

#ISPESingapore21
This year, I was fortunate to be given the opportunity to attend ISPE Singapore Annual Conference 2021 and indulge in the wonderful insights and knowledge shared by recognized leaders in the pharmaceutical industry. From learning about Pharma 4.0 to Innovative Therapeutics to Adaptation of Manufacturing during and post Covid-19 – It was truly an eye-opening experience. I am especially intrigued and amazed by the talk given by Dr Gary Khoo detailing the innovations and challenges in the manufacturing of gene therapy, more specifically in the context of CAR-T therapy. Despite the huge benefits and efficacy of CAR-T therapy, this therapeutic approach is very expensive – mainly attributed to the raw material and consumable cost as mentioned by Dr Gary Khoo. Other challenges include the standardization of the manufacturing process due to variability in starting materials as well as the difficulties in upscaling such manufacturing processes while being compliant. This segment was exceptionally interesting for me due to the greater focus on gene therapy in the field of therapeutics. Understanding the challenges faced by manufacturers allows for the refining of gene therapeutics which will boost the ecosystem of the biomanufacturing industry and augments the choices of treatment available to patients around the world. A wonderful talk and discussion involving Dr Gary Khoo, Dr Lucas Chan, Dr Wee Kiat Tan and Dr David Loong.

The field of pharmaceutics and manufacturing is filled with endless growth and innovation opportunities. The insights that I have gained from this conference will supplement those that I received from the constant exposure to industrial professionals from events organized by ISPESC. Special thanks to @ISPE Singapore Affiliate for the opportunity to attend this conference!

--- Crystal Soong, Final Year NTU Undergraduate (Biological Science), ISPE Singapore Student Chapter, Finance Director

