

PRESS RELEASE

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Key NUS appointments in health and medicine

Senior appointments in health affairs and academic medicine to further integrate medical education, research and clinical experience; renowned gastroenterologist to head medical school

The National University of Singapore (NUS) today announced appointments to key positions in health and medicine.

The new appointments are as follows:

- National University Health System (NUHS) Chief Executive Associate Professor Benjamin Ong to be appointed as Senior Vice President (Health Affairs) at NUS;
- Dean of the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (YLLSOM) and Isabel Chan Professor in Medical Sciences Professor John Wong Eu Li to take up a new appointment as Vice Provost (Academic Medicine); and
- Associate Professor Yeoh Khay Guan, a renowned expert in gastric and colorectal cancer and Vice Dean (Academic Affairs) at YLLSOM to take over as the new Dean of Medicine

Said NUS President Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, "We are privileged to have such a strong leadership team which will create even greater synergies between NUS and NUHS in the advancement of academic medicine. We are indebted to Prof John Wong for his transformative contributions to the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, and delighted that we will continue to have the benefit of his talent and energy through his new NUS appointment. In Prof Yeoh Khay Guan, we have a world-class clinician scientist who is a truly worthy successor as Dean. Together with Prof Benjamin Ong, an outstanding leader in academic medicine, they bring a powerful vision, great experience and expertise to medical education, research and care that will create a big impact, both in Singapore and internationally."

Key Appointments in Health Affairs and Medicine

- *Senior Vice President (Health Affairs)*

Assoc Prof Benjamin Ong, a senior neurologist and an NUS faculty member since 1986, will become NUS Senior Vice President (Health Affairs) from 1 July 2011. He will continue in his current role as NUHS Chief Executive.

NUHS was established as a joint venture between Ministry of Health (MOH) Holdings and NUS in January 2008 to create synergies between clinical care, translational clinical research, and medical and dental education.

Assoc Prof Ong's NUS appointment further integrates medical and dental education and research with clinical practice and patient care at the National University Hospital and NUS' YLLSOM and Faculty of Dentistry.

Assoc Prof Ong said, "It is a privilege to be entrusted with this position that enables me to better integrate and synergise health affairs between NUS and NUHS. I hope to promote multidisciplinary research collaborations between NUHS and the rest of the University, and look forward to working even more closely with my colleagues in academia and clinical care in areas that would be of benefit to patients, staff and students."

- *Vice Provost (Academic Medicine)*

Prof John Wong Eu Li, the Isabel Chan Professor in Medical Sciences, will step down as Dean of the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine on 1 November 2011 and assume the appointment of NUS Vice Provost (Academic Medicine). He will continue in his current role as Deputy Chief Executive of NUHS and Director of the National University Cancer Institute, Singapore. Prof Wong, a medical oncologist-haematologist, has been an NUS faculty member since 1992.

Dean of Medicine since 2003, Prof Wong is widely recognised as a champion of integrated research and education to benefit patient care through multidisciplinary teams of healthcare professionals and scientists. He has contributed to raising the global profile of NUS Medicine, developing partnerships with some of the world's leading medical institutions, including a recent joint collaboration with Harvard Medical School's Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

Said Prof Wong: "It has been my great privilege to serve as Dean of the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine with such talented students and faculty. Associate Professor Yeoh Khay Guan will develop the School even further in this new decade. I look forward to working with him and colleagues in NUHS, NUS, and the rest of Singapore to further improve the quality of patient care through effective education and meaningful research."

- *Dean, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine*

Assoc Prof Yeoh Khay Guan will assume the role of Dean at YLLSOM with effect from 1 November 2011. Assoc Prof Yeoh will be the 16th Dean of Medicine in the history of the Medical School.

The deanship of the YLLSOM is one of traditional significance as the Medical School traces its roots to *The Straits and Federated Malay States Government Medical School*, which was founded on 3 July 1905. The Medical School then was also the first institution of higher learning in Singapore.

Assoc Prof Yeoh holds several leadership roles: he is currently Vice Dean (Academic Affairs) at YLLSOM, Head, Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, and Vice-Chairman, Medical Board, at the National University Hospital (NUH). He is also the Principal Investigator of the Singapore Gastric Cancer Consortium. Assoc Prof Yeoh is an NUS alumnus and has been a member of the NUS faculty since 1993.

Said Assoc Prof Yeoh, "It is a privilege to be entrusted with the leadership of the NUS Medical School, and I am humbled to be given this honour. The School enjoys a strong reputation today due to the collective achievements and contributions of its alumni, students, faculty and leadership over many years. We will continue to groom future doctors who will

improve the health of our population and the practice of medicine, and I look to the support of our faculty, alumni and the community of doctors in Singapore. My priority will be to provide the best education for our students, and to build on the stellar achievements of my predecessor, Professor John Wong.”

Please refer to the information below on the new appointment holders.



Associate Professor Benjamin Ong

Associate Professor Benjamin Ong has practiced as a senior neurologist for more than 19 years and has been an academic staff member of the National University of Singapore (NUS) since 1986. He has held portfolios as Chair of Medicine and the Chairman of the Medical Board at NUS/National University Hospital (NUH). He has been Chief Executive of the National University Health System since 1 December 2008.

His research efforts have been in neuroepidemiology and neuroimmunology, having done work in headache disorders, demyelinating diseases and myasthenia. Work in multiple sclerosis and related disorders in Asia have been in collaboration with his peers from the Asia-Pacific region. A firm believer in technology, he has actively led the application of state-of-the-art technology for process improvement in patient care delivery at the NUH since 1998, and currently chairs the Integrated Health Information Systems Board.

Assoc Prof Ong is also a strong proponent of medical education and continues to be involved in Neurology Specialist Training as well as undergraduate teaching. He continues to see patients at the Neuroscience Clinic at NUH.

Assoc Prof Ong will become Senior Vice President (Health Affairs) at NUS on 1 July 2011, and will continue to be Chief Executive of NUHS.



Professor John Wong Eu Li

Professor John Wong Eu Li is currently Dean of the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine at the National University of Singapore (NUS), Deputy Chief Executive of the National University Health System (NUHS) and Director of the National University Cancer Institute, Singapore (NCIS). He is also the Isabel Chan Professor in Medical Sciences at NUS.

A medical oncologist-haematologist by training, Prof Wong obtained his MBBS from NUS and did his residency and fellowship at the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center where he was the Chief Resident in Medicine, and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

Prof Wong has been actively involved in the development of the biomedical sciences as a key pillar of Singapore's economy, as well as the creation of Singapore's first academic health system, linking the National University Hospital and NUS' medical and dental schools and nursing programme under one unified governance.

Prof Wong is on the Board of Directors of the Hastings Center, and represents Singapore in the M8 Alliance of Academic Health Centers and the Association of Academic Health Centers – International. He jointly founded the Cancer Therapeutics Research Group, a multi-national consortium of nine academic institutions, and has served as a member of the International Education Council for Molecular Targeted Therapy for Cancer, the American Society of Clinical Oncology International Affairs Committee, and the International Oncology Foundation Advisory Board.

Prof Wong's research interests are in the development of new drugs, new treatment strategies and differences between Asian and Caucasian cancers.

He was awarded the Public Administration Medal (Silver) in 2005 and the National Outstanding Clinician Award in 2009 in recognition of his contributions to medicine and clinical research. He also received the SASS Foundation award in 2010 in recognition of his outstanding contributions in advancing the field of Hematology Oncology.

Prof Wong will take on the appointment of Vice Provost (Academic Medicine) at NUS on 1 November 2011, and will continue to hold concurrent positions as Deputy Chief Executive of NUHS and Director, National University Cancer Institute Singapore.



Associate Professor Yeoh Khay Guan

Currently Vice Dean (Academic Affairs) at the National University of Singapore's (NUS) Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, Assoc Prof Yeoh Khay Guan also practices as a Senior Consultant at the Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, National University Hospital (NUH).

A highly respected clinician and renowned researcher in gastric and colorectal cancer, Assoc Prof Yeoh enjoys strong standing in the international and Singapore medical communities. His research interest is in enhancing the early detection of gastric and colorectal cancers. He has published over 100 peer-reviewed papers in international journals.

Assoc Prof Yeoh is the Lead Principal Investigator of the Singapore Gastric Cancer Consortium, a multi-disciplinary national group of clinicians and scientists, which aims to improve the outcomes for patients by early detection, improving treatment and advancing the understanding of gastric cancer. The Consortium received S\$25 million in funding over five years from the National Research Foundation's Flagship Grant on Translational Clinical Research in 2007 – at that time the largest single grant ever given for biomedical research.

He was awarded the Emerging Leader Lectureship award for his research work by the Journal of Gastroenterology & Hepatology Foundation at the Asia Pacific Digestive Week in November 2006.

Assoc Prof Yeoh serves in several leadership roles including Vice Chair of the Medical Board of the National University Hospital. He also chairs the National Colorectal Cancer Screening Committee of the Health Promotion Board, Ministry of Health, which recommends guidelines for the national colorectal screening programme in Singapore.

Assoc Prof Yeoh received his MBBS (Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery) from NUS in 1987. He trained in internal medicine and gastroenterology at NUH. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore, Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London and Glasgow, and a member of the American Gastroenterology Association and American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy. He also serves as a reviewer for several journals and grant funding agencies.

Assoc Prof Yeoh will become Dean of the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine at NUS on 1 November 2011.