Address by Professor Ranga Krishnan, Dean,

Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School

Address by Professor Ranga Krishnan, Dean, Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School at the SingHealth – Duke-NUS Scientific Congress (15 October 2010)

Mr Teo Chee Hean, Deputy Prime Minister
Mr Peter Seah, Chairman, SingHealth
Mr Tony Chew, Chairman, Duke-NUS Governing Board
Professor Lord Darzi of Denham, Head, Division of Surgery, Imperial College London
Prof Tan Ser Kiat, clinical leaders and colleagues from SingHealth
Distinguished guests

It is my pleasure to welcome all of you. Today, we mark yet another important milestone in our partnership with SingHealth, in extending our collective vision of defining tomorrow’s medicine.

Our journey with Singapore and SingHealth formally began in 2005, with the inking of the agreement to set up the Duke-NUS Medical School. Duke-NUS would offer Singapore’s first U.S.-styled medical programme, leading to the award of a joint Duke University and NUS Doctor of Medicine degree at the end of four years of study.

Our inaugural class of 26 students entered in August 2007. In May next year, this class will graduate. The class has been groomed to take on key roles in tomorrow’s medicine by some of the best doctors in Singapore and the region - 396 clinical leaders and doctors from SingHealth.

I thank SingHealth for being a great visionary partner of Duke-NUS. You have paved the way for us to make a substantive mark in Singapore Medicine.

Academic Medicine is a great value proposition.

Academic Medicine can lead to important treatments for patients. At Duke, the persistent effort of Dr YT Chen and colleagues led to a life-saving treatment for Pompe’s disease. Dr Markert developed thymus transplantation as a treatment for immunodeficiency disorder in children. These are examples of important discoveries in academic medicine that happened because of
the close links between physicians and scientist sharing insights, identifying and working on the various diseases.

Academic Medicine helps retain clinicians and scientists because of the intellectual and creative environment that is nourished. Academic Medicine also can impact and improve health care by directly and indirectly becoming the conduit to translate discoveries into patient care, and improving the lives of communities and global health.

In our next phase, Duke-NUS and SingHealth will collectively create a new model of Academic Medicine, founded on our combined strengths in clinical medicine, basic and translational research and education and, anchored by a very strong collaborative spirit. Together, we will form an integrated working enterprise that guides and promotes the future of medicine. Thus the topic of this year’s congress ‘Bridging health care in the 21st century’ is indeed an apt and timely theme, one which will mark the next phase of our journey with SingHealth. Thank you