

## MEDIA RELEASE

30 June 2021

### **LEADERSHIP CHANGE AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY HEART CENTRE, SINGAPORE**

*Professor Tan Huay Cheem, Director, National University Heart Centre, Singapore will be handing over the baton to Associate Professor James Yip after more than 13 years of dedicated leadership.*

Singapore — Professor Tan Huay Cheem will be relinquishing his role as Director of the National University Heart Centre, Singapore (NUHCS) on 1 July 2021. For the last 13 years, Prof Tan has charted the growth of the centre in many ways. He has strengthened manpower training and development of clinical programmes, instituted structured training programmes for trainees, nurtured a research ecosystem, and cultivated young clinician scientists.

Under his leadership, the centre has achieved numerous clinical breakthroughs. He converted the primary Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI) programme for patients with acute ST segment elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) heart attack into a 24/7 service in 2001. In 2017, he inaugurated the Western STEMI network in the Western region of Singapore, achieving the shortest door-to-balloon time for patients transfer to National University Hospital (NUH) and lowest STEMI mortality rates in Singapore.

The Department of Cardiac, Thoracic and Vascular Surgery also achieved peaks of excellence such as the Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery Programme and the Aortic Centre. The mobile Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) service also played a crucial role during the COVID-19 pandemic, providing care to the most severely ill COVID-19 patients.

With the support of Prof Tan, the Cardiovascular Research Institute (CVRI) has also established its presence as an international thought leader, performing cutting-edge cardiovascular research across basic science, clinical research and trials, epidemiology and health services research with a strong focus on heart failure research.

A highly respected interventional cardiologist, Prof Tan has shaped the transformation of the interventional cardiology service with more than 50 overseas cardiologists from around the world that have completed their interventional cardiology fellowships at NUHCS. The centre is also recognised as the place where original research work in device innovation and clinical trials thrive.

Taking over the baton will be Associate Professor James Yip. An accomplished cardiologist and clinician-scientist, A/Prof Yip helped developed the structural heart disease programme in NUH and the National University Health System (NUHS) from 2003-2017. He has also led many international trials in pulmonary hypertension as Principal Investigator.

A/Prof Yip played an instrumental role in developing the undergraduate ultrasound training module in the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, and is a core tutor and program evaluation member of the NUHS senior residency program in cardiology. He has been

conferred the NUH University Medical Cluster Outstanding Tutor Award six times since 2010 in recognition of his contributions to undergraduate medical teaching.

A champion for the innovative use of IT for quality and process improvement in the healthcare sector, A/Prof Yip introduced the bespoke Cardiology Information System. Not only has it improved the quality of cardiology reports but it also received the merit prize at the 2004 National Infocomm Awards and is in use today in four public hospitals. In collaboration with Tan Tock Seng Hospital, A/Prof Yip also developed the Closed Loop Medication Management Systems to reduce human error, enhance patient safety and improve operational efficiency in inpatient medication management and administration. This work was awarded Most Innovative Use of Infocomm Technology in the Public Sector at the National Infocomm Awards in 2010.

A/Prof Yip was appointed Chief Medical Informatics Officer of NUH in 2006 and has served as NUHS Group Chief Medical Informatics Officer since 2017. He will relinquish his GCMIO role when he assumes the role of Director, NUHCS on 1 July 2021.

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#### Chinese Glossary

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### **About National University Heart Centre, Singapore**

The National University Heart Centre, Singapore (NUHCS) brings together the resources, expertise and capabilities in the areas of Cardiology, Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery to better meet the needs of the growing number of patients with heart disease. A key centre for the treatment and management of complex cardiovascular diseases, its core clinical programmes include heart failure, structural heart disease, acute coronary syndrome, vascular medicine and therapy, women's heart health and heart rhythm.

Comprising a team of cardiovascular specialists and experts from a multitude of medical and surgical disciplines, the NUHCS provides a comprehensive and holistic approach to the treatment of patients with heart problems. This approach is backed by cutting edge knowledge and information gathered by the Cardiovascular Research Institute (CVRI).

The CVRI focuses on developing niche research work in creating new knowledge in support of NUHCS' core clinical programmes by working in close collaboration with both local and international renowned research institutes such as the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR) and New Zealand's Christchurch School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

Partnerships are formed with various medical institutes as NUHCS is a selected training centre for international physicians. Education and training ensures that our medical professionals are kept abreast. Nurturing the next generation, our specialists are also actively involved in conducting workshops and teaching programmes for our medical undergraduates.

For more information, visit: <https://www.nuhcs.com.sg>.

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

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 include 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 <http://www.nuhs.edu.sg>.