

# Rediscover Singapore's Medical History at the OUTRAM CAMPUS HERITAGE TRAIL

2005 marks the centennial anniversary of medical education in Singapore, and to commemorate this important milestone, SGH will be organising a series of celebratory activities in the year.

In May 05, we will witness the opening of our very own SGH Museum at Bowyer Block, which will provide visitors with an insight to the history of medicine and medical education in Singapore and the region, through its extensive exhibits, photographs and multimedia presentations. The museum is open to the public and will allow them to learn more about SGH's role in the development of clinical specialties and medical education in Singapore.

As it was right here on SGH grounds that medical education in Singapore began, a Heritage Trail has been planned within the Outram campus to allow visitors to explore the important historical landmarks that are closely linked with the history of medical education in Singapore. Visitors will be able to visit the site of the first medical school as well as the student lounge where medical students used to hang out. Look out for more details in the coming issue of SGH News.

## Where it all began.....



### Bowyer Block

Opened as part of the new General Hospital in 1926, the Bowyer Block was first known as the Upper Block and was the main administration block which accommodated the first and second class male wards, and first class female wards. Together with the Middle and Lower Blocks, it was renamed **Bowyer, Stanley and Norris** Blocks respectively after the Second World War, in memory of the three officials who were closely associated with the hospitals of Singapore and who had lost their lives during the period.

Today, the Bowyer Block is the only building of the three blocks that still remained standing, and its familiar clock tower and tall columns have become an important icon of SGH.

### War Memorial

The memorial marked the burial site of a group of medical students who were killed during the Japanese Occupation, when a shell landed on them while they were attending a funeral procession of a fellow student killed by a shell at Tan Tock Seng Hospital the day before.

### Tan Teck Guan Building & College of Medicine Building

Tan Teck Guan Building was built in 1911 by Tan Chay Yan, a successful rubber planter, in memory of his late father, Tan Teck Guan. The building was the site of the first medical school, known then as the Straits and Federal Malay States Government Medical School. The school was later renamed the King Edward VII College of Medicine in 1920.

In 1926, the King Edward VII College of Medicine got its own building, situated at the junction of College Road and MacAlister Road, where it still stands today as the College of Medicine Building. In 1949, the College of Medicine Building became the Medical Faculty of the University of Malaya.



### Harrower Hall

Constructed in 1931, Harrower Hall was first home to the student lounge of the Medical School and in 1959, the Department of Pharmacology. In the early eighties, the University's Orthopaedic Surgery Department took over the premise for the development of its research facilities.



### King Edward VII Hall (KE Hall)

Built in 1957, King Edward Hall comprises a main block and two four-storey buildings serving as a hostel for male medical students only. In 1960, female medical students were allowed to occupy the top floor of one of the blocks. Many leading doctors and dentists from Singapore and Malaysia passed through the hall and forged lifelong friendship during their stay here.



### First Dental School

The first dental school in Singapore was established in 1929 as the Department of Dentistry within the King Edward VII College of Medicine. As the first dental school to be established in a British colony in the east, it was better known as the Dental Clinic and was originally located on the ground floor of Norris Block.

In 1938, the school moved to a new building, serving as a teaching school in dentistry while providing service for inpatient dental treatment for the general public. Today, the National Dental Centre stands on the former site of the school.

### Stanley and Norris Blocks

Formerly the Middle Block of the General Hospital, Stanley Block first housed the second and third class female wards when it opened in 1926. In the 1950s, to meet the increasing number of outpatients and inpatients, the block was occupied by the Ear, Nose and Throat Unit and Outpatient Clinics, as well as the Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy Departments.



Norris Block, formerly known as the Lower Block, first accommodated the third class male wards and sub-administration offices in its early days. In the fifties, it housed the wards and outpatient clinics for the medical and surgical units, as well as laboratories and clinics for Senior and Junior Officials.

Both blocks were demolished in the 1970s to make way for the construction of the new Singapore General Hospital. The current site of Block 8 was where Stanley Block once stood, while across the road, the Health Promotion Board now stands on the site of Norris Block.

### Mistri Wing

Officially opened in 1955 by Lady Black, the wife of the Governor, Mistri Wing contained two complete paediatric units, each with a 150 bed complement, providing the most up-to-date facilities for the treatment of children at that time.

The construction of the building was made possible by the donation from a generous benefactor, Mr Navroji Rustomji Mistri. Today, the National Heart Centre stands at the site of the Mistri Wing.

