

DR
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Chief Executive Officer



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

“ I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our stakeholders, our staff, healthcare professionals, industry partners, and the public, for their unwavering support and trust in our mission. Together, we will continue to navigate the challenges ahead and embrace change to shape the future of public health, regulatory and scientific excellence. ”

HSA has embarked on a transformative journey in recent years. We have embraced transformation and innovation as a whole-of-HSA effort, where every HSAian has a vital role to play. We have gained significant momentum in building a more agile and adaptable workforce.

The transformative mindset pervades into how we view our mission of advancing and protecting public health. We see the wider impact of our work on the lives of people and our stakeholders, which spurs us ahead in our goals as an organisation.

Protecting and safeguarding the public's health

Our work does not stop at regulating health products. We facilitate access to safe, good quality and efficacious health products and medical devices.

Even as we have successfully transitioned to living with COVID-19, our work to protect the population against the pandemic continues. We granted interim authorisation under the Pandemic Special Access Route (PSAR) to three COVID-19 vaccines, two anti-viral therapeutics, and granted product registration for a paediatric vaccine.

The scope of our work has evolved with COVID-19. We are now leveraging data analytics to greatly enhance the safety monitoring of COVID-19 vaccines by developing and pioneering the Active Surveillance System for Adverse Reactions to Medicines and Vaccines (ASAR). ASAR analyses structured healthcare data and unstructured clinical notes from all public acute hospitals and this real-world data enables us to detect early safety signals and implement timely risk mitigation measures, inform COVID-19 vaccination policies, and enhance public health safety.

At the same time, we are taking steps to strengthen our regulatory system. We have launched phase 1 of the voluntary

notification system (VNS) for complementary health products (CHPs), which enables companies dealing with these products to voluntarily submit relevant documents to demonstrate that their products meet the necessary safety and quality standards. The VNS aims to establish a local database of reliable CHPs that consumers can refer to, and facilitates regulatory actions by HSA should there be safety or quality issues.

We continue to make strides to ensure that medical devices are safe and of good quality in Singapore. I'm proud to share that the World Health Organization (WHO) has recognised HSA as a Stringent Regulatory Authority (SRA) for high-risk in vitro diagnostic medical devices (IVDs). This prestigious recognition places us alongside leading regulatory authorities worldwide, qualifying our high-risk IVDs for expedited listing. It opens doors to global markets and reinforces Singapore's position as a trusted authority in healthcare regulation.

Securing the nation's blood supply and saving lives

We are not just securing the nation's blood supply. We are saving lives.

To ensure that we have a sustainable blood supply, we are using data analytics to generate real-time reports for blood collection and supporting operations. To make blood donation more convenient for donors, we have also analysed footfall data to optimise the opening hours and closure days for the upcoming Bloodbank@One Punggol.

With the goal to ensure that patients have access to blood when they need it, we developed an action plan to prioritise the usage of red cells and platelets based on patients' medical conditions and urgency of surgeries, in the event of blood inventory shortages. With this plan, the most crucial patient groups will receive priority for blood transfusions during blood shortages.

To support physicians conducting haematopoietic stem cell transplants, our laboratory has broadened our capabilities to offer killer-cell immunoglobulin-like receptor genotyping which improves survival in Human Leukocyte Antigen-haploidentical haemopoietic stem cell transplants, greatly benefitting patients who need stem cell transplants.

Uncovering the truth and discovering solutions

At HSA, we are not merely serving the administration of justice, we are uncovering the truth and discovering solutions. This mindset has guided our endeavours and fuelled our pursuit of excellence.

In our unwavering commitment to protect public health, we established a new Biologics Lab dedicated to testing the efficacy of vaccines. This state-of-the-art facility will play a pivotal role in ensuring the safety and effectiveness of vaccines, further enhancing our ability to safeguard the health of our citizens.

We are always developing new capabilities to better meet the needs of our stakeholders, and optimising our processes to enhance our efficiency.

We have developed a new and novel method to enable long-term body tissue preservation without refrigeration in the event of a mass fatality incident. This enables proper preservation of bodily remains which is critical for maximising DNA recovery for victim identification. This preservation technique was recognised at the annual INTERPOL Disaster Victim Identification conference.

We undertook a comprehensive optimisation and re-engineering of our work processes to enable faster processing of sexual offence samples. This enables our laboratory to meet the substantial increase in our analysis work without additional manpower or resources.

Fostering a learning and supportive work environment

We take active care to create a supportive work environment, to continue to develop our people, while taking care of their overall well-being.

At our organisation, we prioritise continuous learning. We held our inaugural Learning Week, an event which featured bite-sized learning sessions on relevant topics to help our staff stay future-ready and adapt to the fast-moving and ever-changing external environment. To provide a diverse range of perspectives, we also invited speakers from the public, private sector, and academia.

HSA also recognises the growing importance of self-care and mental wellness. We held regular workshops and activities to equip our staff with such knowledge and life skills. We have also appointed wellness ambassadors who are equipped to offer basic mental and emotional support to fellow staff. We are confident that prioritising the well-being of our staff and creating a positive work culture will continue to drive the success of our organisation.

Embracing change for the future

As a whole, HSA is not just striving for organisational excellence. We are changing the way we work.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our stakeholders, our staff, healthcare professionals, industry partners, and the public, for their unwavering support and trust in our mission. Together, we will continue to navigate the challenges ahead and embrace change to shape the future of public health, regulatory and scientific excellence.