

## LI JINGMEI

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For Dr Li Jingmei, GYSS was a community of curious minds that nurtured her attraction to outrageous ideas. As she listened to her scientific heroes discuss ideas that seemed straight out of science fiction, she was inspired to continue on her research journey with new vigour. Combining genetic and non-genetic factors, Dr Li and her team aim to transform breast cancer risk management and communicate their findings effectively with the public.

### **What made you decide to focus on breast cancer research?**

A shining example of a role model in breast cancer research is Professor Per Hall at the Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden. He was my PhD supervisor. I didn't choose breast cancer as a research focus, I chose him.

He used to be a radiation oncologist with decades of clinical brilliance. However, he pursued epidemiology.

He decided to study ways of reducing the number of new breast cancer cases diagnosed every year. When asked why he gave up medicine for research, his reply was simple. “When I was a doctor, I helped one patient at a time. I want to help more patients and breast cancer research makes it possible,” he said.

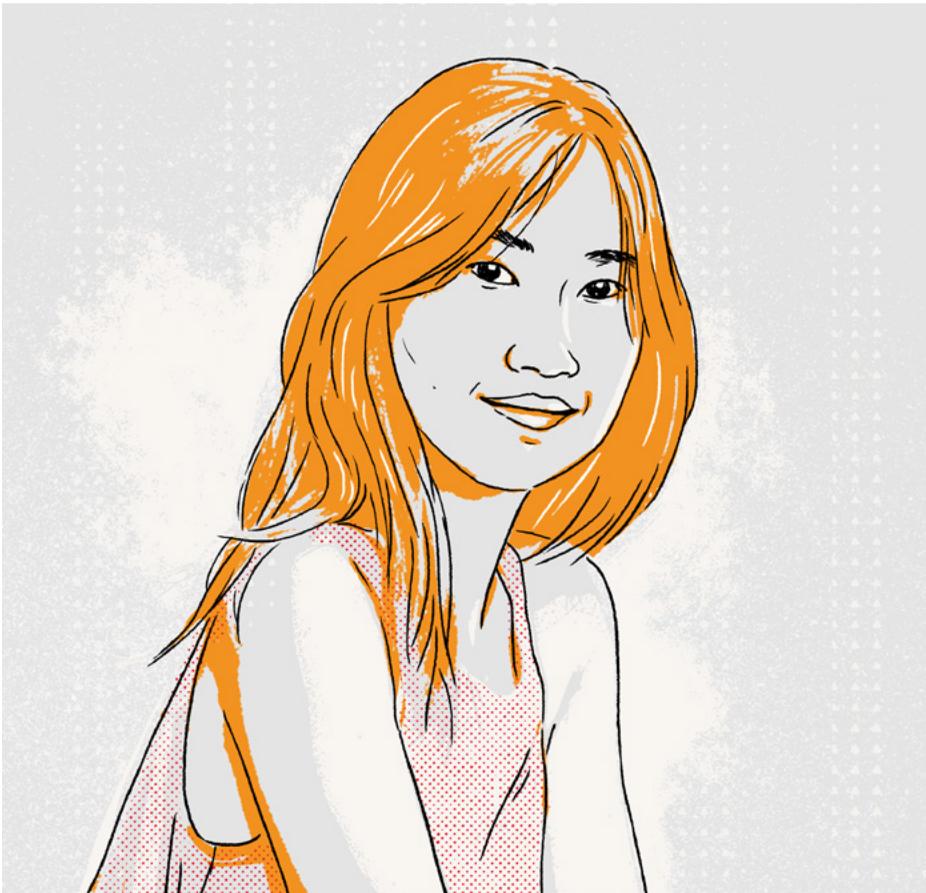
Prof Hall inspired me and crystalised my calling for breast cancer research. He is ambitious, persistent and respected, yet approachable and fun at the same time.

### **What can be done to inspire the next generation of scientists?**

Science must be seen and heard! The GYSS is a great example of how science and passion can be shared. I especially like how the audience mix transcends cultures, nations, expertise and seniority. Over the three days, it takes just one moment, one conversation or one talk that resonates with a young scientist to spark a fire that lights the way for the rest of their career.

### **What keeps you inspired in your research today?**

There are over a thousand reasons every year that remind me my work is important. Two thousand new breast cancer patients are diagnosed each year in Singapore. Every patient is a reason for me to carry on.



To read the rest of the publication, [click here](#).