

NATIONAL OUTSTANDING CLINICIAN MENTOR AWARD 2023

Adjunct Associate Professor Brenda Ang Sze Peng (洪詩嫻)

Clinical Director
Department of Infection Prevention and Control
Tan Tock Seng Hospital

Emeritus Consultant
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Clinical Senior Lecturer
Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine
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Adjunct Associate Professor
Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine
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“For her tireless dedication, passion and unwavering commitment towards championing the areas of Infectious Diseases (ID) and Infection Control and nurturing successive generations of ID clinicians.”

Over the past few decades, Adjunct Associate Professor Brenda Ang has been synonymous with Infectious Disease and Infection Control in Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH). This award is a recognition of her efforts, having spent the past 30 years developing ID as a specialty in Singapore and advocating a culture of good infection control practices at institutional and individual levels. Through the relentless efforts of A/Prof Ang and her contemporaries, ID and infection prevention and control have become an integral and crucial part of our healthcare services.

From the threat of emerging IDs such as Nipah, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, Chikungunya, H1N1, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, Ebola, to the most recent COVID-19, A/Prof Ang has weathered different waves of ID outbreaks where her expertise and experience have contributed to their control and mitigation. Her leadership in the planning and implementation of policies relating to pandemic preparedness has also enabled TTSH, National Centre for Infectious Diseases and National Healthcare Group (NHG) to be prepared for unforeseen circumstances, contributing to a safer environment for staff, patients, and visitors alike.

Following her appointment as the Chairman of the TTSH Infection Control Committee in 1996, she has worked on reducing nosocomial infections and multi-drug resistant organisms. In addition to being Clinical Director of the Department of Infection Prevention and Control, she sits on multiple committees including the Steering Committee of Hospital Acquired Infection Elimination Collaborative, Antimicrobial Stewardship Committee, chairs the NHG Infection Control Committee and is a member of MOH's National Infection Prevention and Control Committee (NIPC). She has been instrumental in strengthening surveillance of infections in the hospital, analysing and understanding reasons for transmission, and developing response

measures such as infection control electronic surveillance systems, staff sickness surveillance systems, and real-time location systems.

She introduced active surveillance for methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) in all inpatients in TTSH from 2010. She initiated the use of rapid testing with polymerase chain reaction for patients listed for elective surgery or admitted via the Emergency Department, with TTSH being the first hospital to do so. These strategies resulted in improved workflows for staff managing MRSA patients and a reduction in MRSA infection rates. A/Prof Ang has been actively involved in coming up with recommendations to address key questions in preventing nosocomial infections and responding to antimicrobial resistance as well as emerging infectious diseases.

Her passion has led her to teach ID and create opportunities for learning through the exchange of ideas among members of the local ID community. A/Prof Ang has been a role model and a constant inspiration to younger generations of ID physicians. During her term as a member of the ID Specialist Training Committee from 1998 to 2006, and as Chairman from 2002 to 2006, she worked on developing the curriculum for ID training as well as the conduct of exit examinations, impacting the younger generation of ID physicians trained in Singapore.

Since 2004, A/Prof Ang has been teaching at National University of Singapore as a Senior Clinical Lecturer. She is also currently Adjunct Associate Professor at the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine and helps mentor trainees as a Visiting Consultant to Department of Infectious Diseases at Singapore General Hospital.

A/Prof Ang has been recognised with numerous awards for her contributions over the years. She has continually been a role model with strong ethos, values, professional integrity, and conduct. Her distinguished contributions to the medical profession, Singapore's public healthcare sector, and international community, in the areas of clinical service, education, and research, have also earned her the title of Emeritus Consultant, Department of Infectious Diseases at TTSH in 2021.

For her tireless dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment towards championing the areas of ID and Infection Control and nurturing successive generations of ID clinicians, Associate Professor Brenda Ang is awarded the National Outstanding Clinician Mentor Award 2023.