

Modeling Symposium, 11-12 April 2013

Sponsored by the Program in Health Services and Systems Research, Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School and supported by the National Research Foundation Singapore under its STaR Award Scheme administered by the Singapore Ministry of Health's National Medical Research Council

Title: *Building models to inform aging policy: getting it right before time runs out*

Overview: How to care for a rapidly aging population is a matter of urgency. Primary data collection and conventional analysis is necessary, but not sufficient, for informing policy. Together with improved software and greater computing power, policy makers are increasingly attracted to modeling to test policies "in silico." In addition to providing timely insights, models can offer shared understanding and the possibility that insights will lead to positive change.

This Symposium focuses on the useful application of models in the context of aging policy. We will highlight exemplars of modeling efforts related to issues such as long-term care planning and innovation in the care of individuals with chronic disease. We will consider the potential for modeling to simultaneously promote multiple perspectives: medical, social, economic.

Objective and outcomes: The objective of the Symposium is to engage researchers from several disciplines, practitioners and policy makers in a dialogue on the role of modeling in the domain of aging policy, and strategies for enhancing the effectiveness of models in the health policy process. Questions to be addressed will include:

- What is the state of contemporary model application in healthcare?
- In which situations have models been especially useful?
- How can stakeholders be best engaged in the model building process?
- What is the role of models in identifying research priorities and contributing to the "learning health system"?

Specific outcomes include:

1. Participants will engage in interactive exchange of ideas around key issues related to aging and chronic diseases. Regional and international perspectives will be included in the presentations and subsequent discussions.
2. Participants will develop an appreciation of the use of modeling techniques with the intent to engage and inform policy makers. They will gain a better understanding of different modeling methodologies and how they can be applied to local, national and global issues.

Target audience: The Symposium is designed for academics, researchers, healthcare professionals and policy makers, who are faced with or investigate complex problems that evolve over a period of time. They will be exposed to different modeling techniques and illustrations of how these techniques can be used to gain insight and promote communications.

Registration deadline: 8 March 2013

Please email amina.islam@duke-nus.edu.sg for enquiries and registration.