

NATIONAL AWARDS (COVID-19)

Recognising outstanding contributions in the fight against COVID-19

List of Awardees

(I) A*STAR BOARD

The Public Administration Medal (Gold)

Dr Benjamin Koh Khay Wee

Deputy Secretary (Development), Ministry of Health
Board Member, Agency for Science, Technology and Research

(II) A*STAR-HOSTED NATIONAL PLATFORMS – GOVERNING BOARDS AND STEERING COMMITTEES *(The National Platforms are italicised.)*

The Public Administration Medal (Gold)

Dr Cheong Wei Yang

Deputy Secretary (Technology), Ministry of Health
National Robotics Programme Steering Committee Member

Prof Seet Hun Yew Benjamin

Deputy Group Chief Executive Officer (Education & Research), National Healthcare Group HQ
*Experimental Drug Development Centre Governing Board Co-Chair
Singapore Biodesign Steering Committee Member*

Mr Kelvin Wong Wee Siong

Chief Executive Officer, Building and Construction Authority
Urban Solutions & Sustainability Innovation & Enterprise Steering Committee Member

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The Public Administration Medal (Silver)

Ms Leow Lay May

Director, Energy Division, Ministry of Trade and Industry

Low Carbon Energy Research Funding Initiative Steering Committee Member

Ms Liew Ee Wei, Emily

Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Strategic Partnerships & Platforms, Enterprise Singapore

Consortium Management Office Oversight Committee Member

Mr Lim Khoon Seng Kenneth

Assistant Chief Executive (Industry & Transformation), Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore

Low Carbon Energy Research Funding Initiative Steering Committee Member

Technology Centre for Offshore and Marine, Singapore Board of Directors Member

Mr Soh Leng Wan

Assistant Chief Executive, Manufacturing & Engineering, Industry Clusters, Enterprise Singapore

Biomedical Sciences Industry Partnership Office Governing Committee Member

National Additive Manufacturing Innovation Cluster Governing Board Member

National Robotics Programme Steering Committee Member

Advanced Manufacturing Training Academy Training Council Member

Dr Soon Kwang Wei Danny

Chief Executive Officer, Consortium for Clinical Research and Innovation

Experimental Drug Development Centre Governing Board Member

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The Public Administration Medal (Bronze)

Ms Ng Lee Hoon Julia

Assistant Chief Executive, Enterprise Development Group, Workforce Singapore
Advanced Manufacturing Training Academy Training Council Member

Prof Tan Say Beng

Group Chief Research Officer, Singapore Health Services
Senior Associate Dean, Research, Duke-NUS Medical School
Executive Director, National Medical Research Council
Biomedical Advisory Council Member
Biomedical Sciences Industry Partnership Office Governing Committee Chair
Experimental Drug Development Centre Governing Board Member
Diagnostics Development Hub Oversight Committee Member

Ms Tang Zhi Hui

Director, Multi-Ministry Taskforce Secretariat, Ministry of Health
Low Carbon Energy Research Funding Initiative Steering Committee Member

Ms Tay Shi'an

Director, Innovation, Research and Development Division, Ministry of Trade and Industry
Low Carbon Energy Research Funding Initiative Steering Committee Member

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(III) A*STAR PARTNERS

The Public Service Star

Dr Syed Fidah Bin Ismail Alsagoff

Joint Head, Enterprise Development Group (Singapore), Temasek International Pte Ltd
Head, Life Sciences, Temasek International Pte Ltd

The Public Service Medal

Mr Abel Ang Boon Thong

Group Chief Executive Officer
Advanced MedTech Holdings

Mr Ma Chao Hong

Director
Ramatex Group

Mr Ng Boon Heong

Chief Executive Officer, Temasek
Foundation
Deputy Chief Executive Officer,
Temasek Trust
Managing Director, Institutional
Relations, Temasek International
Pte Ltd

Dr Khoo Shih

Managing Director, Investment
(Life Sciences)
Temasek International Pte Ltd

Dr Tan Yang Sheng Daniel

Chief Executive Officer
Parkway Laboratories

The Public Administration Medal (Bronze)

A/Prof Sunil Kumar Sethi

Senior Consultant, Laboratory Medicine,
National University Health System
Stronghold Diagnostics Lab

Dr Yan Junrong Benedict

Senior Consultant, Laboratory Medicine,
National University Health System
Stronghold Diagnostics Lab

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(IV) NATIONAL-LEVEL WORKGROUPS INVOLVING A*STAR + A*STAR-LED TEAMS

The President's Certificate of Commendation recognises organisations, including departments and functional units that have gone the extra mile in the fight against COVID-19.

The President's Certificate of Commendation

- **Advanced Remanufacturing and Technology Centre (ARTC)**
- **Airflow Study** (*involving A*STAR staff*)
- **Bioprocessing Technology Institute (BTI)**
- **Diagnostics Development Hub (DxD Hub)**
- **Singapore Institute of Manufacturing Technology (SIMTech)**
- **Stronghold Diagnostics Lab (SDL)**

Advanced Remanufacturing and Technology Centre (ARTC)

The drawing of vaccination from the vial and subsequent dilution was an arduous step of vaccine preparation identified by nurses and vaccine administrators. To address this need, ARTC developed the Automated Vaccine Inoculation Dispenser (AVID) to perform the role of vaccine extraction. This relieved the nurses greatly from stress and fatigue at the peak of COVID-19 vaccination programme. The ARTC machines also expedited the process by removing manual labour and served well for redundancy preparations. The ARTC machines were warmly welcomed by the nurses and contributed substantively to the National Vaccination Programme.

Airflow Study

During the hospital's cluster in April/May 2021, NEA and A*STAR came forward to conduct air flow studies within the hospital wards. These studies helped the hospital to understand the general air flow patterns within the wards such that viable solutions could be put forth to help improve and enhance the safety of the wards. The studies were then shared at various platforms such as forums and seminars for knowledge sharing purposes. The Facilities team also shared this learning with other restructured hospitals as a practice of cross-learning and information sharing of best and adoptable practices.

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Bioprocessing Technology Institute (BTI)

As COVID-19 vaccines are a new class of therapeutics developed for emergency use, testing capabilities were not readily available and needed to be established expeditiously. This prompted the formation of a team comprising domain experts from BTI and HSA that were tasked to develop analytical assays for different vaccine product types and build up the talent pool to perform validated analytical test methods. The team worked long hours in the laboratory to optimise the test methods, overcome technical challenges and establish the assay platforms. All these activities were executed at an unprecedented pace. The team had pushed hard and ultimately achieved the targets under very tight timelines.

Diagnostics Development Hub (DxD Hub)

During the COVID-19 pandemic, DxD Hub developed the Resolute 2.0 PCR test kits, in partnership with DSO National laboratories, and the Bio Rapid Automated Volume Enhancer (BRAVE) system that works with Resolute. Resolute eliminated the need for RNA extraction from specimens, which in turn minimised potential human errors and shortened the results delivery time significantly. The BRAVE system automated some of the manual steps usually required in sample processing, thereby saving time, manpower and costs, while maintaining high accuracy and speed of testing, and protected laboratory staff from unnecessary exposure to biohazards.

Singapore Institute of Manufacturing Technology (SIMTech)

SIMTech partnered CMTG in its exploratory project to create and develop the Mendix Digitalised Tracking System, a customized vehicle tracking application designed to augment CMTG's conveyance operations. SIMTech staff listened attentively to the issues faced and were proactive and innovative in suggesting new ideas and solutions to meet CMTG's needs. Upholding a strong spirit of innovation, they leaned forward to support this initiative, providing quick and prompt adjustments whenever CMTG provided feedback on areas of improvement. Despite the numerous iterations and upgrading requirements of the app, their staff were always patient, understanding and remained firmly committed to the project. As a result of this collaborative effort with SIMTech's team of dedicated staff, Mendix was developed as an initial prototype to allow CMTG to monitor the conveyance process in real-time. This provided valuable oversight of conveyances and allowed CMTG to have greater awareness and responsiveness to unexpected situations.

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Stronghold Diagnostics Lab (SDL)

SDL was set up solely for the purpose of COVID-19 PCR testing to support the national pandemic management efforts. A*STAR responded in the early months of the COVID pandemic to set up a clinical laboratory that could process up to 13,000 PCR swabs a day. A*STAR spearheaded a tripartite partnership that included the National University Health System (NUHS) and Temasek Foundation, embarking on the mammoth task of creating a huge clinical laboratory, Stronghold Diagnostics Lab, from scratch. This included the procurement of the equipment, recruitment and training of staff, and optimizing the workflow from specimen receipt and result reporting in the COVID Testing Repository. During the two years of operation, over a million swabs were processed. At its peak, around four thousand swabs were processed daily. Stronghold Diagnostics Lab also contributed to the routine rostered testing of NUHS staff for several weeks. All of these efforts contributed immensely to maintaining the public health and safety of our country.

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(V) A*STAR AWARDEES

The Public Administration Medal (Gold)

Mr Frederick Chew

CEO, A*STAR
Chief, Public Sector Science and
Technology Policy and Plans Office, Prime
Minister's Office

Dr Sidney Yee

Advisor,
Innovation & Enterprise

The Public Administration Medal (Silver)

Prof Lim Keng Hui

Assistant CEO,
SERC

Prof Loh Xian Jun

ED, IMRE and ISCE

Dr David Low

CEO, ARTC
ED, SIMTech

Dr Masafumi Inoue

Lead Scientist,
DxD Hub

Prof Lisa Ng

ED, ID Labs
ED (Talent & Strategic
Initiatives), BMRC

Dr Sebastian Maurer-Stroh

ED, BII

Prof Tan Sze Wee

Assistant CEO,
Innovation & Enterprise

The Public Administration Medal (Bronze)

Dr Andre Choo

ED, BMRC
Deputy ED, BTI

Prof Damian O'Connell

CEO, EDDC

Mr Jonathan Goh

Deputy Director,
SIMTech

Prof Alfred Huan

Chief Scientific Advisor
(National Platforms)

Dr Kang Chang Wei

Senior Scientist /
Department Director,
IHPC

Prof Lam Kong Peng

ED, SigN

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Mr Philip Lim

Chief Risk Officer, ERM
Office
Senior Director,
Procurement

Prof Liu Jianjun

Distinguished Institute
Fellow, GIS

Dr Jonathan Loh

Research Director,
IMCB

Prof Ng Huck Hui

Assistant CEO,
BMRC

Mr Ooi Yau Yen

Principal Research
Engineer, ARTC

Prof Ren Ee Chee

Principal Investigator,
SigN

Prof Laurent Renia

A*STAR Senior Fellow, ID
Labs
Professor of Infectious
Diseases, NTU

Mr Suresh Sachi

DCE (Corporate)
General Counsel
A*STAR

Prof Patrick Tan

ED, GIS

Dr Weng Ruifen

Deputy CEO,
DxD Hub

Dr Yang Yinping

Senior Scientist /
Group Manager, IHPC

The Commendation Medal

Ms Adeline Sham

Head,
BMRC

Dr Ady Suwardi

Scientist,
IMRE

Dr Anand Kumar Andiappan

Principal Investigator,
SigN

Dr Davy Cheong

Senior Scientist,
IMRE

Ms Lisa Chong

Deputy Director,
Corporate Communications

Dr Rick Goh

Senior Scientist /
Department Director, IHPC

Dr Gurpreet Singh

Senior Scientist,
IBB

Dr Joses Ho

Senior Post-Doctoral
Research Fellow, BII

Dr Huang Weimin

Senior Scientist,
I²R

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Mr Jong Teck Keong

Deputy Director, Office of
Safety, Facilities and Admin

Dr Lai Ghee Chuan

Head,
Innovation & Enterprise

Ms Lee Duan Yu

Acting Director,
Planning & Policy

Mr Lee Tze Chuen

Research Manager,
BII

Ms Jolynn Leong

Senior Research Engineer,
ARTC

Ms Melissa Lim

Director,
Procurement

Dr Liu Yong

Senior Scientist / Deputy
Department Director, IHPC

Ms Amanda Loo

Deputy Director,
ID Labs

Dr Ng Say Kong

Principal Scientist,
BTI

Dr Qu Zhengzhong

Senior Scientist,
DxD Hub

Dr Rosa So

Division Head, Healthcare &
MedTech, I²R

Dr Seow Yiqi

Deputy Director,
IBB

Dr Shalini d/o Suku Maran

Former Head,
BMRC

Dr Shanshan Wu Howland

Head (Immunogenomics
Group), SIgN

Dr Ivan Tan

Senior Scientist,
IMRE

Dr Tan Hong Kiat

Deputy Director,
Innovation & Enterprise

Mr Thanawin Trakoolwilaiwan

Senior Research Officer,
IBB

Dr Wang Cheng-I

Senior Principal Investigator,
SIgN

Dr Xu Xiangguo

Senior Scientist / Deputy
Department Director, IHPC

Dr Yang Yiyang

Covering ED,
IBB

Dr Yin Xiao Feng

Senior Scientist /
Innovation Lead,
IHPC