by medical social workers for bills incurred at NNI. Singapore citizens and permanent residents who have exhausted all other funding schemes can be supported by the NNI Fund.



Connecting your gifts with our Passion and Purpose

Golden Horse Fund Management Diagnosing Brain Injuries Research Fund

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) usually results from a violent blow or jolt to the head or body. Every year, approximately 69 million persons worldwide are afflicted with TBI. TBI survivors can often face significant hospitalisation, disability and other socioeconomic costs.

To help improve clinical outcomes and the quality of life of TBI survivors, the Golden Horse Fund Management has pledged \$216,000 over three years to establish the Golden Horse Fund Management Diagnosing Brain Injuries Research Fund, the first named fund at NNI.

The Research Fund aims to develop an artificial intelligence (AI) algorithm to automatically diagnose computerised tomography (CT) brain scans for patients with TBI. This would allow brain scans to be diagnosed within minutes, enabling significantly faster clinical intervention and treatment to maximise patients' chances of recovery.



Mr Lawrence Chen, Founding Partner & Chief Executive Officer of Golden Horse Fund Management (second from left) with the NNI Neurosurgery Team helping the research fund - Assoc Prof David Low, Dr Jai Rao and Dr Justin Ker (from left to right).





Raising Awareness for Neurological Conditions with Lendlease Global Commercial REIT

We are heartened and grateful for the support from Lendlease Global Commercial REIT in joining hands with us to transform the lives of persons with neurological conditions.

Our mascot – Denni, made a trip downtown to the LED screens at 313@somerset during the school holidays in September 2021.



Video of Denni, NNI Fund mascot, on the screens at 313@somerset

Attractive discount coupons worth over \$600 were distributed to all participants of the inaugural 'One Heart, One Mind' CHIONG AH! Charity Race 2022. A big thank you to Lendlease Global Commercial REIT for being one of our official race partners!



Discount coupons from tenants of Lendlease Global Commercial REIT for Race participants



'One Heart, One Mind' CHIONG AH! Charity Race 2022: Discover Singapore

Participants of the NNI Fund's inaugural charity race discovered the hidden gems of Singapore as teams of two 'chiong-ed' around the island to complete the race of 10 stations in the fastest time possible. The top three teams from each category (public and corporate) from over 250 participants walked away with prizes for completing the race in the fastest time.

The 'One Heart, One Mind' CHIONG AH! Charity Race 2022 was held over two months from 1 March to 30 April 2022. Thanks to our donors and race partners, \$114,200 was raised for the NNI Fund to support patient care, research, education, and other unmet needs.



Ms Cass Chay, Chief Operating Officer, NNI, presenting the prizes for Champion and 1st Runner-up to Mr Chia Khong Shiong, Group Chief Corporate Officer of Frasers Property.



Race participants completing their challenges at the race stations

Official Race Partners:



Cooking for a Cause

Six celebrity chefs came together with local veteran composer, lyricist and performer, Clement Chow, to produce an online video series for NNI Fund's Facebook page – 'One Heart, One Mind' Celebrity Chef Series.

The video series featured recipes from the 'One Heart, One Mind' recipe book which was specially curated for NNI's 20th anniversary in 2019. The celebrity chefs and their restaurants also contributed over \$1,400 worth of dining vouchers for winners of the contest conducted in line with the video series which concluded in 2022.



MANJUNATH MURAL
ADDA Restaurant



Scan the QR code to level up your home-cooking with these celebrity chef recipes!

Celebrity Chef Series



HAIKAL JOHARI
Alma by Juan Amador



TONY KHOO
Pan Pacific Hotels Group



DIEGO CHIARINI
OSO Ristorante



VIOLET OON



ZENG FENG
Si Chuan Dou Hua Restaurant *

*Chef Zeng Feng has since left Si Chuan Dou Hua Restaurant.

Your Connection Inspires Us

“ I know from working on the frontline of patient care that good health is priceless. However, the one thing that stands between many patients and transformative healthcare is financial means. I’ve been giving since staff giving was initiated at NNI because I want to make a difference, and make someone smile, even for a moment. I believe that donations given will help build the very road to better treatment and recovery.

Siti Nuraini Binte Mawi
Senior Enrolled Nurse,
Department of Nursing, NNI



“ As a doctor, I donate because I truly believe in the cause and vision of NNI. The work we do impacts our patients’ everyday lives. The patients we treat are important to someone. The NNI video, The Father’s Gift, depicting the story of a father suffering from dementia on his daughter’s wedding day explains why the NNI Fund exists. Giving to the NNI Fund can help ease the burden of patients and caregivers while we work towards better palliative care, more effective treatment, or even a cure one day. It’s a meaningful cause.

Dr Benjamin Huang
Resident Physician,
Department of Neurosurgery, NNI

In Appreciation of Our Donors

\$250,000

Lee Foundation

\$100,000

Shaw Foundation

\$10,000 and above

Ms Chang Hwee Nee

Mr Chia Chor Meng

Hong Leong Foundation

Pan Asian Flow Technologies Pte Ltd

Mdm Seng Hoon Cheng

Mr Tan Kwang Hwee

Mr Tan Kwang Yew

In Appreciation of Our Event Partners

Active SG

Alletsoap

Amazin' Graze

Base Piece Homeware

Botana&Tea

Celeblooms

DoDo Seafood Treats

essano

Fonterra Brands Singapore

Hi-Beau Group

HOCKHUA TONIC

Hook Coffee

Humming Flowers & Gifts

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SIGI Skin

Sport Singapore

The Peppy Curator

The Pixie Co

Toppan Merrill

VitaHealth

Whealthfields Lohmann (S) Pte Ltd

Yoga Superfuel

Yves Rocher Singapore



Denni,
NNI Fund
Ambassador

Thank you
for partnering us
to transform the lives
of persons with
neurological conditions.

Our heartfelt thanks
to all our donors
and partners!



Keep In Touch

Angela . Cheryl . Clarisse . Fay-Ann . Irsalina

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