



SINGAPORE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

Meeting : 44th Annual General Meeting
Date : 22 September 2020
Time : 6.00 pm
Venue : Zoom

Present:

Key Council members:

A/P Lim Tit Meng	President
Prof Ling San	Vice President
Prof Andrew Wee Thye Shen	Immediate Past President
Dr Leong Lai Peng	Honorary Secretary
Dr Lui Yan Long, Edmund	Honorary Treasurer

Members of Constituent Societies, academy fellows and student award winners:

Joanne Ngeow	Chapter of Clinician Scientists, Academy of Medicine
Mahesh Choolani	Chapter of Clinician Scientists, Academy of Medicine
Wong Tien Yin	Chapter of Clinician Scientists, Academy of Medicine
Antonio Castro Neto	Fellow
Chun Guan Yang	Fellow
James P. Tam	Fellow
Lim Chwee Teck	Fellow
Liu Bin	Fellow
Prof Ng Huck Hui	Fellow

Yu Hao	Fellow
Andrew Wee T S	Institute of Physics Singapore (IPS)
Cesare Soci	Institute of Physics Singapore (IPS)
Christian Kurtsiefer	Institute of Physics Singapore (IPS)
Feng Yuan Ping	Institute of Physics Singapore (IPS)
Hoi Nok Tsao	Institute of Physics Singapore (IPS)
Koh Wee Shing	Institute of Physics Singapore (IPS)
Lim Jian Wei Mark	Institute of Physics Singapore (IPS)
Paul Lee Choon Keat	Institute of Physics Singapore (IPS)
Rajdeep Singh Rawat	Institute of Physics Singapore (IPS)
Sow Chorng Haur	Institute of Physics Singapore (IPS)
B.V.R. Chowdari	Materials Research Society Singapore (MRSS)
Cedric Troadec	Materials Research Society Singapore (MRSS)
Ding Jun	Materials Research Society Singapore (MRSS)
Tim White	Materials Research Society Singapore (MRSS)
Irene Tan	Science Teachers Association of Singapore (STAS)
Jay Mahardale	Science Teachers Association of Singapore (STAS)
Justin Lee	Science Teachers Association of Singapore (STAS)
Ng Kok Wing	Science Teachers Association of Singapore (STAS)
Tham Hanrong	Science Teachers Association of Singapore (STAS)
A/P Lim Tit Meng	Singapore Association for the Advancement of Science (SAAS)
Anne Dhanaraj	Singapore Association for the Advancement of Science (SAAS)
Dr Hang Kim Hoo	Singapore Association for the Advancement of Science (SAAS)
Dr Ong Yann Shiou	Singapore Association for the Advancement of Science (SAAS)
Dr R Subramaniam	Singapore Association for the Advancement of Science (SAAS)
Dr Tan Guoxian	Singapore Association for the Advancement of Science (SAAS)
Ms Irene Tan	Singapore Association for the Advancement of Science (SAAS)

Tan Guoxian	Singapore Association for the Advancement of Science (SAAS)
Adrian Elangovan	Singapore Institute of Biology (SIBiol)
Jani Tanzil	Singapore Institute of Biology (SIBiol)
Nicholas Yap	Singapore Institute of Biology (SIBiol)
Savita Sharma	Singapore Institute of Biology (SIBiol)
Toh Tai Chong	Singapore Institute of Biology (SIBiol)
Chan Song Heng	Singapore Mathematical Society (SMS)
Hang Kim Hoo	Singapore Mathematical Society (SMS)
Ling San	Singapore Mathematical Society (SMS)
Tang Wee Kee	Singapore Mathematical Society (SMS)
Victor Tan	Singapore Mathematical Society (SMS)
Yap Von Bing	Singapore Mathematical Society (SMS)
Leong Lai Peng	Singapore National Institute of Chemistry (SNIC)
Tan Choon Hong	Singapore National Institute of Chemistry (SNIC)
Vittal,Jagadese J	Singapore National Institute of Chemistry (SNIC)
Barry Halliwell	Singapore Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (SSBMB)
Lui Yan Long, Edmund	Singapore Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (SSBMB)
Yap Lai Lai	Singapore Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (SSBMB)
Yew Wen Shan	Singapore Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (SSBMB)
Dave Ow	Singapore Society for Microbiology and Biotechnology (SSMB)
Dr Ng Yi Kai	Singapore Society for Microbiology and Biotechnology (SSMB)
Prof Steve Pointing	Singapore Society for Microbiology and Biotechnology (SSMB)
Alvin Heng Jun Ren	Student Award Winner
Chau Pearlwe	Student Award Winner
Chua Sing Teng	Student Award Winner
Dominic Koh Jing Qun	Student Award Winner
Elaine Wong	Student Award Winner

Glenn Quek	Student Award Winner
Hannah Lau	Student Award Winner
Ho Zheng Hao Malcolm	Student Award Winner
How Jian Boon	Student Award Winner
Jin Ye	Student Award Winner
Kon Wen Yu	Student Award Winner
Liu Ruofan	Student Award Winner
Melvin Tan	Student Award Winner
Neo Ren Kai Edward	Student Award Winner
ng zi xuan	Student Award Winner
Ti Tze Hong	Student Award Winner
Wan Aliff	Student Award Winner
Stephen Pointing	
Zhang Yuance	

The Meeting was called to order by the Academy's President, A/Professor Lim Tit Meng at 6.02 pm.

1 ADDRESS BY SNAS PRESIDENT

A/P Lim TM started his address with the highlights of events that occurred in the fiscal year 2019/2020.

1.1 SNAS WHITE PAPER TO DPM

He reported the follow-up on the white paper submitted to DPM Heng Swee Kiat which was written by the late Honorary Fellow Sir Sydney Brenner, Honorary Fellow Tony Cheetham, SNAS Fellow Brigit Lan, immediate past president Prof Andrew Wee and A/P Lim TM. The purpose is to position SNAS as an independent organization to advise the government on science policy and the direction of science and engineering research.

1.2 NRF GRANT FOR ASEAN POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

Following the meeting with A/P Lim TM, Prof Andrew and Prof Ling San, DPM Heng referred the white paper to NRF which results in a grant amounting \$606,000 for 3 years. The purpose of the grant is to attract talented postdoctoral fellows from our ASEAN neighbours. Five positions were offered, four accepted and one rejected. The postdoctoral fellows will be coming to Singapore when COVID-19 restrictions for travelling ease, next year.

1.3 SINGAPORE REPRESENTATION IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

A/P Lim also reported that there have been many calls for someone to represent Singapore in international meetings. For example:

1. AASSA webinar on Singapore's response to COVID-19 Pandemic on 10 July 2020.
2. Chapter on STEM education to AASSA in August 2020: "Current Practice and issues for improvement in STEM education in Singapore.
3. US NAS, US NAM and Royal Society of UK to comment and discuss on "Heritable Human Genome Editing", a document produced by an international commission of experts.

A/P Lim commented that there are many opportunities for members of the academy to participate and he urge members to respond to call for actions so that Singapore can be represented in these events.

1.4 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR ISC AWARDS

The International Science Council Programmes and Awards are open to SNAS nomination (ISC2021) and constituent societies are encouraged to put up their nominations:

1. Science for Sustainability Award
2. Science-for-Policy Award
3. Policy-for-Science Award
4. Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Award
5. Early Career Scientist Award

2 PRESENTATION OF SNAS AWARDS TO UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

The SNAS Awards were instituted to recognize university students who excel in the sciences, including mathematical sciences. Each of the SNAS Award carries a certificate of commendation and S\$100 cash. It is a highly competitive award as there is only one award for each discipline in each university/institute. In effect, it is a national recognition of excellence in the sciences by university students in the country.

The following were the winners of the SNAS Awards for 2019:

National University of Singapore

Chemistry	Ong Han Wee
Biological Sciences	Javan Lee Tze Han
Mathematics	Xia Rui
Physics	Yeo Wei De Lloyd

Statistics	Melvin Tan Jun Keong
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Nanyang Technological University

Biological Sciences	How Jian Boon
Chemistry & Biological Chemistry	Neo Ren Kai Edward
Physics and Applied Physics	Kon Wen Yu
Mathematical Sciences	Jin Ye

National Institute of Education, NTU

Biology	Tan Cassander
Chemistry	Lim Xin Ying
Physics	Pang Aaron Jiansheng
Mathematics	Elaine Wong

Due to COVID-19, the AGM this year is held after the graduation of the 2020 cohort. The following were the winners of the SNAS Awards for 2020:

National University of Singapore

Chemistry	Glenn Quek
Biological Sciences	Hannah Lau Si Hui
Mathematics	Andreas Dwi Putra Soegiarto
Physics	Chua Sing Teng
Statistics	Liu Ruofan

Nanyang Technological University

Biological Sciences	Ho Zheng Hao Malcolm
Chemistry & Biological Chemistry	Ng Zi Xuan
Physics and Applied Physics	Alvin Heng Jun Ren
Mathematical Sciences	Ti Tze Hong

National Institute of Education, NTU

Biology	Dominic Koh Jing Qun
Chemistry	Chau Pearlwe
Physics	Wan Muhammad Aliff Bin Rahmat
Mathematics	Chun Guan Yang

The names of the students were read out at the AGM. A/P Lim TM commended them for their academic achievements and expressed the hope that they will continue their pursuit of excellence in the sciences. Dr Leong LP thanked the students for taking time off to attend the session. Students award winners left zoom meeting after the session.

3 CHALLENGES FACED BY SNAS

A/P Lim TM explained some challenges faced by SNAS including setting up SOP for the events we organized, ROS filing, maintaining of contact list of people related to SNAS. He also expressed his wishes to have list of government agencies that we should contact and other local and overseas academy.

The administrative help SNAS is obtaining are temporary and not sustainable. President thanked Dr Leong Lai Peng for getting trustworthy assistants thus far. Prof Tan CH commented in the chat that it may be possible for constituent societies to share the cost of an admin staff. Dr Jani Tanzil also suggested on the chat to appoint Asst Hon Secretary to help with some of the secretarial work.

The president also would like to improve the YSA and Fellows selection process so that the selection of award winners and fellows is more equitable so that all from different institutions and background can be considered.

As we obtain more funds from NRF, we will also a lot of administrative work and we will need support for some of these admin work.

A/P Lim TM thanked A/P Subramaniam for being the editor for PSNAS and several issues are in the pipeline to be published. However, it is essential that someone else should take over some of these responsibilities as A/P Subramaniam is retiring.

The president also questioned the conviction and commitment of SNAS council and Fellows. He hoped that the everyone will play a more active role in SNAS. He closed the topic by raising another issue on the succession planning in the leadership of SNAS. He hopes to work on the succession planning and call for action from all constituent societies.

4 MINUTES OF 42ND SNAS ANNUAL DELEGATES MEETING

This was confirmed with no amendment:

Proposer : Dr Koh Wee Shing

Seconder : Dr Lim Jian Wei Mark

5 OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM LAST AGM

There were two main outstanding matters from last AGM. The most urgent at the moment is the change of signatories for our bank accounts. The signatories of SNAS accounts should be:

1. A/P Lim Tit Meng; President
2. Dr Lui Yan Long, Edmund; Honorary Treasurer

This can only be done after ROS registration of SNAS Council members. Council members were reminded to respond responsibly to the call to submit personal details required by ROS so that we can resolve some of the administrative backlog we have on this matter. A/P Lim TM expressed his frustration hoping all council members will cooperate.

6 ANNUAL REPORT

6.1 ACTIVITIES OF CONSTITUENT SOCIETIES

The Annual Report showed that the various constituent societies continued to have an active year. Events organized includes Olympiad, conferences, symposiums, seminars, webinar, public lectures, outreach activities and awards to deserving scientists.

Dr Leong LP expressed her hope that SNAS can be a platform for more collaborative activities between constituent societies and welcome proposal from members. It is also possible to submit activity calendar to SNAS website so that all can see what others are doing to prevent clashes of outreach events.

6.2 SNAS ASEAN POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

As explained earlier by the president, the purpose of the fellowship is to attract top scientists in ASEAN to Singapore and to establish collaboration with our neighbours. The first batch of 5 postdoctoral fellows were offered in 2020 in the area of infectious diseases. Four accepted the fellowship and 1 has since rejected it citing personal reasons.

6.3 YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD 2019

Dr Leong LP reported that the winners of the Young Scientist Award for last year were Dr Charles Lim and Dr Shao Huilin, both from NUS. They were given the award at PSTA ceremony 2019. While the YSA award winners have been chosen this year, the results will only be announced at PSTA ceremony end of this year.

6.4 FELLOWS OF THE ACADEMY

Dr Leong LP reported that the number of fellows now is at 45 including those who will be conferred later today. She encouraged all members to look through the list to think about the next set of fellows to be elected and should cover a wide area of expertise. As such, we will have a pool of fellows who can represent Singapore for a variety of different scientific meetings at the international level.

6.5 PSNAS

There are 3 issues of the Proceedings of the Singapore National Academy of Science (PSNAS) in the pipeline.

- *Cell Signalling and Diseases. Ed. Low Boon Chuan – will be published shortly*
- *Henstock integration: Theory and applications. Ed. Toh Tin Lam and Chew Tuan Seng. In preparation*
- *STEM education. Ed. Leo Tan Wee Hin and R. Subramaniam – In preparation*

Dr Leong LP thanked Prof Subramaniam for his dedication as the editor as well as his help with the annual report this year.

6.6 ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report was adopted without any amendments.

Proposer : Dr Hang Kim Hoo
Secunder : Andrew Wee

7 ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The statement of accounts is presented by Dr Edmund Lui. He summarized what is reported in the statement of accounts which has been circulated several weeks earlier. A/P Lim TM if he has waived the outstanding charges to all constituent societies. Dr Edmund Lui mentioned the difficulties of getting the bank statement as the office where the statement is delivered to is locked due to COVID-19. Hopefully after the change of signatories, this problem will be resolved. However, this has not been discussed in a council meeting and perhaps should be brought up in the next meeting for discussion.

7.1 ADOPTION OF THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Statement of Accounts was duly adopted.

Proposer : Dr Nicholas Yap
Secunder : Dr Paul Lee Choon Keat

7.2 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

Prof Hardy Chan was appointed as the auditor for next year's account.

8 CONFERMENT OF SNAS FELLOWS

SNAS Fellow were conferred to eight (8) prominent scientists in Singapore this year:

1. Professor Antonio Castro Neto
2. Prof Barry Halliwell
3. Prof Lim Chwee Teck
4. Prof Liu Bin
5. Prof Ng Huck Hui
6. Prof Sow Chorng Haur
7. Prof Tan Choon Hong
8. Prof Yu Hao

Their biographies were read by Prof Lim TM and Prof Andrew Wee. Each new fellow gave a short speech and recited the pledge to become a fellow. The president congratulated all the new fellows and hope to see them soon in the near future involving in some of SNAS activities.

There being no other matters, the meeting was adjourned at 7.12 pm.

Prepared by,



Dr Leong Lai Peng
Honorary Secretary

Vetted by,



A/P Lim Tit Meng
President