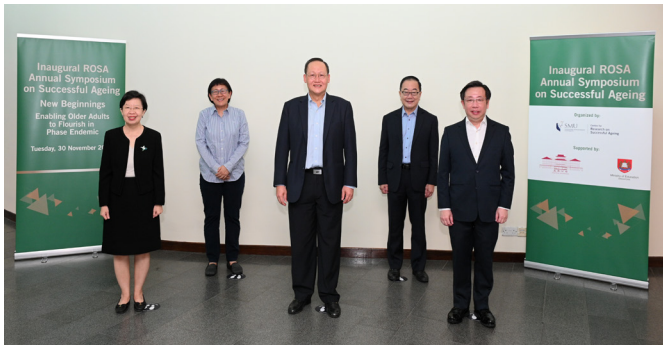


In this issue of ROSA's newsletter, we give you an update on our inaugural symposium, present several key findings captured in November 2021 on the COVID-19 situation in Singapore, and introduce two more valued members of our ROSA team!

ROSA Highlights



From Left to Right: Professor Lily Kong, Professor Paulin Straughan, Dr Tan See Leng, Mr Chia Mia Chiang and Mr James Teo

On the 30th of November 2021, ROSA held its inaugural Annual Symposium on Successful Ageing with the theme "New Beginnings: Enabling Older Adults to Flourish in Phase Endemic". The event was attended by distinguished guests, including Minister for Manpower, Dr Tan See Leng; President of Singapore Management University, Professor Lily Kong; Rector of the Technische Universität Dresden, Professor Ursula Staudinger, and representatives from The Ngee Ann Kongsi. Together with senior figures from National Trades Union Congress (NTUC), Singapore National Employers Federation (SNEF), TOUCH Community Services, National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre (NVPC), Agency for Integrated Care (AIC), and researchers at ROSA, the speakers delved into topics pertaining to the economic well-being, mental resilience, and social integration of older adults in the endemic spanning across three panel discussions.

Overall, the symposium was a huge success and was attended by over 160 participants from over 32 different organisations. We were also glad to see that some of our SLP respondents managed to attend the symposium virtually and we hope that you found the discussions to be enriching. As the symposium series will be organised annually, we hope to be able to see more of you at this year's symposium!



For a full summary of the important discussions that took place during the symposium, you may visit our website by scanning the QR code.

ROSA Staff Features



Rachel joined ROSA as a Research Assistant in August 2021. Her current duties involve assisting with the centre's translational research as well as providing administrative support. The work at ROSA is meaningful to her as she believes that the research has the potential to yield actionable insights to inspire positive change, especially for vulnerable groups in society such as older adults. Outside of work, Rachel enjoys running and rollerblading, and is drawn to artistic pursuits in music and art which help her stay active and creative.



Yan Er is a Research Assistant at ROSA who joined the team in July 2021. Her main duties involve assisting in the centre's administrative and operational work. She enjoys being able to support ROSA's research on successful ageing and is excited to see the meaningful impact it has on the lives of older adults in Singapore now and in the years to come. During her free time, Yan Er enjoys spending her time drawing and building her fitness by working out to exercise videos.

Research Highlights

In November 2021, we asked you questions pertaining to your willingness to obtain COVID-19 vaccine booster shots. The figure below presents the proportions of SLP respondents who had already gotten their booster shot, who were planning to but had yet to get the booster shot, and who did not plan to get the booster shot at all.

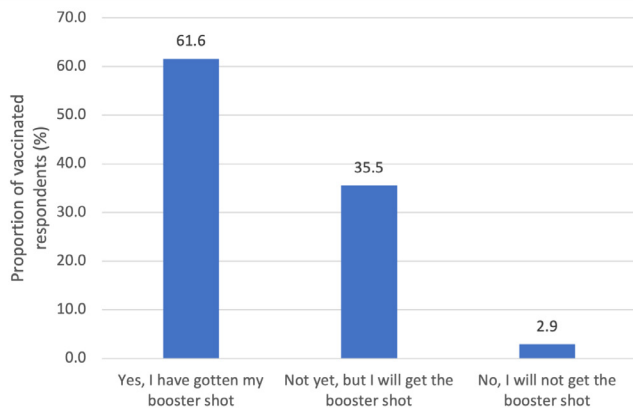


Figure 1: Distribution of willingness to get booster shot in November 2021

We were pleased to find that almost all of our respondents who were vaccinated had either already gotten their booster shot (61.6%) or were planning to get their booster shot (35.5%), with only a small minority of respondents (2.9%) being unwilling to get the booster shot.

Respondents who were unwilling to get the booster were subsequently asked why they did not want to get the booster. The top three most common reasons cited were that they were worried about negative side effects from the booster shot (60.1%), that there is a lack of scientific evidence on the safety and efficacy of a third booster shot (45.8%), and that they do not believe in the efficacy of a booster shot (38.9%).

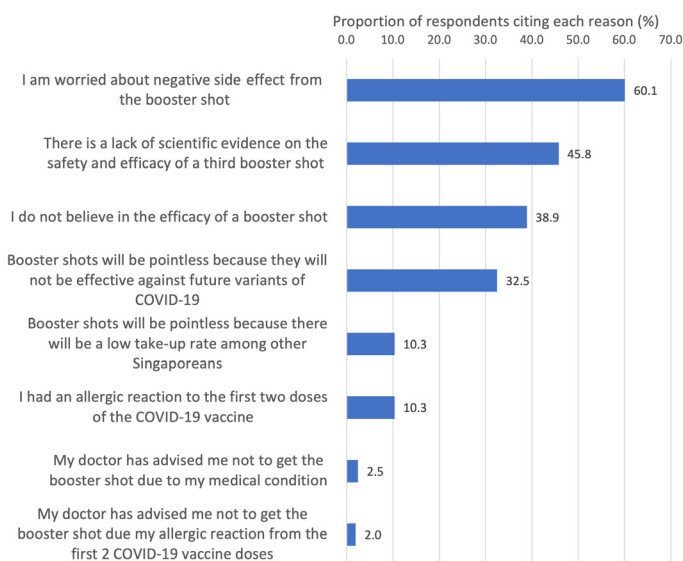


Figure 2: Reported reasons for not wanting to receive booster shots

Overall, the decision to not receive the booster shot appears to be predominantly driven by a lack of trust regarding the efficacy and safety of the booster shot. While we understand that it can be scary getting the vaccine or the booster shot, we would like to encourage those who are uncertain to visit the Ministry of Health website on COVID-19 vaccinations (<https://www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19/vaccination>) which contains a wealth of resources to help us understand more about how the vaccine works and why it is safe for almost everyone to get the vaccine and booster shot. Hopefully, by reading more about the vaccine from trusted sources, we can feel more assured about getting vaccinated and the booster!

Dates of Surveys

- **February Survey: 1 - 22 February 2022**
- **March Survey: 1 - 27 March 2022**
- **April Survey: 1 - 25 April 2022**

Contact Us

If you have changed your address or telephone number, need any form of assistance in completing the survey, or have any questions or feedback, please contact us on our Centre Hotline at 6808 7910 (9am to 5pm, Mondays to Fridays) or at slp@smu.edu.sg. We are always happy to hear from you.