



A True Student of Life

For Dr Chia Chung King, the quest for knowledge has provided the greatest opportunity to put people and patients first.

Life can sometimes unfold in unexpected ways. Dr Chia Chung King had always wanted to be a teacher but life took him down a different path. Excelling in school opened doors, leading him first to become a doctor, before eventually specialising in gastroenterology. Still, his dreams of teaching never faded. Instead they simply came true in more ways than he had initially imagined.

A people-person and problem-solver by nature, Dr Chia always has a penchant for helping others. Today, that has translated into a successful private practice in which he helps to solve the problems facing his patients. Even though he works more in a clinic than in a classroom, he continues to find that teaching encompasses a large part of his job.

“The thing I enjoy the most in my clinical practice is teaching

my patients about their health and how they can get better,” he revealed.

Within a clinical setting, Dr Chia likens himself to a detective – albeit one of a medical variety. Investigation and deduction are integral to his work as a gastroenterologist and he takes pride in unravelling the problems of all his patients.

As Dr Chia describes it, “The essential thing between a doctor and a patient is trust. You must be honest and have the patient’s interest at heart. And more importantly, they must be able to see and recognise that.”

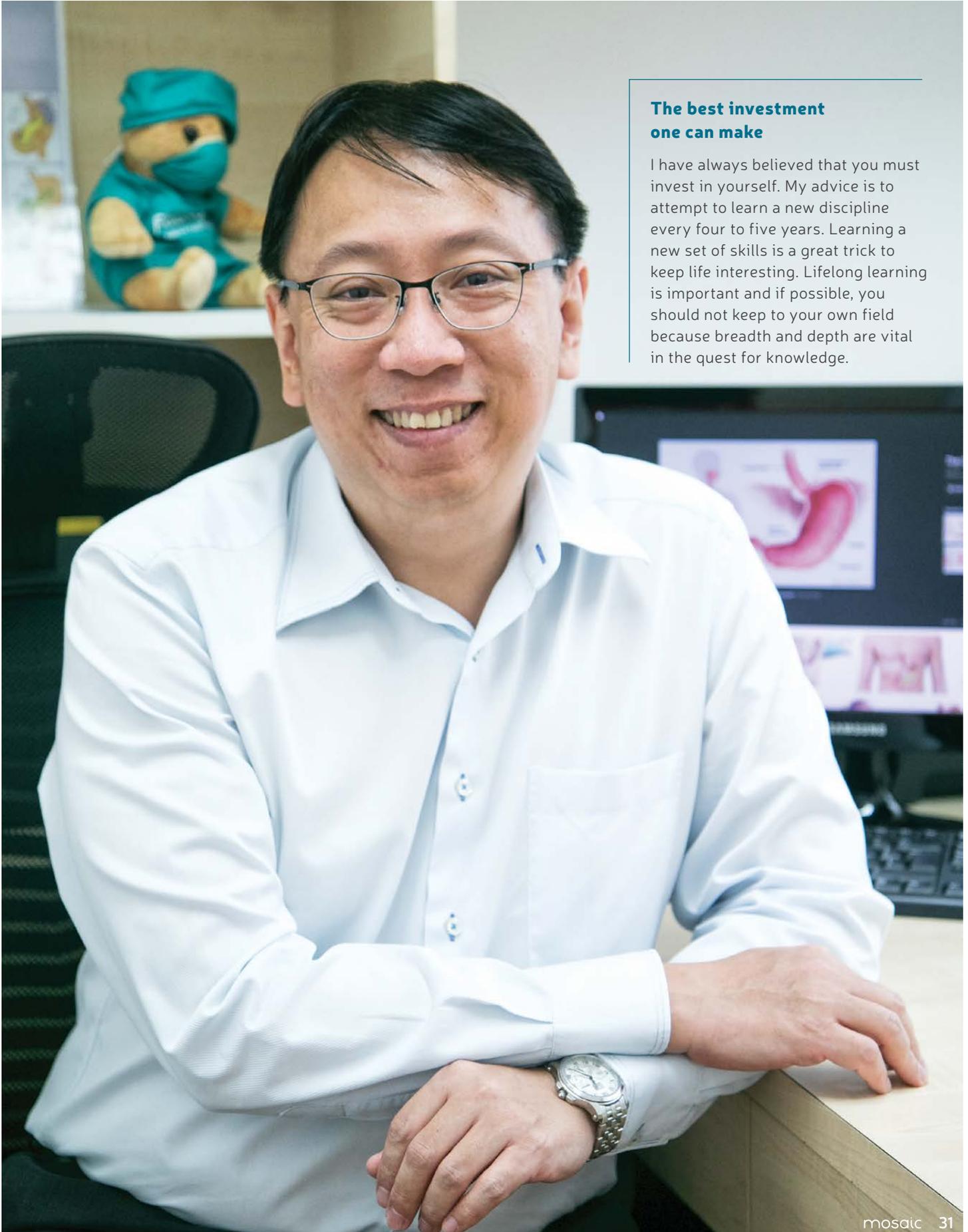
These pillars have formed the basis of his approach to his work. One instance involved a patient suffering from acid reflux. While performing a scope, Dr Chia noticed that the patient was snoring quite a bit during the procedure. Linking the two symptoms, Dr Chia was able to pinpoint the snoring, or Obstructive Sleep Apnoea, as the cause for acid problem – not only solving the reflux problem, but also helping the patient diagnose another ailment.

Another case involved a patient suffering from severe stomach pains. The case was so extreme that Dr Chia initially feared a rupture. Even after multiple scans and the initial course of treatment, the patient’s symptoms returned. Upon further investigation, Dr Chia suspected that the cause was enlarged blood vessels in the brain – irritating the patient’s mind into manifesting abdominal pains. While some colleagues were sceptical of the link, Dr Chia’s suspicions were confirmed by a neurosurgeon. Acting quickly, he managed to save the patient’s life, sending her for emergency surgery to resolve the underlying issue.

As no two patients are ever alike, Dr Chia continues to embrace the challenges of his chosen profession. After all, investigation and study are all in a day’s work.

MORE ABOUT THE DOCTOR

A devoted father of five, Dr Chia credits a supportive family and good life balance as the cornerstones of his success. His wife gave up her own career to devote her time to their children and home and Dr Chia is quick to praise her, “My wife is my biggest supporter. She works harder than I do, but I do work hard too.”



**The best investment
one can make**

I have always believed that you must invest in yourself. My advice is to attempt to learn a new discipline every four to five years. Learning a new set of skills is a great trick to keep life interesting. Lifelong learning is important and if possible, you should not keep to your own field because breadth and depth are vital in the quest for knowledge.