

PRESS RELEASE

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NUHS Inaugural Innovation Summit brings together academia and science with translational clinical outcomes that impact healthcare and health

Held over two days, 6 and 7 September 2019, the NUHS Innovation Summit focuses on key research efforts by multi-disciplinary teams from NUHS and NUS that impact healthcare and benefit patients in Singapore and beyond

The National University Health System (NUHS) today presented its first Innovation Summit, bringing together more than 300 participants, including local and international experts, as well as healthcare professionals, scientists and students from NUHS and the National University of Singapore (NUS).

Themed “Redefining Health Through Academia”, the 2019 Innovation Summit explores the symbiotic relationship between academia and the clinical community, and showcases how NUHS has leveraged on its unique position as a comprehensive integrated learning Academic Health System to shape the practice of medicine in these six areas:

- Adding Lives to Years,
- Disruptive Technologies,
- Healing from Within,
- Value-based Healthcare,
- Precision Health, and
- Smart City, Smart Health.

Graced by Mr Heng Swee Keat, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Finance, and Chairman, National Research Foundation Singapore as the Guest of Honour, the inaugural summit breaks down the global and local healthcare challenges facing the population. Integrating academia with the clinical setting, the Summit explores solutions that combine study, research, technology with a focus on improving health and health care in a sustainable way through preventive, predictive and precision medicine.

Keynote speaker, Sir Peter Gluckman, spoke about the importance and impact of balanced public investment in medical research. With an evolving climate, coupled with the changing nature of science and public expectations, Sir Gluckman discussed the need to balance impact assessment based on discovery, application, academic and direct economic terms to cover broader definitions including public policy, diplomatic, reputational, human capital, social and environmental impact. Sir Peter Gluckman is Chief Scientific Officer, Singapore Institute for Clinical Sciences, A*STAR, Chair, International Network for Government Science Advice and President-Elect, International Science Council

“As an integrated comprehensive Academic Health System, National University Health System (NUHS) has the unique ability to develop platforms to leverage on the synergies between academia and clinical practice to develop solutions for Singapore’s healthcare

challenges and provide the environment and opportunities to accelerate the value chain from discovery to practice, and from problem to solution,” said Professor John Eu-Li Wong, Chief Executive, NUHS.

“The NUHS ecosystem for research and innovation extends beyond the NUHS institutions. The close ties between NUHS and the whole of NUS allows for multi-disciplinary teams from various fields including health, engineering, computer and social sciences to work on “real world” problems,” said Professor Chong Yap Seng, Co-Chair, NUHS Innovation Summit and Dean, NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (NUS Medicine).

“As we deal with an increasingly complex world, new approaches are needed to future-proof our healthcare system and to harness advances in knowledge and new insights to provide solutions to our evolving challenges,” added Professor Wong.

The Brenner Fellowship

Mr Heng Swee Keat today announced at the commencement of the Innovation Summit, the establishment of the Brenner Fellowship, an NUS mentorship programme for Singapore-based undergraduate researchers in biomedical science to travel overseas to work in their mentor’s laboratories.

Supported by a network of mentors from all over the world who had been influenced by Dr Sydney Brenner, a world-renowned scientist and Nobel laureate in the field of molecular biology, the Brenner Fellowship serves to continue Dr Brenner’s efforts in advancing the development of young researchers and their pursuit of scientific progress.

Please refer to Annex A for the Brenner Fellowship.

Hypertension study

Driving innovation at a national level, cross cluster multi-disciplinary collaborations are robust among the public healthcare clusters for the benefit of our population.

Please refer to Annex B for the Hypertension study which NUHS and SingHealth have jointly embarked.

NUHS research update (2016-2018)

NUHS continues to thrive in an environment that supports research, innovation and translation, with opportunities to accelerate the value chain from bench to bedside, from problem to solution with a strong pool of researchers and clinician-scientists.

There are approximately 60 new clinical trials approved per year and total of almost 300 ongoing clinical trials in NUH per year. In the last three financial years (2016-2018), our research also resulted in five spin-off companies per year and an average of 12 licences per year. Six research in the past three financial years (2016-2018) led to changes in government policies related to health or changes in our clinical practice.

“Increasingly we realise that to solve complex human diseases, we need to engage and involve other areas of expertise beyond medical expertise. The fact we can bring in multidisciplinary research to integrate clinicians and scientists is a particularly exciting prospect that is not easily reproduced in many settings. We have a unique opportunity with the formation of NUHS and the integration of all these elements to make even greater impact on human health and on our patients,” said Professor Chng Wee Joo, Co-Chair, NUHS Innovation Summit 2019, and Group Director, NUHS Research Office.

Please refer to Annex C for the NUHS research outcomes.

About National University Health System

The National University Health System (NUHS) aims to transform how illness is prevented and managed by discovering causes of disease, development of more effective treatments through collaborative multidisciplinary research and clinical trials, and creation of better technologies and care delivery systems in partnership with others who share the same values and vision.

Institutions in the NUHS Group includes the National University Hospital, Ng Teng Fong General Hospital, Jurong Community Hospital and Alexandra Hospital; three National Specialty Centres - National University Cancer Institute, Singapore (NCIS), National University Heart Centre, Singapore (NUHCS) and National University Centre for Oral Health, Singapore (NUCOHS); the National University Polyclinics (NUP); Jurong Medical Centre; and three NUS health sciences schools – NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (including the Alice Lee Centre for Nursing Studies), NUS Faculty of Dentistry and NUS Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health.

With member institutions under a common governance structure, NUHS creates synergies for the advancement of health by integrating patient care, health science education and biomedical research.

As a Regional Health System, NUHS works closely with health and social care partners across Singapore to develop and implement programmes that contribute to a healthy and engaged population in the Western part of Singapore.

For more information, please visit www.nuhs.edu.sg.