

By Dr Tan Yia Swam, Deputy Editor

A Chinese New Year Special

We interview our favourite characters to ask them what they wish for in the new year, and to share with us their festive plans.

Mr Soh Nott Mi (final year medical student)

"I already had my last wild partying night on 31 December before settling down to mug for exams. This Chinese New Year – will use the excuse that I need to study to siasm the relatives! I wish I can pass my final MBBS, hopefully don't meet Prof Tua Tao Kay during exams – I hear he never smiles and outright fails anyone who doesn't kneel down to examine the abdomen!"

Dr Lobbo (male houseman who signed up with Hogwash Hospital)

"Lobbo humbly hopes to complete housemanship at Hogwash successfully, and to join Huff-N-Puff. Lobbo looks forward to contribute to Hogwash Hospital, and be able to surcharge patients! Lobbo will be lurking around the private wing, hoping to impress our important patients, and get letters of recommendation!"

Dr Ai Geef Arp (first year female MO)

"I am still not sure whether to do surgery or not. The paperwork needed to apply for BST is putting me off, and no one is sure when Surgery is turning seamless. And with the merging of the two clusters, no one knows how it will work out. What if

I get posted to some posting that no one wants to touch with a ten-foot pole? I wish that I can get my posting of choice."

Dr Seow Kah Kia (first year Surgical registrar)

"I asked to be on call over the Chinese New Year stretch. There's nothing else to do, and doing call on public holidays can earn more money. More than I get from collecting angbaos! And can avoid relatives who keep asking me when I will get a girlfriend. Sheesh, get a life people! There're more important things in life than hooking up with girls! I hope there will be many emergency laparotomies! I don't know why no one else wants to be on call with me. We can celebrate Chinese New Year in hospital! I can bring in Yu Sheng and sparkling water; beer is out of the question since we cannot drink when on call. I'm so looking forward to it!"

Dr Buay Zai See (final year Surgical trainee)

"I have everything I want already. I wish for peace and happiness for all of us. I have spent a quiet Christmas and New Year at home with my wife and baby boy. For Chinese New Year, we will be making the usual rounds with the relatives and take this time to catch up with each other. After all, family, friends and relationships are the most important things in life in the long run."

Dr Buay Song (disgruntled male HO, younger cousin of Dr Buay Zai See)

"All I ask for is one day off! Seriously! I have to round EVERYDAY! On Christmas eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day itself! And all because my Reg, Mr Seow KK is this super siao-on guy who does TDS rounds on his own! Get a life, man! And now I'm on call on Chinese New Year's Eve! Whee – the work never ends, does it?"



Dr Tan has resolved her quarter-life crisis. No need for sportscars or branded handbags. A perfect day is one spent enjoying the sunset on a beach, in the company of that special someone. Having a martini and/or a margarita as well would be heavenly.

Ms Kan Chiong Gui (daughter of Mdm See Bai Suay)

"I hope Mother's appetite goes back to normal. She seems to have lost weight after the surgery. I hope it's not cancer. Oh no, oh no, why is the appointment date so far away? I'm bringing her to a buffet for reunion dinner – will feed her up proper."

Madam See Bai Suay (unfortunate female patient)

"Oily food makes me feel bloated. So I'm actually watching my diet for the first time in years! Looking forward to the buffet, will try to stick to salads, but if got free lobsters, of course go for lobster lah! This kind of thing need to teach one meh? So, in order to eat my fill at the buffet, I will eat less during this period. The dietician taught me how to count calories, so I now eat one meal a day, then can compensate later, right? Good logic!"

Professor Tio Sah Bo (HOD of Dept of Fictional Surgery, SFH)

"I hope there will be no call-backs over the CNY weekend. I have to be the Consultant on call, since no one else wants to be. Kah Kia is a good chap, but I may still need to come back for some of the difficult cases. I hope there will be nothing major during those few days. Will be at Mr Moe's party, but probably cannot drink in case I need to operate."

Professor Tua Tao Kay (senior Surgical Consultant at Singapore Fictional Hospital)

"I will be organising some events for orphans and elderly folks from the homes, to bring them some cheer. Yes, contrary to popular belief, I do have a heart. My family? I do not see the relevance. I prefer to keep my private life PRIVATE."

Professor Dumb-old-bore (Headhunter of Hogwash Hospital)

"I wish for everyone to be in reasonably good health – not too good, or else we have no business, hohoho! Hogwash Hospital provides the best healthcare service and recovery experience, for the right price. Do remember us when you have dyspepsia from overeating this holiday season. Have a Ble\$\$ed 2009!"

Mister Moe Ree Lax (senior Consultant and HOD of Surgery, Chill-out Hospital)

"No elective list for the whole week before Chinese New Year! So my team and I can have a proper holiday. No need to work so hard! Life is too short. Will invite my compatriots and their families round for drinks and a chill-and-grill party by the poolside. Strangely, Tao Kay never joins us. Oh well, I guess these gatherings are just not his thing. No problem, more wine to go around, hahaha!"