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# Support for Subspecialty Fellowship Training Programmes in Childhood Brain and Solid Tumours

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## Introduction



The VIVA-KKH Paediatric Brain and Solid Tumour Programme (PBST) aims to advance the care of paediatric brain and solid tumours in the region.

### Aims:

1. To address the gap in global childhood cancer care outcomes through training junior paediatric subspecialty professionals from resource-challenged settings.
2. To establish a philanthropic-funded sponsorship system to support the clinical and academic training programme.

## Methodology

Sponsorship structure and criteria established

- Oversight by the PBST steering committee
- Monthly stipend to cover basic subsistence costs

### Criteria:

- SMC-approved relevant clinical fellowship programmes
- From Low-Middle-Income countries and government or non-profit hospitals
- No other sources of funding available

Sponsorship programme piloted from 2018 to 2020 with focus on paediatric pathology and surgical oncology.

## Results

- Set benchmarks for funding quantum and criteria for sponsorship
- Enhance regional clinical and research capabilities in the care of children with cancer
- Continuing medical education and additional networking resources through VIVA Asia BST working group and regional collaboration groups\*

### Outcomes

- 1) 6 trainees (pathology: 4 fellows; surgery: 2 fellows)
- 2) Media features: n=2
- 3) Academic results: 1 research collaboration, 1 research grant & 3 publications (3 pathology, 1 surgery)

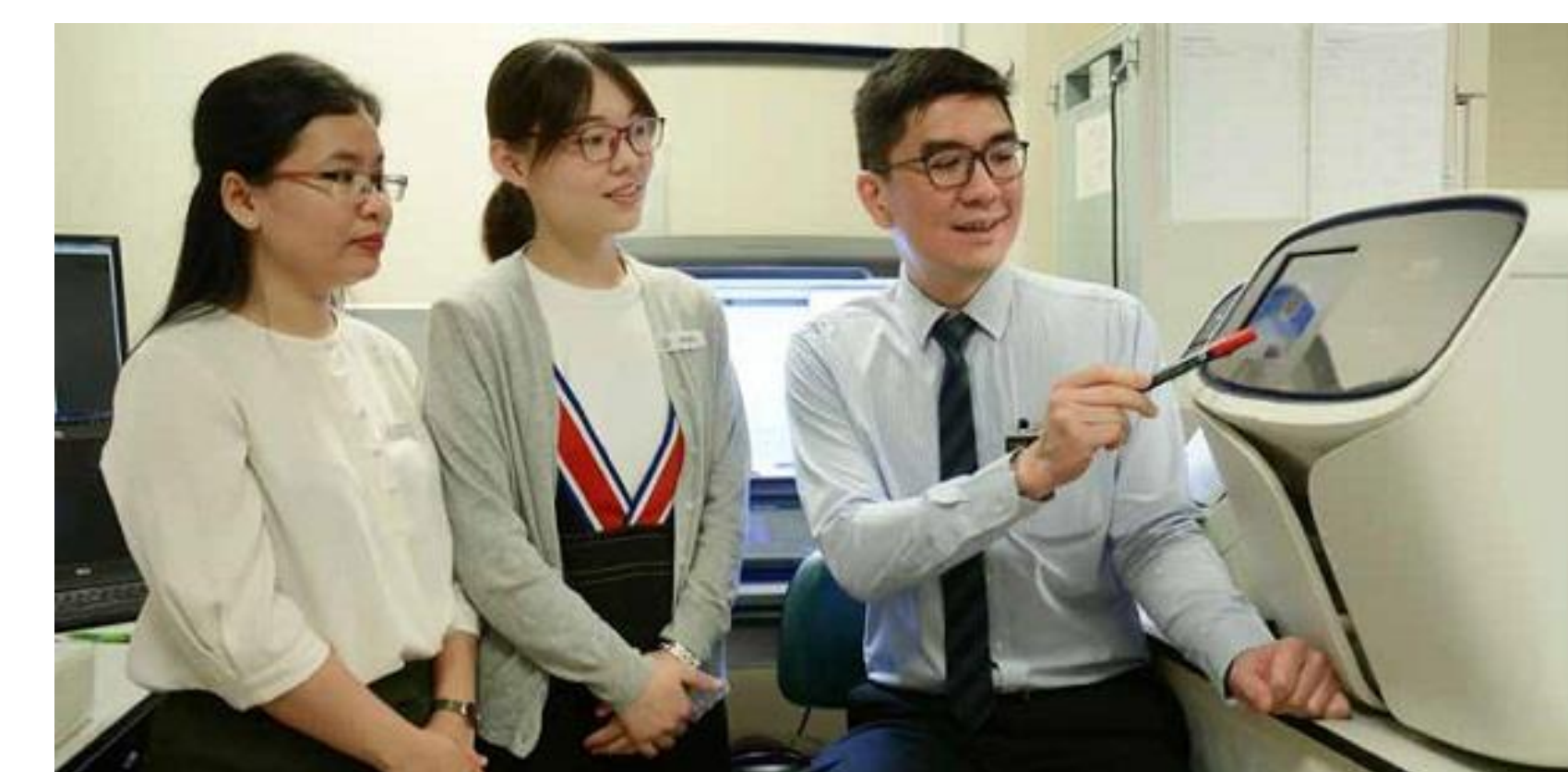


Fig 2A. Dr Mary Nheb from Cambodia and Dr Chen Wanwan from China with Assoc Prof Kenneth Chang in the pathology laboratory



Fig 1. Countries where fellows come from ★



Fig 2B. Dr Huma Faiz Halepota from Pakistan works alongside Dr Amos Loh in the operating theatre

## Conclusion

This philanthropic-funded sponsorship programme has ensured a sustainable, structured funding framework, to ensure continuity and long-term support of a regional fellowship programme that serves to address the gap in childhood cancer care outcomes in the region, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.

\*St Jude-VIVA Asia Pacific Paediatric Pathology and Paediatric Surgical Oncology collaboration groups

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