

Symposium on sudden cardiac death

I REFER to Tuesday's letter "Improve public know-how on CPR" by Dr Oh Jen Jen. The Singapore Heart Foundation (SHF) fully agrees with Dr Oh and strongly encourages more people to become trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and use of the automated external defibrillator (AED).

The SHF has extensively promoted CPR-AED training since the launch of its Heart Safe Singapore initiative in September last year. Through this life-saving programme, we hope to improve Singapore's out-of-hospital heart attack survival rate, which is currently at 2.7 per cent.

To achieve our Heart Safe mission, we supported the National Fire and Civil Emergency Preparedness Council in its CPR + AED Community Awareness Launch at Ngee Ann City in January. In February, the SHF also collaborated with South West District for a pilot launch of the Family and Friends CPR Anytime Kit. This self-instruction kit, which includes a DVD and a mannequin, enables anyone to learn CPR any time, anywhere. We are working towards modifying the CPR kit and launching it later this year.

We also intend to work

with the Ministry of Education to have CPR taught to school children in the hope of replicating the multiplier effect seen in Denmark and other parts of the world. In addition, we strongly recommend equipping HDB blocks with AEDs.

About 70 per cent of heart attacks occur at home, so we see the importance of educating the public on CPR and the use of AED.

We invite everyone to join us on July 5, from 9am to noon, as we co-organise with the Singapore Medical Association the 39th SMA Public Symposium themed Prevention Of Sudden Cardiac Death: Reality And Perception at Raffles City Convention Centre.

Ho Sun Yee

**Chief Executive Officer
Singapore Heart Foundation**