Press Release

For immediate release

21 May 2012

Emergency obstetrics training to help reduce maternal, child deaths in developing countries.

Obstetricians and gynaecologists from developing countries will be trained by Singapore doctors in emergency childbirth procedures and techniques that will help to reduce maternal deaths in their countries, where mothers have a 500 times higher risk of dying when giving birth.

The inaugural Workshop for Obstetric Emergencies Trainers is a 2-day event conducted by the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine’s Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology on 23 and 24 May 2012. The department, which is the forerunner of obstetrics and gynaecology clinical service and education in Singapore, plans to hold these workshops annually to teach health care professionals from developing countries. They in turn will then conduct training in their home countries to fellow physicians, said Professor Yong Eu Leong, Head and Senior Consultant.

Each year approximately 350,000 mothers in less developed countries die during childbirth, while two million babies die soon after they are born. About 99% of these deaths are due mainly to massive obstetric hemorrhage, seizures and obstructed deliveries – and they are preventable, said Prof Yong, the head of the university department, which is celebrating 90 years of education and clinical service.

This workshop is a step towards making delivery safer in those countries which are not as fortunate in having access to emergency services infrastructure that is equipped to deal with childbirth emergencies. The workshop’s organisation is also in keeping with the United Nations Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5, which aim to reduce maternal and child mortality rates between 1990 and 2015.

Using medical simulation equipment, participants will be learning a structured approach to maternal resuscitation to increase survival chances for mother and baby in the event of a complication during delivery. Emphasis will be given to teamwork, communication and crisis management in obstetric emergencies.

The workshop is being held in conjunction with a 3-day international scientific congress - “The University Obstetrics and Gynaecology Congress (UOGC) 2012”, with the theme, “90 Years of Service Education and Innovation”. The event takes place on 25-27 May.
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This congress will focus on the latest advances in obstetrics and gynaecology as well as concerns in fertility and women’s health, with plenary and key-note addresses by world-renowned pioneers in the field. The event will see close to 400 delegates in attendance. To foster learning among younger obstetrics and gynaecologist, the department is offering educational grants to Registrars, Trainees, Residents and Medical Officers from KKH and SGH to help them attend the congress.

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About the National University Health System (NUHS)

The National University Health System (NUHS) groups the National University Hospital (NUH), the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, the NUS Faculty of Dentistry and the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health under a common governance structure to create synergies to advance health by integrating clinical care, research and education.

The enhanced capabilities and capacity will enable the NUHS to deliver better patient care, train future generations of doctors more effectively and bring innovative treatments to patients through groundbreaking research.

For more information about the NUHS, please visit www.nuhs.edu.sg

About the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (YLLSoM)

Established in 1905, the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine was the first institution of higher learning in Singapore and the genesis of what would become the National University of Singapore. The School offers one of the finest undergraduate medical programs in the Asia Pacific region and commands international recognition and respect.
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The NUS was recently named the top university in Asia for medicine, and was placed 18th Quacquarelli Symonds (QS).

From Academic Year 2009–2010, the School has an intake of 260 new students for the July admission. The School strives to fulfil its tripartite mission of providing excellent clinical care, training the next generation of healthcare professionals, and fostering research that will transform the practice of medicine. It plays a pivotal role in producing future leaders in healthcare delivery, discovery and public service as well as in Singapore’s Biomedical Sciences Initiative and Singapore Medicine, a medical tourism initiative.

The School’s 17 departments in the basic sciences and clinical specialties work closely with the Alice Lee Centre for Nursing Studies, the Centre for Biomedical Ethics, and the Centre of Excellence for Health Services Research to ensure that teaching and research are aligned and relevant to Singapore’s healthcare needs.

For more information about the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, please visit http://medicine.nus.edu.sg/corporate/