

By Ms Pooja Shah

White Coat Ceremony

Photo Credit: Ms Amanda Zain

On 11 August 2008, 262 students embarked on their medical school journey in a symbolic ceremony that saw them don the signature white lab-coats for the very first time. Organised by the 59th Medical Society, the White Coat Ceremony brought the generations of the medical community under one roof – professors, practitioners and senior medical students together to welcome the incoming first-year medical students.

Guest of Honour Professor Tan Chorh Chuan graced the event and along with Singapore Medical Association President Dr Wong Chiang Yin, Dean Professor John Wong and the various professors of the medical faculty. In the spirit of camaraderie, they too wore their lab-coats as they helped the freshmen don theirs.

The Ceremony was a confluence of emotions, from eager anticipation of the first-year students to quiet nostalgia of the seniors, as well as delight of the professors. Parents stood proudly as they witnessed their children in white coats, ready to take on the challenges of a medical career.

To close the ceremony, several special awards were also given out. This year, Dr Wong Chiang Ying and Dr Zubair Amin were awarded the Friends of Medical Students Award for their enduring support, unbounded enthusiasm and passion for the welfare of the medical students. These awards recognised Dr Wong's instrumental role in the fundraising efforts to establish the Singapore Medical Association's Medical Student Assistance Fund as well as Dr Amin's pivotal role in revamping the medical undergraduate curriculum. In addition, the prestigious Medical Society Excellence Award for outstanding

achievements in arts, sports, community service and leadership was given to Ouyang You Heng, Mok Ying Ren, Tan Chong Keat and Oh Han Boon respectively. ■



Photo Credit: Mr Chen Kok Pun



Photo Credit: Ms Amanda Zain