

Remembering Dr Peter Wong 1971-2003



It is with a heavy heart that I inform you about the tragic death of a dear friend and colleague: Dr Peter Wong

On Sunday evening I received a call from Peter's wife, Sherlyn. She was extremely distraught and in tears. After she calmed down a bit, I managed to find out that that Peter had been involved in a serious car crash. My composure totally disrupted. I finished the rest of my clinic and rushed down to the hospital where he was. Alas, I was too late.

I was stunned by the suddenness of the event. He is taken away from us just like that. Even in my sadness, I can only imagine the grief that his family is going through. A father, husband, brother and son has been lost. His 6-month-old daughter, Megan, will never know her father.

Peter was my CG mate and friend. He was a responsible and dependable guy who was always willing to lend a helping hand. He was generous and good-natured, sometimes to a fault. Although we studied and worked hard, he was always game for an outing or a midnight movie, followed by roti prata, on the weekend. He loved to travel and would plan his holidays meticulously. To a person like me who tends to leave planning to the last minute, he was the best companion. He was never verbose or particularly articulate, but one could tell that he loved his wife and daughter with a passion. He was willing to sacrifice so much for them. He would work extra hours to provide for them, but would still volunteer to get up in the middle of the night to help feed his baby daughter almost every day. I always thought of him as an inspiration to aspiring fathers. He was a good conscientious doctor who was well-liked by his patients. In fact, a few of his patients cried when they found out he had passed away. Now his dream of starting his own GP practice will never be fulfilled.

Goodbye Peter, we will remember you.

Dr Kieron Teoh

It is with much sadness that I write this short note. On the morning of 10th February, I received a telephone call that announced the shocking news. It was Peter's wife on the line. I listened in disbelief as she struggled to get the words out. Our colleague and dear friend, Dr Peter Wong, had passed on in a car accident on the evening of 9th February 2003.

I remembered the grief that enveloped the entire clinic that day. News of his death caused tremendous pain for the colleagues and the sorrow was evident in the eyes of each and every one of us. The mood was sombre and we spoke little. Many of the staff from the clinic expressed that thoughts of Peter were constantly in their minds. This grief has affected us so greatly that many of us had great difficulty coping with the day's work. Patients who had been under Peter's care were stunned and some even wept openly at the clinic upon hearing the tragic news.

I first got to know Peter when he joined IOH Polyclinic about two years ago, not long after I was posted there. During the short period that I have known him, he struck me as being warm and admirably composed. Throughout his stint at IOH, he had demonstrated wholehearted commitment to the clinic with his participation in clinic projects and outings.

As a trainee in the GDFM (Graduate Diploma in Family Medicine) Program, he displayed keen interest and good clinical sense. Most important of all, Peter had shown equal care and concern to both his patients and colleagues.

Dr Peter Wong's demise has been a great loss to our clinic and the fraternity of Family Medicine in Singapore. It is, most of all, an irreparable loss for his wife and his six-month old baby girl.

Peter's sudden demise struck me about the frailty of life, the reality and inevitability of death and the great pain of a dear one's loss that only time can heal. Our hearts go out to his family and loved ones who bear the greatest burden of this pain. We will fondly remember his presence, all the bantering and the goodwill that we have shared in the short time he spent at IOH Polyclinic.

Dr Mark Ng Wai Chung

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The Council and members of the College of Family Physicians Singapore convey our heartfelt condolence to Sherlyn and Megan, wife and daughter of Dr Peter Wong on their bereavement. Peter is a dedicated family physician. We have lost a colleague and a comrade.