PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Focal point for medical education and research at NUS opens

*Singapore, 3 July 2012*-- Teaching and research work at the National University of Singapore (NUS) Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine has been brought together under one roof with the opening of a state-of-the-art facility on its Kent Ridge campus.

The Centre for Translational Medicine houses the Medical Library, lecture and seminar rooms wired for interactive learning, laboratories for investigation into diseases important in Singapore, as well as one of the region's largest simulation centres for medical and nursing students to learn and practise clinical skills. The building, located on Medical Drive opposite the National University Hospital, was opened by Singapore Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the National Research Foundation, Teo Chee Hean today.

Speaking to invited guests at the ceremony marking the official opening of the 41,500-square-metre Centre, the School's Dean, Associate Professor Yeoh Khay Guan said the 15 floors of the Centre are entirely dedicated to scientific inquiry and the teaching and preparation of young medical and nursing undergraduates for the healthcare challenges that Singapore faces.

“This new flagship facility is the centerpiece for medical and nursing education which will train tomorrow’s doctors and nurses for Singapore’s healthcare needs.”

**Abiding values, 21st century technology undergird medical education and training**

The training of medical and nursing undergraduates for the medical challenges of the 21st century focuses on the development of clinical and professional competencies, supplemented by a keen emphasis on interpersonal communication skills that would enable healthcare professionals to relate empathically to their patients. “We want our graduates to be more than just good doctors and nurses: we want them to be people who are able to empathise with the patients they are going to be taking care of,” Assoc Prof Yeoh added.

Simulation training in the Centre’s 5,247-square-metre suite will hone students’ skills and abilities in responding to medical situations in hospital wards and emergency rooms and is part of a medical curriculum that is continually revised and refreshed, designed to expose students to increasing complexities and depths of medical knowledge and information.
Library for doctors

They also have access to the Medical Library, which was designated in 2002 as the World Health Organisation (WHO) Repository Library in Singapore. Located on levels 5 and 6, its extensive literature holdings of 53,000 volumes of books, theses and journals date back to the founding of the medical school in 1905. Another 172,000 volumes in its collection is stored off-site at the NUS Central Library Annex. Apart from the Medical Library, the Centre is also home to a rare copy of the Hippocratic Oath. The book, one of only three in the world, was presented to the School recently by a donor.

Locus for key research programmes, institutions

With 26,753 square-metres of research space, key programmes looking into diseases that Singapore grapples with, such as dementia, stroke, diabetes, cardiovascular and infectious diseases are conducted out of laboratories at the Centre. These involve staff and researchers from NUS as well as institutions like the Agency for Science, Technology and Research, said the School’s Vice-Dean of Research, Professor Saw Seang Mei, “Our multi-disciplinary, translational clinical research programmes here at the Centre for Translational Medicine focus on diseases with significant contributions to mortality and morbidity. Clinician scientists and basic scientists collaborate hand-in-hand to improve patient care and the health of the nation.”

The Centre is also home to institutions like the Cardiovascular Research Institute as well as the Cancer Science Institute of Singapore (CSI) and the Clinical Imaging Research Centre (CIRC). The CSI was established to pursue a coordinated and multifaceted approach to cancer research, extending from basic mechanistic studies to experimental therapeutics. A team of local scientists from the National University Health System and the Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School, as well as distinguished scientists from top academic institutions worldwide are leading programmes at the Institute, which is looking into 5 key areas – cancer stem cells, cancer biology, cancer epigenetics, cancer genomics and experimental therapeutics.

The CIRC looks into the development, testing and validation of new imaging technologies, methods, biomarkers and imaging agents for human studies. It also carries out translational/clinical imaging research for the development of novel interventions and imaging for human-scale medical implants, devices and procedures.

– End –

For media enquiries, please contact:

Ms Dawn Sim
Senior Manager, Communications
Tel: +65 6772 3989
Email: dawn_sim@nuhs.edu.sg

Ms Crystal MK
Senior Assistant Manager, Communications
Tel: +65 6772 3986
Email: crystal_mk@nuhs.edu.sg
About National University of Singapore (NUS)

A leading global university centred in Asia, the National University of Singapore (NUS) is Singapore’s flagship university which offers a global approach to education and research, with a focus on Asian perspectives and expertise.

NUS has 16 faculties and schools across three campuses. Its transformative education includes a broad-based curriculum underscored by multi-disciplinary courses and cross-faculty enrichment. Over 36,000 students from 100 countries enrich the community with their diverse social and cultural perspectives.

NUS has three Research Centres of Excellence (RCE) and 22 university-level research institutes and centres. It is also a partner in Singapore’s 5th RCE. NUS shares a close affiliation with 16 national-level research institutes and centres. Research activities are strategic and robust, and NUS is well-known for its research strengths in engineering, life sciences and biomedicine, social sciences and natural sciences. It also strives to create a supportive and innovative environment to promote creative enterprise within its community.

For more information, please visit www.nus.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. In 2011, the School was ranked the top university in Asia for medicine and was placed 18th globally by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS).

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 16 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/