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MSIWF puts focus on improving elderly welfare

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Four grants worth SGD 39,080 awarded in Singapore for research into care for the elderly as well as caregivers.



The spotlight was cast on the elderly and their caregivers as the Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Welfare Foundation (“MSIWF” and the “Foundation”) recently announced the award of four grants for research focused on advancing the welfare of the elderly, empowering their caregivers and improving community support for seniors.

Coinciding with the government’s push to boost support for elderly care in Singapore, the 12th MSIWF Research Grant Awards ceremony – held at Equarius Hotel, Sentosa - saw a total of SGD39,080 awarded to four separate researchers for their work in developing a device to help seniors with dysphagia (swallowing impairment) and their caregivers, building a dementia-friendly community, optimising cancer care for elderly patients, and identifying the role of muscle stem cells in sarcopenia (age-related muscle wasting).

The four research grant awardees were chosen out of a total of 205 applications received from across Japan, Singapore, Thailand and Taiwan, following a rigorous selection process based on the originality, practicality and social significance of the research project.

The list of awardees are:

Ms Ang Xing Yee Amberyce, PhD (Gerontology) Student at the Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS), for her research on community support for dementia care in Singapore. With inputs from caregivers and professionals caring for People with Dementia (PWD), the study aims to understand and propose recommendations on how the community can be effectively integrated to provide support for PWDs.

Ms Elisa Marie Crombie, Graduate Student at the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore (NUS Medicine), for her research into understanding the role of muscle stem cells in age-related muscle wasting (sarcopenia).

Dr Ravindran Kanesvaran, Senior Consultant, Division of Medical Oncology at the National Cancer Centre Singapore (NCCS), for his research into optimising cancer care for elderly patients through the development of a Comprehensive

Geriatric Assessment (CGA) Programme.

Dr Wong Seng Mun, Principal Speech Therapist at the Singapore General Hospital (SGH), for her research into the development of an automatic beverage thickening device for elderly with swallowing impairment (dysphagia), simplifying the preparation of thickened liquids to minimise errors, thereby encouraging independent living for the elderly, and saving time for healthcare workers, elderly patients and their caregivers.