

### THIS MONTH'S COVER STORY

Congratulations Prof Staffan Kjelleberg on receiving the prestigious Nanyang Research Award 2022



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Thank you so much Alain for your kind words and all of you great people, colleagues and friends in SCELSE. It is really so nice of you to arrange this gathering to celebrate the Nanyang Research Award for which I am very grateful to be selected as a recipient.

It is also terrific that life sciences, microbiology, microbiomes and biofilms have been identified as a strength at NTU and it is gratifying that the expanding life sciences platform is gathering further traction in a traditionally technological university. It is very rewarding and important that this award highlights and features SCELSE as a powerhouse for research excellence in these areas.

And I say this specifically because it is an award and recognition to all of us at SCELSE. Together we have built, and continue to build, a highly successful multidisciplinary research capacity, and thanks to all you talented, clever and dedicated people, SCELSE delivers excellence in areas that matter and makes the centre a key Research Centre of Excellence, both nationally and internationally.



SCELSE Adviser & PI

I trust you all know this, as the evidence is there for all to see; through the research success with novel findings, breakthroughs, excellent publications, relevance in a range of domains, and uptake of the basic science as well as the many translational outcomes that derive from SCELSE's R&D, and from its engagement with many partners and collaborative organisations.

I wish to share the award with you all and thank you for being such great colleagues and individuals, across all the various roles and functions in SCELSE. Thank you massively, and cheers all and to SCELSE.



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Let's look back on the excellent achievements this year by SCELSE scientists.

## Celebrating SNBC's 3rd anniversary



Wow! 20 years! That's how long marine science research has been taking place at the <u>St. John's Island</u> <u>Marine Laboratory</u>. Celebrating this momentous occasion with the Singapore's marine science ecosystem on 22 October 2022 was Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Kiat. <u>SCELSE</u> was proud to be part of this <u>Open House</u>, showcasing the centre's work on:

- Biodegradable plastics: Are they truly biodegradable in the environment? (Hana Marican, Stephen Summers)
- A multipronged approach to study coral-macroalgal interactions (Peggy Tang)
- Effects of nutrient enrichment on coral holobiont health & bacterial gene expression (Jeslyn Poo)
  The fate & transport of microorganisms at the sediment-water interface (Elton Lim)
- Biofilm communities on plastic debris in Singapore's coastal ecosystems (Jonas Koh)

"While we cannot eliminate the use of plastics completely, I am delighted to know that citizens, especially the younger generations, are making an effort to reduce the use of plastics. Many were surprised to learn that microorganisms live on the surfaces of plastics." - Jonas

"I was pleasantly surprised by the turnout on a Saturday for SJINML's Open House 2022 and the interest in my project. The highlight was presenting my work to DPM, discussing the experimental design and impact of my study on corals." - Jeslyn

"With heavy use of plastics in our everyday lives, it's great that more people are looking into sustainable alternatives, including biodegradable plastics. It was great to be able to work on a project which could lead to creating better biodegradable products." - Hana

Watch the event highlights video.

## Singapore making waves in marine research



Source: The Straits Times, pB5, 14 November 2022

SCELSE researchers are playing a crucial role in the advancement of marine research, especially with regards to climate change. SCELSE PhD student Elton Lim is looking at how bacteria and viruses from aquaculture can survive in marine sediments, which impacts water quality.

Ms Peggy Tang, also a PhD student at SCELSE, is researching coral health and resilience, working to improve their immunity against climate change, through understanding the relationship between the coral host and its microbiome.



We invite you to join us for our SCELSE Year-End Party on **Thursday**, **15 December 2022** at **4.00pm** at the SCELSE B2 Lounge. There will be lots of food, fun & games, and gifts for everyone!

See you there! Best wishes,

Alain



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