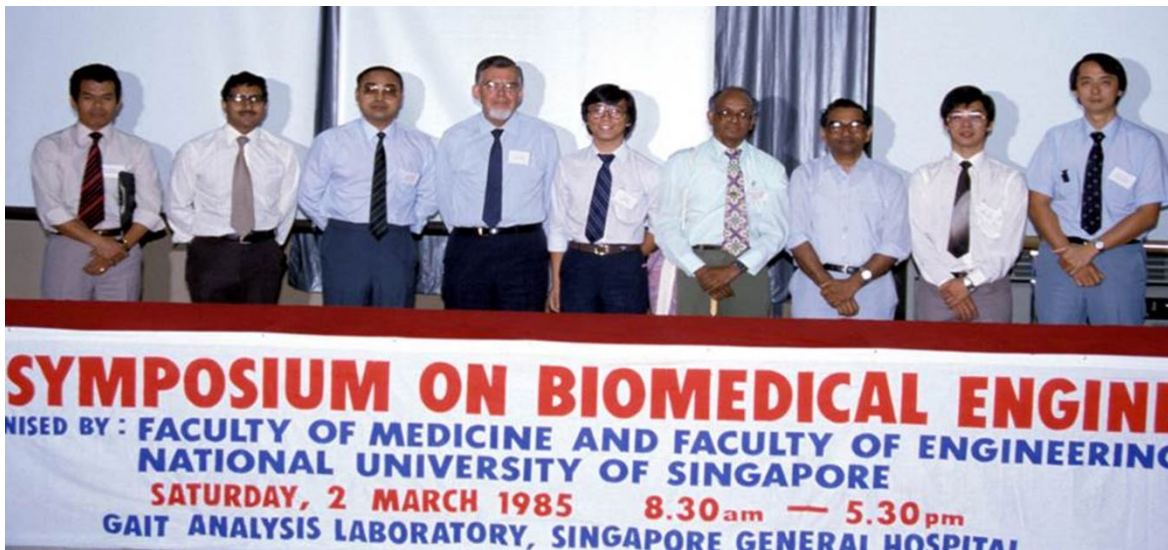




In Memoriam
Dr TOH Siew Lok (1951 – 2021)

Vice-President, Biomedical Engineering Society (Singapore)(2021)
Founding Deputy Head (Academic & Student Life), Department of Biomedical Engineering, National University of Singapore (2001-2016)
Chair, IFMBE Education and Accreditation Committee (2018-2021)
Secretary, IFMBE Asia-Pacific Working Group (2018-2021)
Deputy Chair, IES Technical Committee on Biomedical Engineering (2021)

Dr Toh Siew Lok passed away peacefully on 8th September 2021. He was 70 years old. He started out as a Mechanical Engineer with Babcock International, Glasgow after completing his PhD at the University of Strathclyde. He then joined the Department of Mechanical Engineering, National University of Singapore (NUS) in 1981. He had such a passion in using his engineering expertise to benefit the physically challenged, he started several projects in Rehabilitation Engineering including development of intelligent crutches and flexible prosthetic foot. He was a key member in creating a series of Biomedical Engineering Symposiums in Singapore which led to the formation of the Biomedical Engineering Society (Singapore) in 1991.



2nd Symposium on Biomedical Engineering held on 2 March 1985. Siew Lok is second from right.

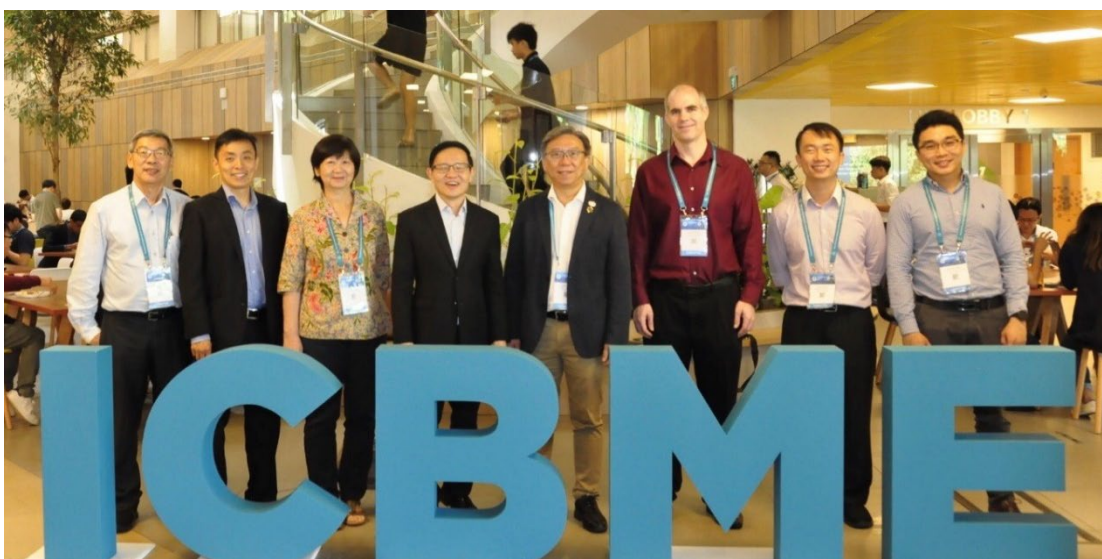
When the Department of Biomedical Engineering in NUS was formed in 2001, Siew Lok became its founding Deputy Head (Academic and Student Life). He worked tirelessly to establish the undergraduate curriculum and subsequently getting the programme accredited by IES' EAB. He was an outstanding educator and mentor, always going beyond the call of duty to reach out to students-at-risk. He had dedicated his life in promoting Biomedical Engineering, not only nationally but also globally through his role as Chair of the IFMBE Committee on Education and Accreditation.

He was part of the team that won the bid for Singapore to host the 2021 World Congress on Biomedical Engineering and Medical Physics in WC 2015 Toronto.



The elation of the team members in winning the bid to host 2021 World Congress in Singapore. Siew Lok is second from left.

Siew Lok has been actively involved in the organisation of all the BES' Triennial International Conference on Biomedical Engineering (ICBME) and even after his retirement in 2018, he continued to provide strong leadership in ICBME even the latest one held in December of 2019.



16th Triennial International Conference on Biomedical Engineering 2019 held in NUS Campus. Siew Lok is first from the left.

Siew Lok was truly a gentleman and a servant at heart. Those who know him can testify to his generosity and delightful nature. His friends from the academic community had been pouring in messages of condolences since learning of his passing. Below is a sample of the messages received:

Prof Dean Ho, Head, NUS BME Dept: "I'm so sorry to hear of Siew Lok's passing. Thank you for sharing the memories of his impact on our Department and those around him, as well as his concern and efforts to help those who needed it most. Please pass our deepest condolences to his family, and if the Department can help in any way, please let us know."

Prof Li Jun, NUS BME Dept: "No words can express my sadness. Siew Lok was well loved by us. He was a great colleague and friend. He mentored and guided many of us like myself. I learnt so much from him while working with him for so many years at the Department. We will miss him very much!"

Prof Lim Chwee Teck, Director, NUS iHealthTech: "No words can express our sadness and the profound loss of a wonderful colleague, caring brother and model family man. He has done so much for the Dept and BMES. I will always cherish the many fond memories of working with Siew Lok and the many conference trips that we made together. It's very very sad news to lose a good friend and brother. We will all miss him dearly. My deepest condolences to Angie and the family. We believe he is in a better place."

Prof Peter Lee, U Melbourne: "I am quite shocked as I am not aware of his situation. This is very sad news. I am loss for words. Siew Lok was a great mentor to me when I was serving in BES. I am really going to miss him."

Prof Ashvin Thambyah, U Auckland: "Indeed, it is very sad. I remember in 1994 when I came back to Singapore after my master's and participated in ICBME, and Siew Lok first interacted with me over my poster. It was my first time meeting him, and he was gentle and kind with his questions and I immediately thought to myself "I like this guy". Since then, he continued his kind and gentle manner throughout the years and convinced me of his genuine nature. He was also one of the most highly trusted individuals - as treasurer of BES a very safe pair of hands."

Prof Ichiro Sakuma, UTokyo: "I am extremely sorry to hear that Dr. Toh Siew Lok has passed today. He made great contribution to the IFMBE Asia-Pacific Working Group as the Secretary. I am very much shocked to hear his death, particularly because he is still young. I would like to express my deepest condolences"

Prof Ratko Magjarevic, VP IFMBE: "I am sorry to hear that Siew-Lok left us forever. He as a dear colleague and a good man, we will remember him as such. He was a quiet but productive collaborator and with his activity he left a mark in the Federation. Be so kind and convey the expressions of my condolences to the family and to the colleagues in the BME Society and in BME Department at NUS."

Prof KP Lin, SG IFMBE: "Siew-Lok was a friendly, genuine and warm person. He dedicated his efforts to the Education & Accreditation Committee and Asian-Pacific Activities Working Group. He showed his enthusiasm, tried to make a difference, and made many contributions to IFMBE. I feel really sad for lost such a good friend, Siew-Lok, because he was my role model, he also offered me lots of suggestions in many ways. I will miss his respectful and polite and cherish those moments with him."

Prof Savio Woo, Founding President WACBE: "This is really sad news! Siew Lok was a wonderful and kind pioneer of BME in Singapore and a friendly colleague to many around the world!! We will all remember this dedicated teacher and mentor fondly. Prof Toh will be sorely missed!"

Indeed, Siew Lok will be sorely missed by all but the legacy of his pioneering work in biomedical engineering, especially in Singapore will live on.

Please keep Siew Lok's wife Angie and the Toh family in your thoughts as they go through this challenging time.

28th Executive Committee 2021
Biomedical Engineering Society (Singapore)