

OBITUARY

Dr Ng Kim Swee *FAMS, EDIC, FCCM (1956 – 2002)*

Dr Ng Kim Swee was a consultant anaesthetist in the Changi General Hospital and a Fellow of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore (Chapter of Anaesthesiologists). His friends and colleagues fondly remember him for his passion for life and whatever life embraced.

Under the auspices of the Ministry's "Health Manpower Development Programme", he did his fellowship in Critical Care in Pittsburgh. Since his return, he has championed the cause of intensive care medicine in Singapore. In every major event in intensive care medicine, you would find his footprint or a fingerprint at least. To name a few:

- He was one of the Founding members of the Society of Intensive Care Medicine, Singapore, and was its first President.
- The 1st chairman of the General Scientific Meeting of the Society.
- The Chairman of the Organising Committee of the Western Pacific Association of Critical Care Medicine (WPACCM) 2000 Congress in Singapore, which was held successfully in the Westin Plaza, thus propelling local intensive care medicine onto the regional map.
- He was the treasurer of the WPACCM.
- He was invited to speak in many countries, including developing countries.
- He petitioned to the Ministry of Health to recognise intensive care as a distinct discipline.
- He promoted the education of intensive care through the introduction of the Fundamental Critical Care Support course, which is currently running full steam at the Life Support Centre of the Singapore General Hospital.
- He was co-Guest Editor of the Critical Care Medicine issue of the *Annals* in May 2001 and a few other intensive care journals.

He also served on various hospital committees, contributed immensely to the SAF Medical Corps, for which he received a commendation from the Chief Army Medical Officer (CARMO) recently. He took time off to look after patients of the Ju Eng Home for the Elderly, serving as the Home's advisor. Pastors of his church would also testify to his faithful service to the congregation.

Through his wide international network, he recommended some of his colleagues to be attached overseas, from Dr Geoff Dobb's unit in Australia to Professor J L Vincent's multidisciplinary ICU in Brussels. He co-authored a few journal articles, publishing them in the *Annals*, *Anaesthesia and Intensive Care* and *Critical Care and Shock*. He helped shape the career paths of many under his mentorship.

We marvelled at his immense energy and his unwavering dedication to the profession. Importantly, his patients appreciated him too, judging from the number of cards, and the little gifts they sent him.

On top of his office cabinet rested a family portrait. He would refer to it, grin and declare he would do everything for his family. In any of his major career moves, he would always consider the welfare of his family first. Even to his last days, he struggled to work, because he wanted to provide for the family as long as he could.

He fought for a good seven months after the diagnosis of the cancer. In the face of pain and tribulation, he continued to be positive, praising God and searching for His strength.

Dr Ng Kim Swee continues to live on in our memories and we derive great comfort to know that he will dwell in Heaven.

Lim Tiek Whai *FAMS, MBBS, M Med (Anaes)*