MESSAGE FROM
THE PRESIDENT

Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School plays an integral role in our healthcare system by promoting excellence in innovative translational, clinical, and health services research. By providing a full education in medicine with the added focus on biomedical and clinically-related research, Duke-NUS contributes to the development of talent in our healthcare sector that enhances Singapore’s capacity as a biomedical hub.

Duke-NUS goes beyond the classroom and the laboratory to also nurture and enhance the research careers of budding and established clinician investigators, clinician scientists and other medical scientists. I am pleased to note that the Academic Medicine pathway implemented by Duke-NUS and SingHealth provides recognition for clinicians for achievements in research and education. This would help bridge the gap between developing new knowledge and delivering it to patients and lead to development of better models of care.

The achievements of Duke-NUS would only be possible with the support of both the public and private sectors. Private philanthropy will enable Duke-NUS to play a bigger role in pushing the boundaries of medicine for better patient outcomes. On behalf of Duke-NUS, I thank all donors for your generous contributions to the School and its many Academic Medicine programs.


Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam
President of the Republic of Singapore
MESSAGE FROM
THE CHAIRMAN

In 2002, President Tony Tan Keng Yam who was then Singapore’s Deputy Prime Minister, led a delegation to discuss a partnership with Duke University leaders. He recognized that an alliance with one of the most established academic research institutions in the US would give us the catalyst to exponentially raise the bar in medical education and research.

As the architect of many of Singapore’s institutions of higher learning, President Tony Tan’s vision is unparalleled. Duke-NUS is today one of Singapore’s leading medical schools and a prolific contributor to world-class scientific research, in a large part due to his foresight. As Patron of our fundraising committee, President Tony Tan continues to share his mentoring wisdom that will guide the growth of Duke-NUS for generations to come.

I wish to recognize the outstanding contributions of many individuals at the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, A*STAR, National University of Singapore, Duke University and SingHealth who have worked tirelessly alongside us in our journey to transform healthcare in Singapore. It would also be remiss of me not to acknowledge the faculty, staff, students and alumni of Duke-NUS, whose dedication has been integral to the School’s success.

I wish to also highlight a very important group of people, without whom the School’s vision and objectives would not have been fulfilled. These are the foundations, organizations and individuals who have given generously to our cause. These donors provide much needed funding support for us to contribute to the international research arena, attract and train top notch faculty, and groom doctors who can transform medicine and ultimately improve lives. We are truly grateful to these pioneering donors for their support.

As we all know, medical schools are expensive to run. If we are to fulfill Singapore’s future medical needs, we must continue to provide for student financial aid, and research and education programs. Eligible gifts will attract dollar for dollar matching government grant, which go a long way towards developing Duke-NUS as a pillar of medical education in Singapore. All Singapore tax residents are also eligible for a tax deduction which is 2.5 times the value of the gift.

Right from our inception, President Tony Tan’s articulation of the differentiated strategic positioning for Duke-NUS has set the School on a strong trajectory of excellence. With continued support from our stakeholders, partners and benefactors, I am confident Duke-NUS will grow to become a leading contributor to Singapore’s biomedical sciences industry.

Kai Nargolwala
Chairman, Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School
MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

At its inception, the Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School was but a lofty ambition envisaged by a few visionary leaders in healthcare and education in Singapore and in the United States. Today, the School in its eighth year is fulfilling its dream that first-rate education and research can catalyze Medicine to unprecedented success in improving the lives of patients, thanks to the persistent and sustained effort of many individuals, stakeholders, students, faculty and our donors. Donations play a critical role in providing for student financial aid as well as research and education programs, as it is these donations that give the support for high risk research that becomes the foundation for treating patients and improving their lives.

One such example is the late Ms Tan Sew Kee, a senior staff nurse with SGH for more than 30 years, who bequeathed the entire sale proceeds of her apartment to the Neuroscience Academic Clinical Program to promote research on motor-neuron disease, an incurable disorder that claimed her life.

Patients too, supported our vision, such as the late Mr Tan Yew Hock, a cancer patient who left a generous donation in support of medical education.

We are exceedingly grateful to such individuals, their families, organizations and foundations, as well as Duke-NUS students, staff, faculty and alumni, who have demonstrated faith, commitment and effort to achieve our common goal of improving the lives of patients.

Despite the youth of Duke-NUS, our research efforts have already borne fruit that improve patient lives. For example, a stellar research team comprising Professors Patrick Tan, Steve Rozen and Teh Bin Tean, has identified critical genes that are mutated in stomach cancer, offering new hope for the development of treatments for one of East Asia’s most common cancers. The same team identified several mutated genes in bile duct cancer – a prevalent disease in Southeast Asia. This research also has the potential to improve the identification and treatment of these forms of cancer.

Dr Ong Sin Tiong discovered a gene variant that is frequent in people of East Asian descent. This variant leads to resistance to a class of cancer drugs. This work subsequently led to the identification of a new class of drugs that could benefit this group of patients. This body of work also led to the development of a rapid diagnostic test for the gene variant. Collaborators for the study included Dr Charles Chua of Singapore General Hospital, Dr Darren Lim of the National Cancer Centre Singapore, and Drs Ruan Yijun and Axel Hillmer of the Genome Institute of Singapore.

Duke-NUS trains and grooms doctors who actively participate in the translation of research into innovations that improve patient care. Our TeamLEAD method of learning has facilitated the development of outstanding clinician scientists. These young graduates are making their mark in the field of medicine with 100 research publications and several patents.

These are some concrete and tangible results of the Duke-NUS vision.

I thank all who have generously contributed to the early success of Duke-NUS. We are looking forward with enthusiasm as we embark on the next phase of our journey in Academic Medicine. For all who have participated in this venture and invested your time and energy in our school, we are confident you will see a transformation of medicine focused on improving lives.

Professor Ranga Krishnan
Dean, Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School
EMPOWERING DOCTORS FOR THE FUTURE OF MEDICINE

In 2005, the Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School was established, heralding a new phase in medical education in Singapore. Drawing from the rich medical training and research heritage of Duke University in North Carolina and the National University of Singapore (NUS), the School is Singapore’s first US-styled graduate-entry medical school, offering a unique and rigorous research-intensive approach to medical education.

The cornerstone of the Duke-NUS curriculum is our strong foundation in clinical medicine and biomedical sciences research, which leverages the school’s unique tradition of deep academic knowledge and extensive hands-on clinical and research experience.

We groom a future generation of doctors, clinician scientists and scientists adept at clinical care, and who are also able to contribute towards the advancement of healthcare and the practice of medicine, by supporting the translation of scientific discoveries into innovations that benefit patients.

Duke-NUS offers a four-year Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree program, a PhD program in Integrated Biology and Medicine (IBM) and a combined MD/PhD program.
TeamLEAD, a progressive learning pedagogy developed here by Duke-NUS, has been adopted by Duke University in the US, and has gone beyond the medical school to other faculties at Duke University. This is Duke-NUS’ way of giving back to Duke and a concrete example of our contribution to education that has far-reaching impact beyond Singapore.

To date, over 162 delegations from 28 countries have visited to learn and experience this approach. Since its introduction, TeamLEAD has also been recognized by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) as a major breakthrough in the teaching of Medicine.

TeamLEAD – where LEAD stands for Learn, Engage, Apply and Develop – is the hallmark learning method of Duke-NUS, designed to empower learning in an unprecedented manner. Unlike traditional teaching methods, TeamLEAD requires students to review core content based on given readings and supplemental materials before they attend class. Classroom sessions then take on a more productive goal by focusing on the understanding and application of concepts via practical problem-solving activities and small group discussions.

This process is facilitated by world-class faculty who bring their extensive clinical and research knowledge and experience to the classroom, cultivating in students a deeper understanding of patient care. The diverse student body, hailing from a rich variety of academic and cultural backgrounds, allows for an exceptionally dynamic learning environment.

TeamLEAD spurs learning as students develop critical thinking skills driven by the need to solve problems and improve based on constant feedback from peers and faculty. Educational technology, including social media platforms, is integrated into the learning process, facilitating interaction and enhancing collaboration. This results in more meaningful learning and better retention of concepts.
Giving Back to the Community

Duke-NUS students actively organize and participate in a variety of local and overseas community service projects. Humanitarian activities include Project KAREn – a student-initiated outreach to villagers of a hill tribe in Chiangmai, Thailand, Camp Simba – an annual camp for children of cancer patients, regular health screenings and hospital visits.

Despite graduating only three classes, Duke-NUS students have already begun to make their mark on the hallways of medical education. In the past two years, they have collectively published seven medical education research papers in peer-reviewed journals. They have also built a portfolio of 100 published research papers over the last three years that they have been engaged in research.

For AY2011/2012, 112 bursaries and 38 scholarships were awarded to our MD students, valued at a total of approximately S$3.7 million. This was made possible through the generous support of many donors who believed in investing in the next generation of clinician scientists who will transform medicine and improve lives. We are especially grateful to the Goh Foundation, Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple, Ngee Ann Kongsi, Shaw Foundation and Tan Ean Kiam Foundation for providing much-needed scholarships and student financial aid. We are also grateful to our senior doctors who set the example by “paying it forward” in supporting their juniors through our Doctors For Doctors Fund.

Patents Filed By Students

Mr Apu Thanju participated in the invention “Tonsil Care Device that Prevents Secondary Bleeding After Tonsillectomy” (filing number 61/724,372, 9 November 2012). The invention is a compact and innovative device that directly delivers medicine to a tonsillectomy site and applies a physical protective layer over the wound. This greatly reduces post-operation bleeding and promotes wound healing.

Ms Lai Hsuan and Mr Darius Aw co-invented “A Cervical Collar with Mounted Robotic Biopsy Subunit Containing Inbuilt Ultrasound Scanner and Robotic Needle for Biopsy of Neck Lumps” (filing number 61/724,364, 9 November 2012). The invention is an integrated medical device that can be used to diagnose lumps on the neck. The design enhances precision and efficiency during localization and collection of samples, thus reducing the need for experienced physicians to perform the procedure.
Following in the Duke University tradition and heritage, Duke-NUS champions translational and clinical research. Our five Signature Research Programs (SRPs) have been specially selected for their relevance to the region’s health concerns and aim to impact Singapore’s biomedical sciences scene.

They are:

- **Cancer and Stem Cell Biology (CSCB)**
- **Health Services and Systems Research (HSSR)**
- **Cardiovascular and Metabolic Disorders (CVMD)**
- **Neuroscience and Behavioral Disorders (NBD)**
- **Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID)**

Duke-NUS adopts a multi-faceted and multi-disciplinary approach to research, singularly focused on its impact on patient outcomes. In just seven years, we have produced a creditable number of significant research discoveries and in 2012, we saw our bench-to-bedside effort become a reality for a number of important studies.

Apart from our in-house research undertakings, we conduct clinical research at affiliated hospitals, clinics and specific research sites, especially within the SingHealth cluster as part of our Academic Medicine partnership. Our faculty also actively collaborates with academic and healthcare institutions, public organizations, and pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies on research projects.

---

**Breakthroughs in Cancer Research**

Humankind is now seeing the light at the end of the tunnel in our race to cure cancer, thanks to new scientific discoveries and advancements in medical technology.

One such major breakthrough is the international study that identified hundreds of critical genes that are mutated in stomach cancer. Led by Prof Patrick Tan, the research bears new hope for the development of treatments for the world’s second most lethal cancer. Stomach cancer is particularly common in East Asia and to date, treatment has been difficult due to late detection and poor understanding of the disease. By identifying patterns in gene mutation and genomic stratification, researchers can determine what drug is needed to treat patients with certain types of tumors. The findings have been published in Nature Genetics, a prestigious international journal that focuses on research in genetics.

In another landmark research project by the same team, several mutated genes were identified in bile duct cancer – a prevalent disease in Southeast Asia. These findings are of particular interest to Northeast of Thailand, which has a high incidence of bile duct cancer due to the long-term consumption of raw fish infected with liver flukes. Discussions are ongoing to develop a rapid diagnostic test for the gene variant. The research team was led by Prof Teh Bin Tean, Director of the NCCS-VARI Translational Research Laboratory at the National Cancer Center Singapore and a faculty with Duke-NUS, and includes colleagues Prof Patrick Tan and Assoc Prof Steve Rozen.

For years, doctors were mystified as to why certain highly successful cancer drugs failed to work on some Asians. The mystery has been solved, thanks to a research team led by Assoc Prof Ong Sin Tiong. He discovered that a gene variant present in some people of East Asian descent caused resistance to the drugs. Understanding the gene variant has allowed researchers to develop a new class of drugs to overcome this resistance. The researchers are also working with the commercialization arm of A*STAR to develop a rapid diagnostic test for the gene variant. Collaborators on the project included Dr Charles Chuah (SGH), Dr Darren Lim (NCCS), Dr Ruan Yijun and Dr Axel Hillmer (GIS).
Discoveries | Genetic Basis of Autism
Dr Steve Rozen and colleagues sequenced the exomes of a series of genes and found gene mutations that affect brain development. This exciting development can lead to better diagnostics and treatments for autism.

Medical Treatment | Vaccine for Dengue
A research team from Duke-NUS’ EID Program collaborated with a team of NUS scientists to identify and characterize a specific human antibody against dengue virus serotype 1. This antibody can potentially be used as a therapeutic or preventive agent for dengue virus infection.

Medical Treatment | Fatty Liver
Assoc Prof Paul Yen demonstrated how thyroid hormone increases oxidative metabolism. This novel mechanism is important for maintaining lipid homeostasis within the liver and suggests that it may be a novel target for drug therapy for non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, an epidemic condition for which there is no proven drug treatment currently.

Medical Treatment | Dengue
The first trial of a new antiviral drug is being carried out in Singapore based on the insights of Assoc Prof Subhash Vasudevan from the EID Program. This is the first clinical trial emanating directly from discovery at Duke-NUS involving the antiviral drug, Celgosivir, to determine whether the drug can be used as a treatment for dengue fever. This proof-of-concept trial is part of the STOP Dengue Translational Clinical Research Program.

Discoveries | Test for Screening for Drug Toxicity
Asians who carry the HLA-B*1502 allele have an elevated risk of developing Stevens-Johnson syndrome and toxic epidermal necrolysis when treated with certain anti-epileptic drugs. The study showed that it is more cost effective to perform genetic testing on Chinese and Malay patients in Singapore before prescribing carbamazepine (an affordable but potentially hazardous anti-epileptic drug) to prevent serious adverse drug-induced reactions. Due to the prevalence of the risk allele in Asian population, this finding will be highly relevant to patients in other Southeast Asian countries such as Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines.
Health and Health Policy | Negative Effects of Sleep Deprivation

Prof Michael Chee, one of Singapore’s first STaR awardees, has published a series of studies showing that sleep deprivation increases one’s propensity for distraction and sensitivity to positive rewards, while diminishing sensitivity to negative consequences. These findings have direct relevance to areas such as security services and problem gambling as sleep deprivation makes gambling even more tempting for many people.

Health and Health Policy | Perspectives on End-of-Life Care in Singapore

A study undertaken by the Lien Centre for Palliative Care revealed that Singaporeans value pain-free end-of-life care and prefer to pass away at home rather than have an extra year of life. These findings have implications on the focus of government subsidies and policies.

Health and Health Policy | Model for Assessing Medical Tests

Prof David Matchar from the HSSR Program, also a STaR awardee, led a group of researchers from the US to develop a methods guide for the optimal conduct of systematic reviews of medical tests. This comprehensive guide provides an efficient model for systematic evaluation of medical tests and promotes the importance of establishing links between medical tests and patient health improvement before the commencement of any study.

BY THE NUMBERS

Our researchers have published more than 1,000 papers in peer-reviewed journals, and filed 52 invention disclosures and 35 patent applications, five of which have been awarded licenses. They have also received over S$160 million in research funding locally and overseas and achieved more than 30 competitive research grant awards. Award-winning international researchers in their respective fields have joined Duke-NUS – testimony to our growing repute as an up and coming medical research powerhouse in Asia.
Gift to Shape End-of-Life Care Support in Singapore

Lien Foundation’s S$7.5 million donation to establish the Lien Centre for Palliative Care under Duke-NUS and the National Cancer Centre Singapore, has been instrumental in shaping national policies and initiatives in this area. Several studies on end-of-life issues in Singapore have so far been commissioned. The Centre has also played a key role in working with the Ministry of Health to develop Singapore’s National Strategy for Palliative Care in 2012. The study Perspective on End-of-Life Care in Singapore revealed that Singaporeans value pain-free end-of-life care and would rather pass away at home than have an extra year of life. These findings have implications on the focus of government subsidies and policies.

Gifts that Impact Singapore’s Healthcare Scene

The S$80 million gift from the Estate of Khoo Teck Puat has enabled Duke-NUS to make bold strides in research and discovery. By setting up the Khoo Discovery Awards, the Khoo Clinical Project Awards and the Khoo Investigator Awards, we have been able to nurture the careers of promising clinical researchers in Singapore. These awards encourage researchers to initiate new and innovative projects under the Duke-NUS Signature Research Programs that have the potential to make a real impact on medical problems.

The S$10 million Goh Foundation Initiative in Cardiovascular Research has contributed to new medical knowledge in cardiovascular disorders via support for numerous clinical research projects at the National Heart Centre Singapore. These studies build on our understanding of heart diseases, as well as the diagnosis and treatment of patients with cardiac problems.

Thanks to the Tanoto Professorship in Diabetes Research established by Tanoto Foundation, Duke-NUS managed to attract Professor Karl Tryggvason, the world’s leading authority on diabetes-induced kidney disease, to the School. Professor Tryggvason will study and build knowledge of diabetes in Singapore and Asia. In addition, another gift from Tanoto Foundation is dedicated to Diabetes Research. Although diabetes is increasingly prevalent in Asia, not much is known about the genetics of the disease among different Asian ethnicities, as well as the role of diets and culture in diabetes.

Duke-NUS also benefited from a generous S$2.5 million gift from the Lee Foundation to set up the Lee Kong Chian Centennial Professorship in Cardiovascular Research, under Duke-NUS’ Signature Research Program in Cardiovascular & Metabolic Disorders.
Academic Medicine brings together three world-class institutions in Duke, Duke-NUS and SingHealth. This partnership brings about such impact in medicine and patient care that is many times their total sum. The inter-connectivity and inter-dependency of our partnership is crucial for continual success.

_Prof. Ranga Krishnan_
Dean, Duke-NUS

Academic Medicine is all about the patients. Our doctors bring treatment challenges into the labs to find solutions. These are then taught immediately to our young doctors to keep them ahead in transforming medicine and improving lives.

_Prof. Ivy Ng_
Member, Duke-NUS Governing Board and Group CEO, SingHealth

The push towards Academic Medicine is gaining ground around the world as healthcare institutions and professions increasingly recognize that education and research are integral to raising standards in medicine and clinical care.

For this purpose, Duke-NUS is partnered with SingHealth – the largest healthcare group in Singapore that sees some four million patient visits a year, and offers more than 40 clinical specialties via a network of two hospitals, five national specialty centers and nine polyclinics.

The collective strengths of Duke-NUS’ research and medical education capabilities, and SingHealth’s clinical expertise pave the way for Academic Medicine, which essentially marries clinical care, education and research for improved healthcare and patient outcomes.
Several important initiatives have resulted from the Duke-NUS – SingHealth partnership in Academic Medicine. These include:

**Academic Clinical Programs (ACPs)**
The ACP is a systematic framework designed to support our vision towards Academic Medicine. ACPs are created for each clinical specialty, harnessing the expertise of each discipline across Duke-NUS and SingHealth for greater synergy in clinical care, education and research.

There are currently nine ACPs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cardiovascular</th>
<th>Obstetrics and Gynecology</th>
<th>Pathology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>Oncology</td>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neuroscience</td>
<td>Ophthalmology</td>
<td>Surgery</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Four more ACPs are upcoming:

| Family Medicine | Anesthesiology | Oral Health | Radiology |

**Academic Medicine Education Institute (AM•EI)**

AM•EI is a joint institute between Duke-NUS and SingHealth that aims to raise standards in healthcare education by creating a community of educators, supporting academic promotion and developing teaching skills. It equips educators with best teaching practices and recognizes the academic advancement of clinician educators by providing resources and opportunities.

AM•EI welcomes not just doctors but also educators in nursing and allied health professions. The ultimate goal of AM•EI is to develop passionate educators who can contribute towards grooming the next generation of healthcare professionals.

**Academic Medicine Research Institute (AMRI)**

AMRI is a collaboration between Duke-NUS and SingHealth to serve as a nexus for the development of research-oriented careers. It trains medical students, residents, fellows and faculty in research capabilities in a consolidated effort to produce excellent translational, clinical and health services research.

AMRI provides a full spectrum of support, including mentoring, helping both budding and established researchers transform their ideas into research proposals, and fostering collaborations among clinician investigators and clinician scientists in the ACPs.
$2.75 million Gift towards the Benjamin Sheares Professorship in Academic Medicine

The Singapore Totalisator Board, together with SingHealth Foundation and the family of the late President Dr Benjamin Henry Sheares, have contributed a total of $2.75 million towards a Benjamin Sheares Professorship in Academic Medicine. Professor Soo Khee Chee, a distinguished and accomplished clinician scientist and also Senior Vice Dean of Clinical & Academic Faculty Affairs in Duke-NUS, was appointed the Benjamin Sheares Professor in Academic Medicine in 2011. In the same year, he became the first clinician scientist to receive the prestigious President’s Science and Technology Medal (PSTM) 2011, the top honor among national science and technology awards.

US$1 million Gift for Cancer Drug Screening

The battle against cancer received a boost with a generous donation from Verdant Foundation Limited, based in Hong Kong. The Verdant Foundation is a private foundation dedicated to promoting advancements in healthcare, education, environmental sustainability and social development of communities in need. It was established in 2006 by the founders of the Verdant Capital Group, a multi-strategies investment firm. The Foundation has partnered with reputable institutional experts in its focus areas to foster positive changes through developing research capabilities, implementation systems and human capital. As part of its philanthropic mission, the Foundation gave US$1 million towards the setting up of the Verdant Foundation Cancer Research Fund, to further boost the efforts in finding a cure for the leading cause of death worldwide.

In recognition of this generous gift, Duke-NUS has named part of its Laboratory of Cancer Therapeutics as the “Verdant Foundation Drug Screening Facility”. Headed by clinician scientist Prof Teh Bin Tean, the facility screens approved and targeted drugs for new uses in cancer treatment, in the hope of meeting the urgent need for more affordable drugs for cancer patients.

$1 million Gift to Enhance Faculty Development

The late Mr Tan Yew Hock worked in Singapore Airlines his whole life and was known to the people around him as a hardworking and considerate man. He did not live a lavish lifestyle and through judicious personal investments, accumulated the funds that would later help many patients. His battle with cancer, coupled with the diligent care from Dr Koo Wen Hsin, National Cancer Center staff and Singapore General Hospital Ward 78 staff, convinced him that donating to a medically-related initiative was a worthwhile cause.

As in life, Mr Tan wanted to support something that would grow a legacy. It was with this in mind that he decided to set up an endowed fund, so that his donation can continue to benefit generations after him. We thank the estate and family of the late Mr Tan Yew Hock for the generous gift to the AM•EI which would help fund faculty development programs to nurture and cultivate many generations of medical educators. His legacy will be a great inspiration to many medical students, practitioners and their patients. The funds donated to AM•EI will ultimately improve the quality of healthcare in the region.
S$900,000 Gift towards Bio-imaging Equipment

State-of-the-art equipment goes a long way in enhancing our research capabilities. The Lee Foundation gave S$900,000 towards equipping our labs with cutting-edge bio-imaging equipment, which will enable our clinician scientists to make further headway in their medical discoveries.

The Academic Medicine vision is not a high-brow dream by intellectuals. It manifests research outcomes that translate into real benefits for patients. Donations go a long way in helping us turn the vision into reality, making a significant and long-lasting impact on the future of Medicine.

S$321,000 Gift to Drive Advancements in Motor-Neuro Disease Care

The late Ms Tan Sew Kee was a senior staff nurse with the Singapore General Hospital with a genuine passion for nursing. For more than 30 years, she contributed significantly to the healthcare team at SGH, earnestly caring for and nursing the sick back to good health. In August 2011 she succumbed to a debilitating motor-neuro disease (MND). Even as she wrestled the physical and emotional tolls of MND, Ms Tan made sure her contribution to healthcare will continue through her last Will.

Bequeathing the entire sale proceeds of her apartment to the research on the incurable MND and its related conditions, under the ACP for Neuroscience, Ms Tan hoped that her gift will help push the boundaries of MND research to break new grounds. It was Ms Tan’s most sincere wish that one day, advancement in MND treatments and care will help improve the lifespan and quality of life of MND sufferers and also alleviate the emotional distress of their families.

IN APPRECIATION

A Strong Foundation for Success

The foundation of Duke-NUS’ many successes has stemmed from the efforts of Mr Tony Chew, who chaired the Duke-NUS Governing Board from its inception in 2005 to 2012. Mr Chew has in the last seven years given an incredible level of support and hard work to connect, facilitate, interact with, and represent the School to our various stakeholders so that we have been able to find a good fit in Singapore, and to build ties and mutual understanding with our various partners.

His hard work has played a key role in helping the School to flourish here, understand the Singapore context and structures and anticipate challenges. We are thankful for Mr Chew’s efforts and indebted to him for bringing Duke-NUS to where it is today.

Duke-NUS and our stakeholders are dedicated to building Singapore into a vibrant biomedical sciences hub. Together, we shape the future of the practice of medicine and medical research, to improve lives.

We are immensely grateful to the stakeholders who have supported us even from our infancy. These are:

- Duke University and Duke Medicine
- National University of Singapore (NUS)
- Ministry of Education, Singapore
- Ministry of Health, Singapore
- Singapore Health Services (SingHealth)
- Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore
- Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR)