



JOINT NEWS RELEASE

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L'Oréal Singapore and NTU Singapore set up joint lab hosted by SCELSSE for deeper exploration of skin and scalp microbiomes

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore) and L'Oréal Singapore today launched a new joint laboratory hosted by the Singapore Centre for Environmental Life Sciences Engineering (SCELSSE), to conduct research on the community of bacteria, fungi, and viruses (also called the microbiome) that live on our skin and scalp.

SCELSSE, a leading biofilm and microbiome Research Centre of Excellence, will spearhead this collaboration with L'Oréal to understand the role of microbes for skin health. The researchers will also look into possible applications of microbes for cosmetics and dermatology.

Located on the NTU Smart Campus, the joint lab is the culmination of the long-standing collaboration between SCELSSE and L'Oréal Singapore. The partners have already jointly patented new technologies and this initiative will further strengthen their collaboration in the future.

The tie-up between NTU and L'Oréal exemplifies the University's research efforts as part of its **2025 strategic plan** to translate knowledge into enterprise that benefits industry and society through partnerships.

NTU Senior Vice President (Research) Professor Lam Khin Yong said: "This partnership taps on the technological and intellectual capabilities of SCELSSE as a leading biofilm and microbiome research centre at NTU, including its next generation sequencing technologies and expertise in mixed species biofilm models. Our collaboration with L'Oréal will help to translate this scientific knowledge and expertise into solutions that will meet specific industry needs, such as in the area of skin and scalp health."

Dr. Luc Aguilar, Global Head of Microbiome Discovery Domain for L'Oréal, said: "This extended partnership is a recognition of SCELSSE's scientific excellence in microbiology to further build L'Oréal microbiome expertise and accelerate discoveries applied to skin and scalp."

Dr. Mark Phong, Asia Director for L'Oréal's Advanced Research Labs, added: "We are looking forward to working with SCELSE to further explore the area of skin and scalp microbiomes, to fuel future innovations for our consumers."

SCELSE Director and NTU Distinguished University Professor Staffan Kjelleberg said: "SCELSE and L'Oréal have enjoyed a mutually beneficial relationship, with many exciting discoveries. This latest move to set up a joint lab takes our partnership to a new level and consolidates our combined strengths and expertise to propel both SCELSE and L'Oréal forward in a more impactful way, translating discoveries into beneficial outcomes for society."

The joint laboratory will be headed by **NTU Associate Professor Scott Rice**, Deputy Director of the Biofilm Biology cluster at SCELSE, and **Dr. Tarun Chopra**, Director, Advanced Research, L'Oréal Singapore.

About 20 researchers from SCELSE and L'Oréal are expected to work together in this joint laboratory.

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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, established 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 has 57 Green Mark-certified (equivalent to LEED-certified) buildings, of which 95% are certified Green Mark Platinum. Apart from its main campus, NTU also has a campus in Novena, Singapore's healthcare district.

Under the NTU Smart Campus vision, the University harnesses the power of digital technology and tech-enabled solutions to support better learning and living experiences, the discovery of new knowledge, and the sustainability of resources.

For more information, visit www.ntu.edu.sg.

About SCELSE

SCELSE is a leading biofilm & microbiome research centre breaking new grounds in understanding, harnessing and controlling microbial biofilm communities in environmental, industrial, urban and public health settings, addressing emerging sustainability challenges. SCELSE's interdisciplinary research focuses on community structure, function and performance of microbial biofilms and microbiomes, as well as communication mechanisms and micro-ecological interactions, using cutting-edge expertise and technologies in natural sciences and engineering. SCELSE is a Research Centre of Excellence funded by National Research Foundation, Singapore Ministry of Education, Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and National University of Singapore (NUS), and is hosted by NTU in partnership with NUS. Learn more at www.scelse.sg.

About L'Oréal Singapore

L'Oréal has devoted itself to beauty for more than 100 years. With its unique international portfolio of 35 diverse and complementary brands, the group generated sales amounting to 27.99 billion euros in 2020 and employs 85,400 people worldwide.

Established in 1990, L'Oréal Singapore has more than 200 employees, and within it, a Research & Innovation Center for advanced skin biology, foresight and open

innovation. L'Oréal Singapore consistently wins awards for its commitment to environmental, social, ethical, employee and consumer needs. It is the first and only beauty company to win the 3R Award from Singapore's National Environment Agency. It also consistently ranks among the top graduate employers in Singapore. L'Oréal sets out ambitious sustainable development goals across the Group for 2030 and aims to empower its ecosystem for a more inclusive and sustainable society. More information on <https://www.loreal.com/en/mediaroom>
