Hello, I’m Victor Dzau. I am the Chancellor for Health Affairs at Duke University and the President and CEO of the Duke University Health System. With me, of course, is Dean Williams who is the Dean of the two medical schools – the Duke University School of Medicine as well as the Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School Singapore. Sandy…..

Thank you Victor. On the important occasion in which we announce this magnificent gift, I want to personally express my profound gratitude to members of the Khoo family, and to key advisors who have led to this decision. I’d also like to thank members of our governing board who through many discussions with representatives of the Estate laid the groundwork for their confidence in us. Likewise, I’d like to thank the ministries of government who have so generously conceived and supported this vision of the Graduate Medical School.

This unprecedented gift will have a strong impact on what the GMS can mean for Singapore, for the region and the world. It will greatly accelerate progress around our signature research programs. For example, in emerging infections that plague Singapore and its neighbors, and neurodegenerative diseases that are increasingly affecting all societies, and the way we do the best with known technologies to advance the health of our populations.

The gift will give us an immediate lift in recruiting the best faculty and the most talented students to the GMS because it gives a real sense of permanence and commitment from members of the community to this enterprise.

I’d like to close by re-emphasizing Duke’s commitment to the success of this project. That’s evidenced by the participation of senior officers such as Victor and myself who are deeply embedded in the organization, and also by the confidence displayed by our Board of Trustees when they recently approved a truly joint degree for the graduates of the GMS that carries the full impact of both NUS and Duke in their diplomas.
(Dr. Dzau) So I, too, would like to express my sincerest gratitude to everyone who has had a role in making this really magnificent gift happen. This gift will provide a tremendous boost to the new GMS Singapore and allow GMS to realize its vision; to be the leading institution in the world in training physician-scientists and in doing cutting-edge research. Surely the money will go towards supporting, as you heard from Dean Williams, research, recruiting the very best, retaining the very best, and advancing local scientists so that working together with the initiatives in Singapore, we can make tremendous progress towards transforming medicine and improving health.

At the end of the day, what we would like to say is that the gift and all the hard work that goes along with it can help to improve the healthcare for Singaporeans, improve their access to the latest technology and treatment, and also to position GMS as a leader regionally and globally.

Thank you.

***