

IGS Scholar's Name: Wong Zhen Zhou
Research Centre: NEWRI

- 1. Your current employment details (Designation, name of company, country and scope of work)**
Operation Supervisor in Health Nature Pte Ltd, Singapore. Responsible in the general operation and business expansion in new start-up pharmacy and Retail Company.
- 2. What motivates or trigger you to pursue a doctorate?**
Awarded as 1st place in undergraduate FYP and years of research experience in undergraduate studies motivated me to challenge myself in doctorate studies.
- 3. Why or how did you decide to apply to IGS or the interdisciplinary route of research?**
Recommended by my supervisor, Prof. Loh Teck Peng.
- 4. What is your thesis about?**
Applied Environmental-Friendly Reactions in the Synthesis of Dactylolide, a marine natural product which is potential to be next anti-cancer drug.
- 5. Why did you choose this topic and how does it benefit people or industries globally or internationally?**
This topic is in line with the theme of Sustainable Earth. The synthetic studies provide new route to synthesize target molecule in greener and shorter way.
- 6. What kind of interaction did you have in IGS? How did that help you?**
Participating in IGS Seminars provided me wide immersion in understanding the way of thought in different field of research. Participating in IGS welfare activities allowed me to ease the stress and receive friends' support in the study.
- 7. What are the challenges you faced during the candidature and how did you overcome it?**
Challenges faced include bottleneck and mental stress in research. I overcame it by seeking physical and mental support from peers and friends.
- 8. What was your proudest moment or fondest memories over the years of candidature? E.g awards, overseas conference, patent, published papers, etc.**
Teaching undergraduate was my proudest moment because it gave me a sense of achievement when my students performed well in study and lab.
- 9. What do you think are the attributes for PhD students to successfully go through the 4 years?**
Endurance, be appreciative, and able to reconstruct mindset when facing bottleneck.
- 10. Please share 1 key motivational/ key take away message with your juniors?**
The journey is tough, but it definitely will be one of the most unique and fruitful experience in your life.
- 11. How does it feel like when you received the scholarship offer?**
I feel honoured and appreciative that IGS offered me the prestige scholarship for my study.

12. What will you miss after graduating?

Friends who supported me a lot during study.

13. What is your next adventure / challenge or any plans for the future?

With the knowledge and experiences in organic chemistry and biology, I continue my pursuit in Traditional Chinese Medicine. My ultimate goal is to benefit the society by combining the wisdom and essence of TCM and western scientific knowledge.

14. Is there anything you want to say to your family, supervisors, mentors, friends or anybody?

I am grateful that my family, especially my parents, allowed me to pursue anything that I want with full support. I also would like to thank my supervisors and mentors, especially Prof. Loh Teck Peng, who recommended me to enrol in chemistry field and allowed me to work in his laboratory for 8 years since undergraduate. A big thank to my friends that stayed with me throughout the study, who had provided me physical and mental support.