

Drawing inspiration

Renowned sculptor Sun Yu-li (far right) and a group of former offenders giving a fresh look to Parklane Shopping Mall's carpark by painting a mural on one of its walls yesterday. Called Turning Points, the mural was designed and painted by Sun, artist Barry Yeow, and former inmates from the Visual Arts Hub in Changi Prison Complex. The project is curated by Global Cultural Alliance, a unit of The Rice Company Limited that works with people who have experienced poverty and incarceration, and are in need of mental health support. ST PHOTO: ALPHONSUS CHERN



Shout-out to youth keen on e-sports career

Lester Wong

Youth interested in an e-sports career and those curious about the fast-growing industry will get the chance to hear from the experts in three upcoming workshops at the Singapore Sports Hub.

The workshops are part of a series of six organised by the Singapore Cybersports and Online Gaming Association (Scoga). They take place on June 29, July 6 and 7.

"Through the workshops, we hope to help youth who want to get into e-sports find out more about what goes on behind the scenes," said Scoga honorary secretary Dennis Ooi.

"Some of them may also be unaware that there are different career paths in e-sports beyond being a player, and the workshops are a chance to get them acquainted with the skills needed."

In the first workshop, professional e-sports coach Jensen Goh will talk about what it takes to go from being a passionate hobby gamer to an e-sports professional.

Mr Goh began his career in e-sports as a commentator, known as shoutcaster, before turning his focus to coaching e-sports teams for the popular game League of Legends (LoL). He is now working with European LoL team Splyce.

Top pros are also increasingly turning to sports science in a bid to gain a competitive edge.

Those interested in finding out how sports science can help improve performances can sign up for the July 6 workshop, which will be helmed by Republic Polytechnic's School of Sports, Health and Leisure lecturer Jimmy Lee.

The final workshop will cover what goes into officiating an e-sports event or tournament, including how to manage the event flow and the skills needed as tournament marshals. This session will be conducted by Mr Wayne Lim, co-founder and operations manager of e-sports events company Zenway Productions.

The first three workshops in the series, held at the National Library, had covered shoutcasting, event management as well as broadcast and production.

Singapore Sports Hub's chief commercial officer Adam Firth said partnering Scoga to host the workshops was in line with the hub's aim to support Singapore's e-sports industry development.

"Through these efforts, we hope to continue our active engagement with the youth in our community," he added.

The profile of e-sports has been on the rise here. E-sports is making its SEA Games debut in November, with Singapore's prospective representatives announced last month.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong tried his hand at Dota 2, one of the titles featuring at the SEA Games, when he dropped in on a workshop organised by Scoga last month.

Each of the upcoming workshops has space for 40 participants, and costs \$5 to sign up.

Those who are interested can visit any of these websites: esportathlete.peatix.com, esportsscience.peatix.com and esports-marshall.peatix.com

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Low immunity among people a likely cause of dengue surge

Aedes mosquitoes may also be thriving due to warmer weather this year, experts warn

Cara Wong

Low immunity among the population against the dengue virus may be contributing to a surge in infections this year, especially as mosquito numbers remain persistently high, said health and environment experts yesterday.

This comes as dengue cases spike in the region, indicating that the Aedes mosquito – the carrier of the disease – may be thriving with a warmer weather pattern this year.

At a media sharing session in commemoration of Asean Dengue Day 2019 a week ago, a panel of experts also raised concerns about patients over 65, who tend to suffer more, yet typically do not display the usual dengue symptoms.

These patients are likely to have contributed to the small uptick in the average hospitalisation rate for the disease in recent years.

Singapore is in the midst of a dengue outbreak, with five reported deaths from the disease so far this year. As of last Monday, there were 5,261 infections reported, a 60 per cent increase over the total for the whole of last year, and close to double of 2017's overall numbers.

Associate Professor Ng Lee Ching, director of National Environment Agency's (NEA) Environmental Health Institute, said Singapore has low herd immunity against the disease as good mosquito control over the years means that many people have never been infected.

An NEA study on the prevalence of the disease in healthy adults showed that only about 16 per cent of Singapore's youth aged between 16 and 20 years in 2009 had dengue before, she said.

The study, which is the latest one

available on the topic, was published in 2015.

A recovered patient is immune to the particular strain of dengue he or she was infected with.

"When we say we have low herd immunity and that we are very sensitive to outbreaks, that means that we just need a few mosquitoes to have an outbreak," said Prof Ng.

Professor Leo Yee Sin, executive director of the National Centre for Infectious Diseases, said a particular group of concern was the elderly.

A study published last month that reviewed dengue hospitalisations showed a higher proportion of dengue patients hospitalised from 2003 to 2017 were the elderly. In 2017, 47.2 per cent of dengue patients admitted to hospitals were aged 65 and above.

This has probably contributed to the slight increase in the average hospitalisation rate for dengue, from 2014's low of 25.6 per cent, to 2017's 35.9 per cent, said Prof Leo.

The elderly tend to face more complications with the disease because they may have existing chronic conditions, and they are more susceptible to secondary infections, she said.

Another factor which compounds the problem is the difficulty of diagnosing dengue in the elderly, as they tend not to display the typical symptoms such as fever, body aches and rash, according to experts.

Dr Wong Wei Mon, a senior physician with the College of Family Physicians Singapore, said the elderly may have only fever or nausea when they visit the doctor, or may even have symptoms not listed as common dengue symptoms.

"Doctors, if they are not alert enough, may not trigger the defini-



The experts at the media sharing session for Asean Dengue Day 2019, held a week ago, were (from left) NEA medical entomologist Christina Liew; Associate Professor Ng Lee Ching, director of Environmental Health Institute; Professor Leo Yee Sin, executive director of the National Centre for Infectious Diseases; Dr Wong Wei Mon, senior physician at the College of Family Physicians Singapore; and Associate Professor Alex Cook, vice-dean (research) at Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health. ST PHOTO: ALPHONSUS CHERN

5,261

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tive test to confirm the presence of dengue," said Dr Wong. By the time they are diagnosed, the disease may be severe, he added.

To combat this, the authorities have been urging doctors to keep a keen eye out for dengue among the elderly, said the experts.

The NEA, too, has been ramping up efforts to prevent mosquito breeding, such as introducing Aedes mosquitoes infected with the Wolbachia bacteria into the wild to help reduce the mosquito population, said Dr Christina Liew, NEA's medical entomologist.

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VENUE: ACADEMIA L1 - S3

0900 hrs Registration & Gift Bag

0945 hrs Welcome Address
A/Prof Chan Weng Hoong

0950 hrs How To Reverse Obesity With Medications?
Dr Tan Hong Chang

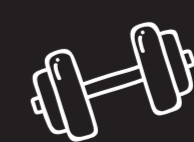
1010 hrs How Weight Loss Surgery Works?
Dr Alvin Eng

1030 hrs Life After Weight Loss Surgery
Ms Jessica Ong - Dietician
Mr Aaron Yeo Sulun - Physiotherapist

1100 hrs Who Will Succeed With Weight Loss?
Invited Patients

1130 hrs Q&A Session

1200 hrs Lunch & End Of Talk



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