



Virtual CAREhab – Singapore Rehabilitation Conference 2020 kickstarts extended engagement with healthcare community

- Digital edition with over 50 speakers drew over 1,200 members of the healthcare community for two days of live learning, networking and collaboration
- Greater international participation with 20% of attendees representing over 30 countries
- Over 200 meetings facilitated over the two-day virtual event

Singapore, 4 August 2020 – Amidst the backdrop of a pandemic that continues to evolve, over 1,200 members of the healthcare industry—itsself front and centre in the battle against COVID-19—came together online for two days of the first digital edition of annual premier healthcare platform CAREhab 2020 and conference element the 6th Singapore Rehabilitation Conference 2020.

Co-organised by SingEx Exhibitions and the Society for Rehabilitation Medicine (Singapore), the two-day live virtual event was hosted on [CAREhab GO](#), an integrated digital platform built by SingEx and dedicated to the needs of the healthcare community. The two live days of CAREhab 2020 featured a carefully curated programme of expert-led keynotes, conference tracks, sandbox sessions, networking and collaborative activities, as well as a virtual exhibition showcase. Registered members continue to enjoy refreshed content on the platform in addition to continued learning, conversations and connections.

Over 1,200 members of the healthcare community from over 30 countries led by Singapore, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia and Australia engaged in live content and conversations over the two days. International participants accounted for about 20% of overall attendees. 900 participants attended the in-person event in 2019.

“The importance of community has never been stronger in the current environment we live in,” said **Aloysius Arlando, CEO of SingEx Holdings**. “The MICE industry has always played a key role in bringing communities together. While we cannot gather in person, SingEx remains committed to connecting our communities within and across industries through innovative and engaging ways for seamless sharing, learning, networking and collaboration.”





James Boey, Executive Director of SingEx Exhibitions, also noted the robust numbers and international representation, as well as online engagement over the two days, as testament from the healthcare community that the demand for continuous learning and connecting remains high—if not higher—in the new normal. “We are seeing a huge appetite from the healthcare community not just for learning and connecting, but also for unique experiences online,” said Boey. “With new demands placed upon them from COVID-19, it is essential for them to have access to continuous content and community engagement in their own time. Virtual offerings like CAREhab GO will become permanent augments to the physical when in-person events eventually return, allowing for continuous engagement, discussions on common challenges, and ideation of solutions and plans.”

The CAREhab community comprises physicians, residents, allied health professionals, full-time academics and healthcare innovators and providers, fostering conversations and engagements grounded on advancing medical practices and encouraging better quality of care—topics that resonate even more strongly in the current pandemic environment.

“This conference is an opportunity for us to share our best practices of care. There’s been a lot of talk about a new normal and how some of our transmission-risky practices of the past will now have to change. This is an ideal platform for us to discuss and share our experiences and thoughts on this,” said **Organising Chairperson of the 6th Singapore Rehabilitation Conference, Adj. Asst. Prof. Geoffrey S Samuel, Consultant at the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine at Singapore General Hospital**, during his opening remarks. “On top of the three main tracks—neurology, geriatrics and cancer rehabilitation, we also sourced for new material regarding how to perform rehabilitation in a pandemic setting. Through new cutting-edge technology integrated in this digital platform, we want to facilitate the interaction between the different disciplines, and to explore the continuation of care in this new environment we live in.”

Winning hearts with true stories of survival and strength

The event featured an international line-up of over 50 speakers, including visionaries like Dr James McDeavitt, SVP & Dean of Clinical Affairs at Baylor College of Medicine, USA; Dr Federica Gamna, Physiatrist, Head of Complex Disability Rehabilitation at San Luigi Gonzaga University Hospital, Italy; and Dr Effie Chew, Senior Consultant, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, Division of Neurology, University Medicine





Cluster at National University Hospital, Singapore. Speakers were also engaging with the community in real time to address their questions.

Real stories of survival and strength resonated strongly over the two-day live conference. These included Mr Melvin Ong, a survivor of high spinal cord injury, who shared his uplifting personal story of recovery and overcoming life's obstacles after injury. His sandbox session was among the most popular on the first conference day as well as emerging as the top voted favourite.

Para-athlete Mr Md Shariff Abdullah, also known as The Singapore Blade Runner, also inspired with his powerful story of success and resilience which has seen him conquer almost 30 full marathons and ultra-marathons. His sandbox session too was one of the most watched videos over the two days.

All sessions are still available for delegates to view on demand on the CAREhab GO platform.

Community rehabilitation; psychological impact of caregiving emerges as top interests

Community rehabilitation emerged as one of the topics that engaged attendees the most over the two days, with comments and questions pouring in live for the speakers on related topics. This included discussions around programmes that help patients reintegrate back into the community with aims of optimising independent living, such as Dr Effie Chew's track on the iMove programme.

The sandbox session by Aphasia SG's founder Ms Evelyn Khoo, part of a team who organises community-based initiatives for persons with aphasia and other acquired communication disorders, was the second most watched session on the first day. Effective communication between caregiver and patient is an important element which can significantly influence a patient's rehabilitation journey. Through a practical and evidence-based approach, Ms Khoo, an experienced speech and language pathologist, went through important tips on communicating with individuals with acquired communication disorders.

"Aphasia SG is thankful for the opportunity to have a conversation about aphasia and other communication disorders. Aphasia is a complex and invisible condition that has a profound impact on the lives of the individuals who suffer from it. At Aphasia SG, we believe that communication is a basic human right and that everyone in society can play





a part to make our environment more inclusive and aphasia-friendly. As healthcare professionals, we can increase communicative access to our services and improve rapport with patients simply by implementing Supported Conversation techniques and other basic strategies. I appreciate the CAREhab GO platform which allows me to continue this conversation with fellow healthcare professionals and attendees who are interested in understanding aphasia beyond the event days. We're looking forward to CAREhab 2021," shared **Ms Evelyn Khoo, Founder of Aphasia SG.**

Ongoing demand for business networking and shared learning

Over 200 virtual meetings were facilitated between exhibitors and event participants, 70% of which were confirmed on the CAREhab GO digital platform.

For exhibitor **Mr Warren Chew, Founder of Falcon Mobility Singapore**, showcasing on the virtual CAREhab GO platform was an eye-opening first. "The digital exhibitor showcase enables exhibitors like us to reach out to a larger pool of people in a shorter amount of time. The platform also allows us to fully leverage richer resources and assets like videos to generate interest among participants—while at a physical event, we'd have to wait for people to come up to our booths to see these videos or browse through two dimensional hardcopy brochures."

The conversation has just begun for the CAREhab community. Delegates and event participants can continue connecting with content and fellow community members on the CAREhab GO platform, as well as via a dedicated discussion group currently with over 1,000 members including speakers on [Interchange](#), Asia's premier community platform for cross-industry connection and collaboration.

For more information, please visit the [CAREhab GO](#) platform or the [official CAREhab website](#).

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About SingEx Exhibitions

SingEx Exhibitions is a subsidiary of SingEx Holdings which is wholly owned by Temasek Holdings, one of Singapore's largest investment holding companies. The company harnesses insights and its strategic networks to organise and manage a series of marquee trade exhibitions and conferences in various sectors such as Industrial Transformation; Innovation and Technology; and Sustainability. These events aim to connect businesses in Asia with a reach to the global markets, facilitating business matching for new opportunities and to be a knowledge sharing platform. Headliners include Singapore FinTech Festival, the world's largest of its kind, and Industrial Transformation ASIA-PACIFIC, Asia Pacific's leading trade event for Industry 4.0. Headquartered in Singapore, SingEx Exhibitions has a regional presence in key Asia markets, with offices in China, India and Indonesia.

For more information, please visit www.singex.com.

About Society of Rehabilitation Medicine (Singapore)

The Society for Rehabilitation Medicine (Singapore) is a not-for profit medical organization established in 2006 that aims to improve education and research in all areas of Rehabilitation Medicine. This includes the treatment of strokes, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, musculoskeletal injuries and post-amputation care.





ANNEX

CAREhab 2020 at a glance

Official show title: CAREhab 2020

Conference title: CAREhab – Singapore Rehabilitation Conference 2020

Digital platform title: CAREhab GO; <https://go.carehab-singapore.com/>

Live event dates: 17 to 18 July 2020

Video-on-demand availability online: 17 July 2020 to February 2021

Event website: <https://www.carehab-singapore.com/>

Organised by: SingEx Exhibitions and Society of Rehabilitation Medicine (Singapore)

About the Singapore Rehabilitation Conference

The Singapore Rehabilitation Conference is the largest regular General Rehabilitation Conference in the Southeast Asian Region. It brings together an interdisciplinary team including rehabilitation and general physicians, nursing, allied health specialists including physical, occupational and speech/language therapists, medical social workers, psychologists, music therapists, academics, scientists and health-systems administrators. The conference provides a platform for these professionals to showcase good practices and collaborate across the different institutes and regions.

