**SUPPORTING CREATIVE AGING THROUGH GERONTECHNOLOGY, CO-CREATION DESIGN AND HEALTH COMMUNICATION**

**STATEMENT OF RESEARCH PROJECT**

Singapore’s population is ageing rapidly, with the proportion of citizens aged 65 and above rising to 18.4% by 2022. By 2030, approximately one in four citizens, or 23.8%, will be 65 and older (Chin, 2022). There are currently an estimated 55 million people living with dementia globally, with 82,000 in Singapore; by 2030, this number is expected to reach 152,000. As this number grows substantially every year, individuals, their families, communities and governments as a whole will have to figure out how to meet this challenge.

In 2019, the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) released the 4Ms framework to improve the well-being of older patients. Several U.S. hospitals today have adopted these senior-friendly standards. These criteria prioritize the “4Ms” to enhance mobility and psycho (mental activity), avoid harmful drugs, and finally identify what matters to the patient (Yap, 2022). Empirical studies have shown the incorporation of reminiscence and cultural traditions can have positive impacts on social and mental health, such as strengthening participant’s sense of identity, and promoted deeper engagement (e.g. Calo et al., 2019; Camic et al., 2017; Gopalkrishnan, 2018; Lakey et al., 2017; Liu and Li, 2020; Min et al., 2020; Reilly, Nolan & Monckton, 2018; Thomson et al., 2018).

Therefore, this proposed research project aims to determine the role of design, communication and technology in combating mental wellbeing of elderly through co-creation design. First, the project will identify and incorporate reminiscence and traditions related to cultural heritage and mental well-being through activities determining what make an experience “meaningful” for persons with dementia; “conceptual understanding of “connectedness” to self, others (community) and the environment (nature)” (Yeo, 2022). Next, it will implement the proposed cultural features and key aspects in the design of an experience through co-creation design. Finally, it will test the effectiveness of cultural digital/design products in fostering an enriching, purposeful and positive engagement for persons with dementia and whether it strengthen existing relationships with their family caregiver. The proposed project will provide insights from an interdisciplinary perspective:

1. Design & Digital
2. Health Communication
3. Gerontechnology

**SCOPE OF WORK FOR SELECTED PHD STUDENT**

In addition to meeting the requirements of IGP and obtaining a doctorate degree, the PhD student will work closely with the supervisors and actively involved in different stages of the project, including conduct in-depth background study and literature review to develop hypotheses and interpret research results; involve in the process of co-creation and analysis; create cultural digital/design products; and co-publish with supervisors and researchers across disciplines.