

BALANCING TRADITIONAL AND MODERN MEDICINE

BY NEO WEN TONG

Associate Professor Low Wong Kein is no regular ear, nose and throat (ENT) specialist — he is also a registered acupuncturist.

Desiring to combine his years of medical experience, PhD research and acupuncture training in traditional Chinese medicine, A/Prof Low decided to enter private practice. “I wanted to set up a unique ear centre, which provides truly holistic care for both adults and children.”

A/Prof Low was clear on the direction he would take. “Firstly, we’d adopt evidence-based, state-of-the-art best practices relating to the diagnosis and treatment of ear disorders. Secondly, we’d embrace new medical advancements and technologies. Finally, we’d apply proven Integrative Medicine where relevant,” he said.

SPECIALISED EAR SERVICES FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN

Novena ENT - Head & Neck Surgery Specialist Centre offers a wide range of

expertise in hearing and related ear disorders. A/Prof Low regularly sees patients with issues like tinnitus (noise or ringing in the ear), giddiness or vertigo, ear infections and facial nerve disorders. The centre also serves as a one-stop healthcare provider for adults and children with any degree of hearing impairment, providing hearing assessments, medical and surgical expertise, and offering the latest technology for hearing aids.

With major advancements in this area, an in-house audiologist helps to match the patient’s lifestyle and needs with the appropriate hearing device. If necessary, an in-house therapist follows through completely with the required rehabilitation services.

This reinforces the holistic approach to ear health that A/Prof Low insists on providing for his patients.

A/Prof Low also has a considerable amount of experience managing children with ENT conditions, having conducted regular clinic visits as Visiting Specialist at KK Children’s and Women’s Hospital for a number of years.

TWENTY YEARS IN PUBLIC HEALTH

Before deciding in mid-2011 to make the leap into private practice, A/Prof Low had clocked over 20 years of full-time service in the public health sector.

With two terms as Head of the ENT department in Singapore General Hospital (SGH) under his belt, A/Prof Low strengthened the department and established its ENT Centre and Centre for Hearing & Ear Implants. He also worked with the Ministry of Health, spearheading and setting up the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Programme and the national Cochlear Implant Programme.

The highly regarded ear surgeon has performed more than 500 cochlear implantation surgeries, including the first paediatric cochlear implant in Singapore.

CONTRIBUTION TO ACADEMIA AND BEYOND

On the academia front, A/Prof Low started the SGH Hearing Research Laboratory, and also planned and developed the syllabus of Singhealth’s ENT Residency Training Programme as its first Director.

He was the first to study and publish racial differences in anatomy of the mastoid facial nerve — important knowledge that could help to prevent facial nerve injury during ear surgery.

A/Prof Low is also a founding member of the ASEAN Academy of Neuro-Otology and Audiology, and has served as Chairman of Singapore’s Specialist Training Committee and President of the Singapore Otorhinolaryngology Society.

Despite being in private practice now, A/Prof Low still continues to do his part in teaching and training the younger generation of doctors as a Visiting Consultant at SGH and an Adjunct Associate Professor at the Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School.

The doctor also sets aside time for volunteer work. He is the President of the Singapore Association for the Deaf and goes on overseas missions to places like China to help needy patients.



Associate Professor Low Wong Kein

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