

# 薛爱美卸下HCA慈怀护理主席

## 陈保强医生接任

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在本地推广慈怀护理服务长达22年的薛爱美博士宣布退休，并卸下担任12年的HCA慈怀护理主席一职，由行医20年的家庭科医生陈保强正式接棒。

HCA慈怀护理(HCA Hospice Care)前晚举办25周年筹款晚宴，也庆祝薛爱美博士(71岁)荣休。总统陈庆炎博士是晚会主宾。

薛爱美受访时说，她今后将专注于教会志愿服务工作，包括前往柬埔寨展开与教育有关的公益项目。

薛爱美对本地慈怀护理服务的发展投入不少心血。她在1992年就与林建图医生创办托福园慈怀病院(Dover Park Hospice)。

1989年成立的HCA慈怀护理，目前是本地规模最大的居家临终护理机构。薛爱美2003年出任HCA慈怀护理主席的时候，可谓是临危受命。

由于HCA慈怀护理为各收入阶层提供免费临终护理，政府2003年实行按支付能力调查



薛爱美博士(左)前晚正式将HCA慈怀护理主席的棒子交给陈保强医生。(HCA慈怀护理提供)

(means-testing)时导致收入较高的病人津贴骤然减少，HCA慈怀护理的营运一度陷入窘境。薛爱美接手后进行整顿，让这个志愿福利团体在13个月内走上轨道。

在薛爱美的领导下，HCA慈怀护理陆续在裕廊、勿洛、后港和兀兰设立日间“卫星服务站”，将居家慈怀护理服务带到全岛各处。

陈保强医生(48岁)1996年起在河水山经营私人诊所。多年来，经济拮据者在社工转介下来看病，他一律只收取10元诊费。他对贫困病人的关注让他在2005年获“我爱儿童基金会”颁发“年度博爱义工奖”。

陈保强两年前被HCA慈怀护理相中，一年前正式加入HCA管理委员会。他受访时说，他对慈怀护理的工作并不陌生，也经常

向有需要的病患传达相关信息。

“仍有不少末期病人对慈怀护理并不了解。我希望尽一分力，提高人们对慈怀护理的认识。”

## 晚宴筹得86万余元

筹款晚宴筹得约86万6000元款项。部分善款也将用作HCA慈怀护理的搬迁费用。HCA慈怀护理的募款目标是100万元。

政府去年宣布，要将诺维娜一带发展成医疗枢纽，即诺维娜健康城(Health City Novena)。HCA慈怀护理总部必须在2018年前迁离目前所租用的惹兰陈笃生地段。该地段将归还政府供未来发展用途。

HCA慈怀护理总裁阿齐利瓦兰(Akhileswaran)医生透露，总部的办公室和康乐日间护理中心将来可能得分开在两个不同地点运作。在卫生部介绍下，他们物色到两个新地点，目前正在和相关业主以及卫生部进行商讨，希望一年内确定是否能迁入。

另外，HCA慈怀护理今年第三季也在马西岭开设第二家康乐日间护理中心。中心主要让末期病患进行康乐活动和接受辅导。

LHZB 23 March 2014

## **Dr Seet Ai Mei steps down as HCA Hospice Care President Dr Tan Poh Kiang takes over**

Reported by Xu Xiang Yu

Dr Seet Ai Mei who has served 22 years promoting palliative care announces her retirement and steps down as President of HCA Hospice Care, a position which she has helmed for 12 years. Dr Tan Poh Kiang who has been in medical practice for 20 years will be taking over the position.

HCA Hospice Care celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a gala dinner two days ago and Dr Seet's (71) retirement was announced. President Dr Tony Tan was the guest-of-honour for the event.

When interviewed, Dr Seet said that she will be more involved in missionary work in the future, including initiatives to promote education in Cambodia.

Dr Seet Ai Mei has made valuable contributions to the development of palliative care services in Singapore. She set up Dover Park Hospice with Dr Jerry Lim Kian Tho in 1992.

Established in 1989, HCA Hospice Care is currently the largest home based palliative care centre in Singapore. Dr Seet rose to the occasion when she took on the position of its President in 2003.

As HCA provides free palliative care for patients from all walks of life, when the government implemented means-testing in 2003, subsidy for patients from higher income group was reduced drastically and HCA Hospice Care found itself in a tight spot operationally. When Dr Seet took over, she consolidated the operations and steered the voluntary welfare organisation back on track within 13 months.

Under Dr Seet's leadership, HCA Hospice sets up in succession satellite day-care centres at Jurong, Bedok, Hougang and Woodlands, bringing home-based palliative care services closer to patients across the island.

Dr Tan Poh Kiang (48) started his private practice in 1996 at a clinic at Bukit Ho Swee. For many years, patients with financial difficulties referred by social workers to see him pay only \$10 for consultation. In appreciation of his care and concern for the needy, Dr Tan was given the Humanitarian Volunteer of the Year award in 2005 from The MILK (Mainly I Love Kids) Fund.

Dr Tan was approached by HCA Hospice Care two years ago and formally joined the HCA management committee a year ago. He reveals that he is no stranger to palliative care and would often convey related information to patients who are in need of the services.

"There are still many terminally ill patients who do not know much about palliative care. I hope to do my part to help increase public awareness on palliative care."

### **Gala Dinner raised \$860,000**

The fund raising dinner raised about \$860,000, part of which will be used for the relocation of HCA Hospice Care. The establishment hopes to raise a million dollar.

The government announced last year that Novena area will be developed into a healthcare hub known as Health City Novena. HCA Hospice Care has to leave its headquarters on leased site at Jalan Tan Tock Seng by 2018. The plot of land will be returned to the government for future development.

Dr Akjileswaran, CEO of HCA Hospice Care disclosed that the headquarter office and day-care centre may have to operate at two different places in future. They have identified two sites for relocation with recommendations from the Ministry of Health (MOH) and are currently in negotiations with the relevant landlords and MOH, hoping to confirm the relocation sites within a year.

On the other hand, HCA Hospice Care will operate its second day-care centre at Marsiling in the third quarter of this year. The day-care centre mainly conducts recreational activities and counselling services for terminally ill patients.