



## **Karishma Tambawala**

**Singapore**

Ms Karishma Tambawala, a teacher, baker and travel agent. Her family from Mumbai-India has been in Singapore since 2008 and have integrated into life in Singapore and enjoy living on this beautiful, welcoming island city.

Her son, Zahaan was 6 years old at the time when he was diagnosed in 2017 with a Medulloblastoma tumor which was an aggressive malignant tumor and required Surgery, Radiation and Chemotherapy. The location of the tumor between the fourth ventricle of the brain and the brain stem in the Cerebellum caused him to suffer from Cerebellar Mutism, Posterior Fossa Syndrome and Ataxia.

Zahaan's determination along with the amazing support and therapy in the hospital and later on for many years, regained almost all of his lost functions thanks to his amazing team of doctors, nurses, therapists and other support like the BTSS around us to get through and guide us through this journey for which we are blessed and very grateful for how things have worked out.

After facing cancer, she had an urge to reach out and help people struck with the same adversity and provide support to them in any way she could through her learnings, from her experiences and understanding. Most of all providing hope to families and sharing resources and information required during this critical time. Empowering parents who are the main decision makers for the child at this time is crucial.

### **Topic: Joint Presentation by a Caregiver and a Hospital Care-Coordinator to Illustrate How Care was Extended Beyond the Hospital**

A joint presentation by Ms Laura Tan, a pediatric care coordinator with a National University Hospital Systems (NUHS) and Ms Karishma, a caregiver of a pediatric brain tumour patient. Through her recount of her challenges as a caregiver to her son, Karishma will reflect how needs of the patients and caregivers are now better met through close partnerships with Laura, a qualified nurse, serving in a professional capacity as a care coordinator.