

#CouragetoCareSG: The unseen lab hero Not too... - Care To Go Beyond - Allied Healt...

### Care To Go Beyond - Allied Health

20 May at 12:10 ·

#CouragetoCareSG: The unseen lab hero

Not too many people know about the role that medical technologists play in this fight against COVID-19, and that's understandable. After all, we work in labs, out of sight from people who visit healthcare facilities. But we do play a crucial role, testing samples from swabbed patients and getting the results back to the doctors so that the patient gets the appropriate treatment promptly.

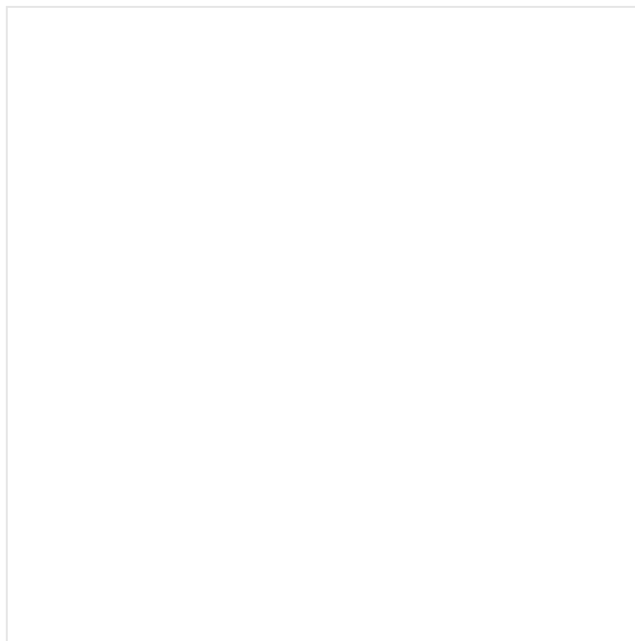
Equipped with protective gear, we use an automated extractor to process samples which could contain highly infectious and lethal viruses. That may sound dangerous, but we work in a very safe and controlled environment.

Not once in my 13 years at the Microbiology Laboratory in KK Women's and Children's Hospital have I ever regretted my decision to become a medical technologist. Not now, as we battle COVID-19. Not in 2009 when Influenza A H1N1 hit Singapore, and our lab handled a high volume of samples in addition to other existing tests. Seeing everyone come together during the crisis was truly heartwarming.

I have always been eager to find out the cause of an illness or disease. Having been through other outbreaks, our labs have established relevant protocol and are better equipped with cutting-edge technologies to help cope with COVID-19.

My close ones are supportive of what I do and this gives me courage to carry on with my work. The rapidly evolving fight against COVID-19 does affect my working hours. I have to juggle work and family time at home to care for my infant daughter. For this, I am eternally grateful for the support and understanding from my wife who knows that working after office hours is necessary for me during this critical period. Please continue to cheer us on as we fight against this unseen virus! 😊

– Soong Han Yang, Senior Medical Laboratory Scientist, KKH



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**Liat Hui Loo**

Way to go! 1

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