

## Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome

This issue of the SGH Proceedings comes at a time when all of us at Outram campus, like everyone else in the rest of the world, are grappling with the dreaded Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).<sup>1,2</sup>

Even as I am writing this editorial, I am in the confines of my home office, “quarantined” as were members of the entire general surgery department, because a patient from Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH), who had been admitted to the general surgery wards, had since been diagnosed with SARS and been sent back to TTSH.

In my 17 years at Singapore General Hospital (SGH), this is perhaps the first major crisis which has really shaken the entire foundation of our practice, and puts into question how we, as the largest healthcare provider in the public sector, can continue to deliver effective and excellent care. Even the HIV/AIDS scare was not so disruptive.

April has traditionally been the time of year for the SGH Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM), where we meet to listen and to discuss the presentations by the best of SGH’s staff. Unfortunately, this year, the 14th ASM has also fallen “victim” to SARS. This issue had originally been planned as a special 14th ASM issue, which now has to be delayed. Instead, the editorial committee is pleased to bring you a compilation of some of the papers presented in previous years’ ASMs.<sup>3-6</sup>

Also in this issue, we return with our regular feature, the SGH Clinico-Pathological Conference.<sup>7</sup> The case chosen for this issue is that of a 41-year-old man with

bilateral lung infiltrates. It has been selected as a tribute to the respiratory physicians who are at the frontline in managing the SARS problem together with the infectious disease physicians.

On a final note, may we all be strong in our continued fight against SARS, and may we all continue to give our best to our patients, our nation and all mankind.

**London Lucien Ooi**  
Associate Editor

### REFERENCES

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We welcome the participation of the National Dental Centre in SGH Proceedings and Dr Poon Choy Yoke to the Editorial Committee.

The Editor