A FEW WORDS FROM THIS YEAR’S WINNERS…

Dr Chew Eng Hui  
Dept of Pharmacy, ATEA winner

“How would you describe your approach to teaching and educating students?”

I believe that a teacher forms the bridge between students and the knowledge available in textbooks. It has been my privilege to be part of my students’ education, where I see my role as not just confined to presenting textbook knowledge in a comprehensive manner to students. In fact, I believe in teaching that connects concepts to practice, stimulates independent thinking and inculcates in students an attitude of lifelong learning.

Through my teaching and research activities, I have had opportunities to interact with undergraduates and research students. I respect and pay attention to their questions, which have made me realise that a subject matter can be perceived and interpreted in many different ways. I cherish the question-and-answer sessions with my students as very often, they have evolved into interactive two-way discussions. Students also gain more self-confidence through questioning. If anything, this is one approach that I consistently apply to achieve the goal of empowering students with the ability to think and learn independently. While the desirable outcomes of effective teaching may only surface in students far beyond the completion of a module or the course itself, when they do, they can be perpetual and impactful. As much as I have benefitted from the excellent teachings of my own teachers and mentors, I hope to do as much as I can to inspire students of today and in doing so, help to nurture excellent teachers of tomorrow.