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Year 4 Pharmacy

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

I am fascinated by the intricacy of the human body and how medications are formulated to treat diseases. My volunteer work with NGOs and my desire to study human anatomy and medicine inspired me to pursue pharmacy at NUS, where I can use my knowledge to positively impact others.

NUS Pharmacy emphasises the importance of both hard and soft skills in its curriculum. Not only did I learn the science of the human body and drug design, but I also developed essential soft skills for effective communication with patients and healthcare providers. Additionally, I learned vital skills we often overlook, like how to search for credible information online.

My experience as a Pharmacy student has provided me with a comprehensive understanding of various medical conditions and the therapies used to treat them, which will be invaluable in my future role as a clinician. Additionally, it has equipped me with skills that extend beyond academics. I have gained insights into the Singapore healthcare system, enabling me to advocate for innovative projects that add value to the healthcare landscape. This journey has also trained me to be methodological in my pursuit for knowledge and a critical thinker, constantly assessing the information I acquire and determining the best ways to apply it.

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

I have a keen interest in how artificial intelligence (AI) and digital health technologies can enhance population health, promote value-based initiatives, and support sustainability in the healthcare sector.

To pursue this passion, I participated in the NUS Overseas Colleges (NOC) programme, where I spent one year in Stockholm, Sweden, working at a digital healthcare startup dedicated to digitalising surgical care pathways.

This invaluable experience complemented the clinical knowledge I acquired from NUS Pharmacy. I was able to connect with key opinion leaders and gained insights into how hospitals and startups collaborate to improve patient outcomes. While collaborating with the startup team, I contributed to projects aimed at assessing product value in enhancing patient outcomes and developed strategies to promote the integration and implementation of the digital solution into routine healthcare practices.



Startup team in Sweden



One of the company gatherings

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.)?

In line with my passion for exploring innovation in healthcare, I have engaged in various experiences that have given me insight into the healthcare innovation ecosystem.

I was part of the NUS MedTech Society, where I served as the project director for Project MediPal. This initiative aims to assist breast cancer patients in navigating their patient journey in collaboration with the Singapore Cancer Society. Additionally, I have participated in multiple hackathons and datathons over the years, achieving notable success as the champion team at the Singapore Healthcare AI Datathon and EXPO 2022 (SHADE 2022) organised by the NUS Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health and National University Health System. I also secured the second runner-up position at the ImagineAI 2024 Datathon. Throughout these datathons, I successfully applied my data analysis skills to implement artificial intelligence and algorithms to address critical medical challenges.

Most recently, I had the opportunity to participate in the NUS Graduate Research Innovation Programme (GRIP) Run 12, a deep-tech accelerator by NUS Enterprise. Our idea and product were recognised as one of the top six teams out of 34, primarily composed of postgraduate students and faculty members.



Pitching at NUS GRIP



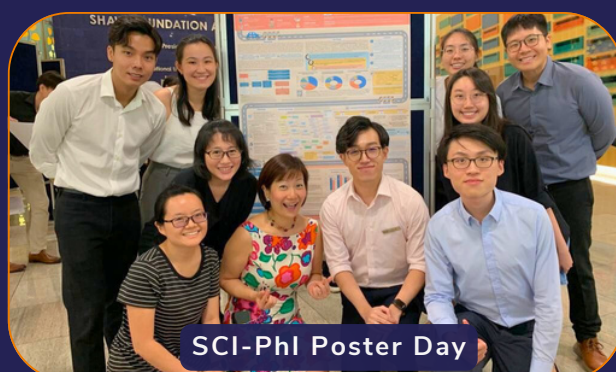
Gathering with mentors from NUS GRIP

Share with us your most memorable experience as a Pharmacy student.

Working the Student-led Collaborative Innovative Pharmacy Inquiry (SCI-PhI) project during my third year has undoubtedly been one of the most memorable experiences as a Pharmacy student. It has provided me with a range of skills that align closely with my future aspirations.

The SCI-PhI project focuses on solving real-world problems. Its broad framework enables my team to formulate our research questions with guidance from industry mentors. This experience taught me to be objective, goal-driven, and systematic, adapting to challenges like data unavailability through problem-solving and quick pivots.

My research on implementing pharmacogenomics in primary care has connected me with various healthcare stakeholders, including a pharmacogenomics startup, pharmacists, and clinician champions. This exposure has deepened my understanding on how the perspectives of different stakeholders are essential for any successful implementation. Collaborating across teams has enhanced my leadership and project management skills, enabling effective communication and coordination.



SCI-PhI Poster Day