

Testimonial by Kwok Jia Ying, Michelle Class of 2024

- **Why study Pharmacy? And how has the journey been thus far?**

I've always wanted to study a healthcare related course and chanced upon a job opportunity as a pharmacy assistant at SGH after my A levels. I found my job really interesting although it was only the surface level of what pharmacist actually do. I was able to talk to some of the pharmacist working and find out why they had entered pharmacy and chose this as their career. I ultimately enjoyed my time as a pharmacist assistant and went to find out more about the course and job prospects in general. Hence, I chose pharmacy.

So far, I am pleasantly surprised at the different modules available for pharmacy students. Other than the expected science related modules, we are also required to take modules to hone our professionalism and patient care skills with simulations curated by the professors. We are also able to take modules from the other faculties based on our own interests. I enjoy having a spread of different modules that I can take which makes studying less mundane.



- **What interest you most in your studies?**



I have always been more of a Science person than an Arts person ever since secondary school and I typically enjoy Biology and Chemistry most. Instead of learning about the physical sciences, I find myself enjoying the life sciences more as I think it more closely relates to us. I look forward to the practical and lab sessions that we have as I enjoy the hands-on activities and experiments with the different equipment that can only be used in the labs. I am also fascinated by how I am actually able to relate what I learnt in lessons to real life and this gives me great motivation in my studies. The idea of being able to serve people with the knowledge I have gained pushes me to do my best in my studies.

- **Apart from academic lessons, what other programmes did you participate? And how did the experience(s) benefit you in your (a) personal growth and development, and (b) academic pursuits?**

Apart from lessons, I also took part in volunteer programmes such as TRIGEN and outreach programmes such as Healthcare Outreach Project (HOP). I decided to join these programmes to

make my university life more holistic and not just purely academics. I chose TRIGEN and HOP as their visions and aims align most to what I would like to do.

HOP is a programme for pre-university students to learn more about the various healthcare courses offered in the many universities in Singapore. As a facilitator, I was able to share about the Pharmacy course to the students as well as have the opportunity to interact with the other facilitators that come from the other healthcare courses and also hear from invited speakers about numerous health issues. Hearing from the invited speakers allowed me to see things from a professional standpoint.

I joined TRIGEN as a group leader, and I interact with secondary school students as well as the elderly attached to the group. I have to hold monthly discussion about the healthcare systems and common conditions that affect the elderly with the secondary school students as well as virtual home visits with the elderly to check up on them via zoom calls. I am able to interact with both the elderly and secondary school students through this programme, which I feel is a very good opportunity to stay close to the community especially in the pandemic where many opportunities to interact with patients are cancelled. Being able to interact with them will allow me to put my knowledge to good use as well.

- **What other interesting activities did you partake in to further enrich your student life, e.g. extra-curricular activities on campus (e.g. NUSPS, House, etc.)?**

I am currently involved in Rag as the treasurer. I joined Rag as a committee member as I had always looked forward to experiencing Rag in NUS as a freshmen but unfortunately did not have the opportunity due to Covid-19. Through the short 5 months that I have been involved in Rag, I have gained many experiences such as learning how to deal with large sums of money and also made more friends from the different committees in Rag!

Previously I also partook in Sequentis, which was a winter camp for the Year 1 Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science students. I was involved in the welfare committee as well as a participant group leader for the camp. I was happy to step out of my comfort zone and take on these roles to make my break more meaningful.



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