



(From left) Ms Chua Gek Phin, Ms Jasmine Kang and Ms Chia Lay Hoon received the President's Award for Nurses at the Istana yesterday. ST PHOTO: CAROLINE CHIA

President's Award for 3 nurses

By JOANNA SEOW

ONE of this year's three recipients of the President's Award for Nurses is the youngest in its history.

But she cares for some of the oldest patients.

Ms Jasmine Kang, 33, is also the first Advanced Practice Nurse here – she has a Master of Nursing degree from the National University of Singapore (NUS) – to specialise in geriatrics.

“I enjoy talking to the elderly as they have a wealth of knowledge and they like to share their wisdom with me,” she said.

“It is actually a privilege to be able to help them.”

The bubbly nurse from Tan Tock Seng Hospital has a special place in her heart for those with dementia, who can seem confused and be hard to manage.

Once, she had to calm a patient

with a hip fracture who kept trying to leave her wheelchair as she believed the food she thought she was cooking would burn.

Ms Kang began to talk to her and ended up learning a new Peranakan recipe for sambal belachan.

She also devised new guidelines to reduce falls among elderly patients in the hospital, and is an adjunct lecturer at NUS.

For her dedication, Ms Kang received the President's Award for Nurses, along with Ms Chua Gek Phin, 55, and Ms Chia Lay Hoon, 54, at the Istana yesterday.

Ms Chua, director of nursing at the National Cancer Centre Singapore, improved staff training and work processes at the centre.

She also developed the centre's chemotherapy course to teach nurses the knowledge and skills needed to better manage patients who undergo the procedure.

Ms Chia, who is the deputy director of nursing at the National University Hospital, improved staff distribution in the Intensive Care and High Dependency units, and introduced a discharge lounge to make patient flow easier.

They each received a trophy, a certificate and \$6,000 which can be used to attend conferences and training programmes.

The three women and nurses from various local hospitals were treated to a reception at the Istana after the award ceremony, which is in its 14th year.

“The award recipients have made exemplary contributions towards patient safety, clinical excellence and research,” President Tony Tan Keng Yam was quoted as saying in a press release.

“I hope they will inspire their fellow nurses to strive towards even greater heights in nursing.”

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