

Press Release

25 May 2011

For immediate release

JOINT COLLABORATION BETWEEN NUHS AND BETH ISRAEL DEACONESS MEDICAL CENTER, A MAJOR HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL AFFILIATE, BOOSTED BY \$5 MILLION GIFT FROM YONG LOO LIN TRUST

Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine Students and Faculty to spend time at Harvard Medical School's Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and undertake joint research projects

The National University Health System (NUHS) today announced that the Yong Loo Lin Trust has made a gift of S\$5 million towards a joint collaboration between the NUHS and the Harvard Medical School's Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC). In this collaboration, the NUHS and BIDMC will exchange medical students and faculty, and work on joint research projects that could cover cancer, diabetes, nephrology, ophthalmology, imaging, vascular surgery and mobility in the elderly. They will also hold a bi-annual symposium where leading Harvard faculty will teach at the NUHS. This collaboration is the result of a strategic tie-up on education, research and patient care between the two institutions signed last year.

This is BIDMC's first partnership of its kind outside the US. The National University of Singapore (NUS) was recently named the top university in Asia for medicine and ranked 18th globally for medicine in a survey released on 4 May 2011 by London-based Quacquarelli Symonds (QS). Harvard University topped the global rankings for medicine.

In the initial phase of the programme, 10 medical students from the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (YLL SoM) under the NUHS will each spend a month at the BIDMC and Harvard Medical School in Boston, USA. Five medical students have completed their stint, while another five currently in Boston are due back in July.

Said Ms Natalie Ngoi, a Year 4 medical student, "Being surrounded by such a vast pool of profound intellectual talent not only made for an intensely stimulating learning environment, but also made one hungry for more knowledge and excited about the endless possibilities. I felt my view of Medicine broadened, and my passion for the subject deepened."

NUHS medical faculty will also head to the BIDMC for a special programme to train top medical educators. Associate Professor Lau Tang Ching, Head and Senior Consultant in the Division of Rheumatology, University Medical Cluster at the National University Hospital (NUH) and Associate Professor Marion Aw, Senior Consultant, Department of Paediatrics, University Children's Medical Institute, NUH, will be the first two medical faculty to head to Boston in July.



Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine
& Faculty of Dentistry

Press Release

Leading Harvard Faculty will also spend time in Singapore to teach and run workshops for YLL SoM medical students, faculty and NUHS clinicians. Professor Mark L. Zeidel, Herman Ludwig Blumgart Professor of Medicine and Harvard BIDMC's Physician-in-Chief, as well as some of the Center's top medical educators, will give lectures at the first joint NUHS – BIDMC symposium to be held in Singapore from 27 to 29 May 2011.

Said Associate Professor Benjamin Ong, NUHS Chief Executive, "The collaboration adds a very valuable dimension to the education and learning experience of our students and faculty by being able to work with and learn from Harvard BIDMC."

Added Professor Zeidel, "We are delighted that the Yong Loo Lin Trust has provided such generous support to foster our ongoing collaboration. We are learning much from each other in the areas of quality improvement in patient care, education of medical students, residents and fellows, and in many research efforts. This new support will accelerate progress in all of these arenas."

\$5 million donation from Yong Loo Lin Trust

The \$5 million gift from the Yong Loo Lin Trust to NUHS follows its earlier \$100 million gift to the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine. The joint collaboration has been named the Yong Loo Lin NUHS Harvard BIDMC programme in recognition of the gift.

Ms Yong Siew Yoon, trustee and spokesperson for the Trust, said, "I am delighted to see the high international standing the medical school and NUHS have achieved. The Trust is pleased that this new gift will enable a collaboration that will take them to new heights."

Said Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, NUS President and NUHS Chairman, "We are grateful to the Yong Loo Lin Trust for giving our medical students, faculty and clinicians the opportunity to gain from the experience at Harvard BIDMC. I believe the experience will be a transformative one for all of them."

Professor John Wong, Isabel Chan Professor of Medical Sciences and NUHS' Deputy Chief Executive and Dean of the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, said, "Harvard BIDMC's substantial collaboration with Singapore and the NUHS has a secure future because of this gift from the Yong Loo Lin Trust. We are deeply appreciative of the continued support of the Trust, which now allows our students and staff the opportunity to work alongside staff and faculty of one of the leading academic medical centers in the world. This will help us evolve the NUHS academic medical center in delivering our tripartite mission of academic medicine, improving patient care, nurturing the next generation of healthcare professionals and developing solutions for the illnesses that our patients face."

-Ends-



Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine
& Faculty of Dentistry

Press Release

For more information, please contact

NUHS

Ms Dawn Sim
Manager
Communications
Telephone: (65) 6772 3989
Mobile: (65) 9230 6006
Email: dawn_sim@nuhs.edu.sg

Ms Wendy Tan
Manager, Donor Stewardship
Development & External Relations
Tel: (65) 6772 3918
Mobile: (65) 8399 7310
Email: wendy_ml_tan@nuhs.edu.sg

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 and the NUS Faculty of Dentistry 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

NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (YLL SoM)

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. The NUS was recently named the top university in Asia for medicine, and was placed 18th globally in a new set of university rankings for medicine released on 4 May 2011 by 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



Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine
& Faculty of Dentistry

Press Release

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/>



Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine
& Faculty of Dentistry