PRESS RELEASE

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NUS & DUKE BEGIN SECOND PHASE OF COLLABORATION IN MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Building on the success of the first phase, both universities will continue to integrate and expand research and education

The National University of Singapore (NUS) and Duke University (Duke) announced today the extension of their strategic collaboration in education and research following the strong progress in the first phase, which began in April 2005 with the establishment of the Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School (Duke-NUS). Phase 2 of the Duke-NUS collaboration is poised to evolve Duke-NUS as an important pillar of Singapore’s healthcare and biomedical landscape through its key thrusts of education and research, with a particular emphasis on translational and clinical research.

Over the next five years, Duke-NUS will also be working closely with SingHealth to integrate the missions of clinical service, education and research, so as to innovate and contribute to affordable, evidence-based healthcare to meet Singaporean’s needs.

As Singapore’s second medical school, Duke-NUS aims to add diversity to the medical community and complement the existing medical school at Kent Ridge, as well as the upcoming joint Imperial College London – NTU Medical School. Offering a curriculum patterned after that of the Duke University School of Medicine, and innovated with TeamLEAD (Duke-NUS’ unique teaching methodology), Duke-NUS introduced leading-edge graduate entry medical education to give Singapore the flexibility to produce more doctors to meet the nation’s future healthcare needs.

Duke-NUS enrolled its first class of 26 students in August 2007. It has doubled its annual student capacity, since 2008, to 56 in subsequent intakes. To date, there are 186 students representing 21 nationalities presently enrolled in its Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) course. The School’s inaugural class is due to graduate in May 2011 – graduating students will be conferred a joint M.D. degree from Duke University and NUS, which is a historic first degree of its kind for Singapore and both institutions. An innovative PhD Program in integrated biology and medicine was added just this year, and many of Duke-NUS’ medical students are opting to obtain the dual MD/PhD degree on their path to becoming clinician-scientists.

To provide a strong foundation for cutting edge medical research, Duke-NUS has established five Signature Research Programmes – in infectious diseases, cancer and stem cell biology, neuroscience and behavioural disorders, cardiovascular and metabolic disorders, and health services and systems research - addressing key healthcare concerns for Singapore. The School’s “bench-to-bedside” research approach strengthens Duke-NUS’
potential to develop better, more cost-effective diagnoses and treatments and clinical procedures that will benefit Singapore patients.

NUS President, Professor Tan Chorh Chuan said, “Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School has made remarkable progress since the landmark collaboration between Duke and NUS was established in April 2005. In this short space of time, Duke-NUS has established a strong reputation, attracting a great mix of bright students and distinguished faculty from around the world. The Duke-NUS’ educational model is very distinctive, and the School has also contributed strongly to Singapore’s Biomedical Sciences (BMS) Initiative through its cutting-edge research. I would say that this partnership has greatly exceeded our already high initial expectations. The second phase of this partnership with Duke promises to be even more exciting and productive. Together with the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, I fully expect Duke-NUS to make even greater contributions for the benefit of the community in Singapore and beyond”.

“This is a very important day for Duke Medicine and for our partners in Singapore,” said Dr Victor J. Dzau, MD, Chancellor for Health Affairs, Duke University and CEO of the Duke University Health System. “The success of Duke-NUS is integral to the success of Duke Medicine’s mission of transforming medicine and health to improve peoples’ lives around the world through service, research and education. Duke will continue to build relationships with strategic partners around the world, but we will always see Duke-NUS as the crown jewel of our international activities.”

Duke-NUS Dean Ranga Krishnan said, “The faculty and students at Duke-NUS are excited at the prospect of contributing further to the growth of Singapore’s Biomedical Sciences Initiative. The school is heartened by the resounding mandate from Singapore and Duke University (School of Medicine) in our ability to leverage on the unique Duke curriculum to produce doctors, clinician-scientists and researchers of distinction, to strengthen Singapore’s basic, translational and clinical research capabilities and, to enhance Singapore’s medical excellence. We thank the stakeholders for their confidence in us.”

New Chapter in Duke-NUS Partnership

In Phase 2, Duke-NUS will leverage on the excellent infrastructure that has been put in place during Phase 1 to further expand and integrate education, research and clinical care. The School will train doctors, future clinician-scientists and researchers, while building on and spurring foundational, translational and patient-oriented research to benefit patients in Singapore and the region.

One of the key deliverables of the second phase of partnership between NUS and Duke is the partnership with SingHealth to further develop and strengthen healthcare delivery, education and research at the Outram Campus. Duke-NUS’ close proximity to SingHealth’s national specialty centres and the Singapore General Hospital fosters close collaborative efforts between researchers at the School and SingHealth’s clinicians and clinician-scientists, who form the core of the School’s clinical faculty. The long-term goal is the integration and expansion of the research and education functions of Duke-NUS with the healthcare delivery, research and education activities of SingHealth.

The Duke-NUS and SingHealth partnership at Outram will complement the National University Health System at Kent Ridge. The synergies from these two distinctive twin peaks of excellence will boost SingHealth’s BMS Initiative and help establish Singapore as the premier centre for academic medicine in the region and beyond.

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About National University of Singapore (NUS)
A leading global university centred in Asia, the National University of Singapore (NUS) is Singapore’s flagship university which offers a global approach to education and research, with a focus on Asian perspectives and expertise.

NUS has 14 faculties and schools across three campuses. Its transformative education includes a broad-based curriculum underscored by multi-disciplinary courses and cross-faculty enrichment. Over 30,000 students from 100 countries enrich the community with their diverse social and cultural perspectives.

NUS has three Research Centres of Excellence (RCE) and 22 university-level research institutes and centres. It is also a partner in Singapore’s 5th RCE. NUS shares a close affiliation with 16 national-level research institutes and centres. Research activities are strategic and robust, and NUS is well-known for its research strengths in engineering, life sciences and biomedicine, social sciences and natural sciences. It also strives to create a supportive and innovative environment to promote creative enterprise within its community.

For more information, please visit www.nus.edu.sg

About Duke Medicine
Duke Medicine is a world-class academic health center comprised of the Duke University School of Medicine, Duke University School of Nursing, a multi-hospital health system anchored by Duke University Hospital and the renowned Duke Clinical Research Institute, the largest academic clinical research organization in the world. Duke is consistently ranked among the most highly-regarded medical schools in the country and is among the leaders in research funding from the National Institutes of Health. Duke Medicine is located in Durham, North Carolina, but also stretches around the globe, operating a medical school in Singapore in partnership with the National University of Singapore and conducting over 80 research projects in 23 countries through the Duke Global Health Institute.

About Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School Singapore
The Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School Singapore (Duke-NUS) was established in 2005 as a strategic collaboration between the Duke University School of Medicine, in N. Carolina, USA and the National University of Singapore (NUS). Duke-NUS offers a graduate entry, 4-year M.D. training programme based on the unique Duke model of education, with one year dedicated to independent study and research projects of a basic science or clinical nature. The first batch of M.D. students will graduate in 2011. Duke-NUS also offers M.D./PhD and PhD programmes. A key player in Singapore’s biomedical community, Duke-NUS has five Signature Research Programmes: Cancer & Stem Cell Biology, Neuroscience and Behavioural Disorders, Emerging Infectious Diseases, Cardiovascular & Metabolic Disorders, and Health Services and Systems Research.

For more information, please visit www.duke-nus.edu.sg