

**PRESS RELEASE**

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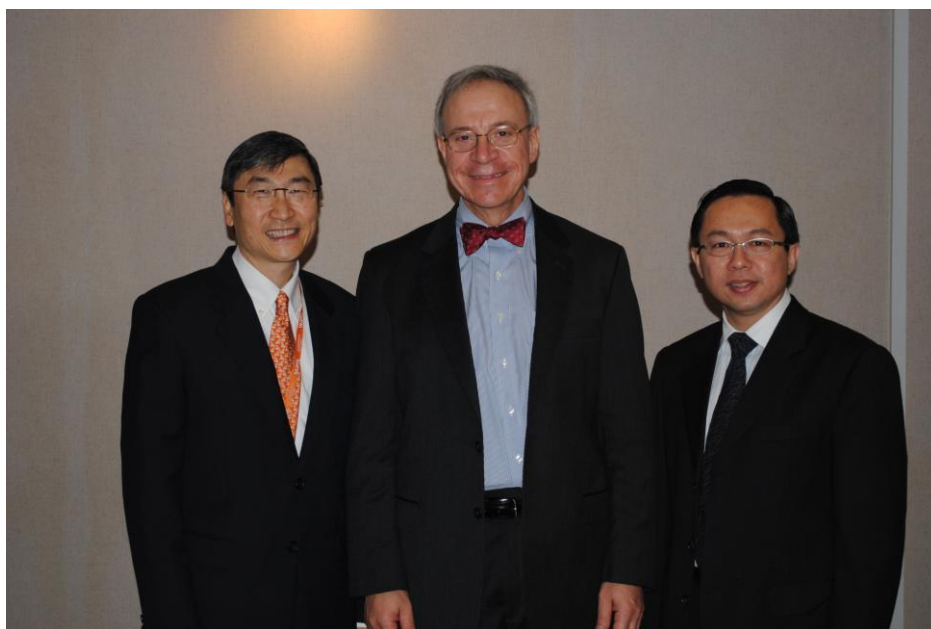
**Harvard's Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center to work with the National University Health System in Research, Education, and improving patient care**

The National University Health System (NUHS) and Harvard University's Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Centre (BIDMC) have signed an agreement that paves the way for American and Singaporean doctors, scientists and medical students to work together in areas of research, education, and clinical care.



The Memorandum of Understanding captures the terms and agreements of the collaboration, under which the Boston-based medical centre – a leading academic medical center of Harvard University – and the NUHS will exchange scientific, academic and technical information, identify opportunities for cooperation, exchanges and joint research in common interest areas, and jointly organize academic and scientific seminars and conferences.

It is a partnership that will bring benefits to both institutions, said Herrman Ludwig Blumgart Professor of Medicine Mark Zeidel, Harvard Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Centre's Physician-in-Chief and Chairman of the Department of Medicine.



“We’re engaging our NUHS colleagues in research into cancer biology, already spearheaded by Saw Swee Hock Centennial Professor in Medical Sciences, Daniel Tenen of the Cancer Science Institute of Singapore, NUS; collaborative efforts in metabolism research, which will permit us jointly to test the role of specific pathways that tend towards obesity in Asian populations; studies on the genetics of glomerular diseases, and collaborative efforts in vaccine biology. In addition to research efforts, we plan joint efforts in education.

“The NUHS academic medical center is embarking on American-styled residency training. We will work closely with our colleagues in Singapore to help and learn with them as they articulate their training program. We have innovated in educating residents in quality improvement. We need to develop similar programs for medical students.

“We can learn from each other as we develop these programs, including novel approaches to simulation, which both of our centers have pioneered. Finally, both institutions are leaders in quality improvement. We seek to learn from each other and accelerate the pace of improvement in a wide range of clinical areas.”

Professor Zeidel, who is here with a Harvard Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center team comprising the vice-chairs of quality, education and research for the talks with their counterparts from the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine and the National University Hospital, will sign the MoU with Professor John Wong, Dean of the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine and Mr Joe Sim, Chief Executive Officer of NUH.

Said Professor Wong, who is also Deputy Chief Executive of the National University Health System: “Collaborating with an institution as renowned as the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center will allow our doctors, scientists, and health care professionals to work with and learn from some of the very best in the world. It is through these partnerships that NUHS strives to improve the quality of care, research, and education that we provide to Singapore and the region”.



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**About the National University Health System (NUHS)**

Established in January 2008 and jointly owned by the Ministry of Health Holdings and National University of Singapore (NUS), the National University Health System groups the National University Hospital (NUH), NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine and NUS Faculty of Dentistry under a common governance structure to create synergies to advance health by integrating excellent 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 NUHS, please visit [www.nuhs.edu.sg](http://www.nuhs.edu.sg)

**About the National University Hospital (NUH)**

The National University Hospital (NUH), a member of the National University Health System (NUHS), is a tertiary specialist hospital that provides advanced, leading-edge medical care and services. Equipped with state-of-the-art facilities as well as dedicated and well-trained staff, the NUH is a major referral centre that delivers tertiary care for a wide range of medical and dental specialties including Cardiology, Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Oncology, Ophthalmology, Paediatrics and Orthopaedic Surgery. It is the principal teaching hospital of the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine. The Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in NUH is the host department for the Metabolic Disease Translational and Clinical Research Flagship Programme, DevOS.

With combined resources from the teaching hospital and NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine and Faculty of Dentistry, the NUH will be able to meet the healthcare needs of patients, train future generations of doctors more effectively, and help develop solutions to our healthcare problems through research.

Backed by substantive expertise and experience, the NUH was chosen by the Ministry of Health to develop two new national specialist centres, the National University Heart Centre, Singapore and National University Cancer Institute, Singapore to meet the growing need for cardiac and cancer treatments.

In 2004, the NUH became the first Singapore hospital to receive Joint Commission International (JCI) Accreditation, an international stamp for excellent clinical practices in patient care and safety. It was also the first hospital in Singapore to receive a triple ISO certification concurrently for Quality, Environmental, and Occupational Health & Safety Management Systems in 2002.

For more information about NUH, please visit [www.nuh.com.sg](http://www.nuh.com.sg)

### **About the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine**

Established in 1905, the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (YLLSoM) 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. From Academic Year 2009–2010, the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine 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 YLLSoM, please visit <http://medicine.nus.edu.sg/corporate/>