



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Eminent Hong Kong gastroenterologist and academic leader to join NTU as Dean of Medicine**

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore) today announced that **Professor Joseph Sung**, an eminent gastroenterologist and academic leader from Hong Kong, will join NTU Singapore as the new Dean of its **Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCMedicine)**.

Prof Sung will be concurrently appointed NTU's **Senior Vice President (Health and Life Sciences)** taking responsibility for the integration of university-wide activities in health, medicine and life sciences.

He will also be appointed to the tenured faculty rank of **Distinguished University Professor**, the highest faculty rank at NTU bestowed upon faculty members with extraordinary scholarly achievements that typically span multiple disciplinary boundaries.

Established as a partnership between NTU Singapore and Imperial College London in 2010 to help meet Singapore's growing healthcare needs, LKCMedicine admitted its first batch of students in 2013 and graduated its first batch of doctors in 2018. On Tuesday (11 August), the School had welcomed its eighth and largest intake of first year undergraduate medical students at the White Coat Ceremony.

In announcing his appointment to the university community, **NTU President Professor Subra Suresh** said: "NTU is well positioned to focus our interdisciplinary strengths on tackling grand challenges in healthcare, and we are delighted that an individual of Prof Sung's calibre will lead this next chapter of development at LKCMedicine. I look forward to working with Prof Sung to drive NTU's aspirations in health, medicine and life sciences and to integrate them with NTU's strengths in engineering, natural and social sciences, and business to create innovations that will serve Singapore and the world."

Prof Sung will formally begin his tenure at NTU on 1 April 2021, succeeding **Prof James Best** who will be retiring after nearly seven years as Dean of LKCMedicine. Prof Sung was the Vice-Chancellor and President of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) from 2010 to 2017, and has held the title of the Mok Hing Yiu Professor of Medicine at CUHK's Department of Medicine and Therapeutics since 2007. Before serving as vice-chancellor, he was Associate Dean of CUHK's Faculty of Medicine and Head of the Shaw College.

## **Internationally renowned clinician-scientist and academic leader**

Throughout his career, Prof Sung has received high recognition for his research in gastroenterology, teaching and leadership, as well as substantial grants for his varied research work spanning a variety of healthcare concerns from the prevention and early diagnosis of gastric disorders and cancers to SARS and infectious diseases.

Prof Sung, a clinician-scientist, serves as Director of two key CUHK research entities, the Institute of Digestive Disease and the Stanley Ho Big Data Decision Analytics Research Centre. A prolific author of scholarly academic research papers, his international distinctions include awards for his contributions in the fight against the SARS outbreak and being named an Asian Hero by TIME Magazine in 2003.

He is a Fellow of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, Royal College of Physicians (Edinburgh), Hong Kong College of Physicians, Royal College of Physicians (London), American College of Gastroenterology, Royal Australian College of Physicians, Royal College of Physicians (Thailand), Royal College of Physicians (Glasgow), American Gastroenterological Association and the Academy of Sciences of Hong Kong. He is also an academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering.

Familiar with the healthcare and educational systems across the region, he has served on the Board of Singapore's National University Health System and as a Council Member of the University of Melbourne.

From 2016 to 2018, he chaired the Worldwide Universities Network, a leading global higher education network of 23 research-intensive universities committed to addressing urgent challenges.

Prof Sung was unanimously recommended after a global search by the LKCMedicine Dean Search Advisory Committee led by **Mr Lim Chuan Poh**, Chairman of the LKCMedicine Governing Board and a member of the NTU Board of Trustees.

Mr Lim said, "LKCMedicine is at a point of its development that is ready for the next stage of growth and in a way that is synergistic with NTU and the wider healthcare and research community in Singapore. Prof Sung is therefore well positioned to take the School forward to redefine medicine and transform healthcare."

On his impending move to Singapore, Prof Sung said: "I have long admired NTU's vision and the determination of its faculty, staff and students that has led to its formidable momentum and current position in global academia. I am honoured to be given the opportunity to lead LKCMedicine and to join the current senior leadership team to contribute to the university-wide development of activities that will improve healthcare in Singapore, the region and across the globe. I have been deeply impressed by the genesis and rapid development of LKCMedicine and I will work closely with both NTU and Imperial College London to chart the next exciting stage of the school's progress."

Prof Sung completed his MBBS degree at the University of Hong Kong in 1983. He obtained his PhD from the University of Calgary in 1992 and Doctor of Medicine degree from CUHK in 1997.

Prof Best, current Dean of LKCMedicine, says he looks forward to passing the mantle to Prof Sung next year.

“Prof Sung has an outstanding leadership record in medical research and higher education. His distinguished international career has earned him respect and accolades as a visionary academic leader. I have every confidence that Prof Sung will consolidate the strengths of our young medical school and set LKCMedicine further on our mission for excellence in teaching and research.”

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***About Nanyang Technological University, Singapore***

A research-intensive public university, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore) has 33,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students in the Engineering, Business, Science, Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences, and Graduate colleges. It also has a medical school, the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, set up jointly with Imperial College London.

NTU is also home to world-class autonomous institutes – the National Institute of Education, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Earth Observatory of Singapore, and Singapore Centre for Environmental Life Sciences Engineering – and various leading research centres such as the Nanyang Environment & Water Research Institute (NEWRI) and Energy Research Institute @ NTU (ERI@N).

Ranked amongst the world’s top universities by QS, NTU has also been named the world’s top young university for the past seven years. The University’s main campus is frequently listed among the Top 15 most beautiful university campuses in the world and it has 57 Green Mark-certified (equivalent to LEED-certified) building projects, of which 95% are certified Green Mark Platinum. Apart from its main campus, NTU also has a campus in Singapore’s healthcare district.

For more information, visit [www.ntu.edu.sg](http://www.ntu.edu.sg)