

## **JOINT NEWS RELEASE**

**Singapore, 30 November 2022**

### **NTU Singapore and Imperial College London strengthen ties with new strategic partnership in research, education, innovation and enterprise**

Building on their successful collaboration in setting up the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCMedicine), **Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore)** and **Imperial College London** have signed a new strategic university-wide partnership to expand their scope of collaboration across research, education, and innovation and enterprise.

The two universities are establishing the **NTU-Imperial Health, Sustainability and Technology Hub (NTU-Imperial Research Hub)**, which will focus on collaborative research in fields of scientific research and development that tackle some of the world's most pressing challenges:

- Artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics for healthcare
- Healthy cities and pollution
- Energy and sustainability
- Business and management
- Neuroscience
- Infectious disease modelling

The new NTU-Imperial Research Hub builds on existing areas of collaboration, such as in joint education and research initiatives. The two universities continue to fund innovative education programmes and research projects that support early-stage collaboration among academics, researchers, and students.

The partnership is signed today on the NTU Smart Campus by the two universities' presidents – Professor Subra Suresh and Professor Hugh Brady, who led a delegation of senior university representatives on his inaugural visit to NTU.

**NTU President Prof Subra Suresh** said: "NTU and Imperial enjoy a longstanding and close relationship, forged not only through working together on the joint medical school, but also through collaborations in areas of research and innovation. Entering a new strategic partnership underscores the depth of cooperation between the two

universities, which is driven by a shared vision to strengthen capabilities in research, education, and innovation.

“The NTU-Imperial Research Hub, established as part of our new partnership, will support both universities as we pursue research aimed at tackling some of humanity’s grand challenges. These goals are also articulated in NTU 2025, the University’s five-year strategic plan, and they include such topics as mitigating our impact on the environment and responding to the needs and challenges of healthy living and ageing.”

**Imperial President Prof Hugh Brady** said: “This new Research Hub will help seed the most ambitious projects and ideas in healthcare, sustainability and technology. From tackling pollution in our cities, to developing future transport and using AI to improve healthcare – the Hub will enable UK and Singaporean scientists to work together for the benefit of society.

“Global partnerships like this one are helping Imperial to transform lives and create opportunity around the world. Imperial and Nanyang Technological University have been collaborating together for decades and have made significant discoveries and scientific breakthroughs. This latest partnership demonstrates our long-term commitment to developing world-class science and tech clusters in Singapore.”

### **Strengthening the NTU-Imperial connection**

Through the **NTU-Imperial Health, Sustainability and Technology Hub** the two universities will explore ways that new technology can be harnessed to improve diagnostics, treatments, and care of patients.

NTU and Imperial will also combine their expertise in energy, materials, and decarbonisation to help create more sustainable cities and a zero-pollution society.

The NTU-Imperial Research Hub builds on decades of collaboration between the two universities in research, education, and innovation, including a joint research seed fund to kickstart ‘blue-skies’ research, and a joint education seed fund to encourage faculty and students to work together to develop new online experiential learning opportunities using digital technologies.

The partnership will also see the two universities carry out joint training for PhD students and early career researchers and promote academic and knowledge exchange between the institutions.

New research projects that have been identified include the development of a diabetes artificial intelligence network led by NTU LKCMedicine’s Professor Josip Car in collaboration with Imperial’s Dr Pantelis Georgiou and Professor Nick Oliver.

Using statistical models to improve estimates of the potential extent of flooding in at-risk areas is the focus of a research project between Assistant Professor David Lallemand and research fellow Dr Michele Nguyen from NTU's Asian School of the Environment, together with Imperial's Professor Almut Veraat.

NTU has also been one of Imperial's three partners since 2017 under its **Global Fellows Programme**, a collaborative summer school programme for PhD students to develop professional, research, and collaborative competencies as well as the intercultural awareness that is required to establish and continue successful collaborations.

NTU and Imperial signed a collaboration agreement in 2010 to jointly set up the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine. That successful collaboration will be completed in 2028, with NTU to award its own medical degrees from 2029. The two universities have been in discussions on expanding their fruitful partnership into other strategic areas, which has now given rise to the NTU-Imperial Health, Sustainability and Technology Hub.

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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, Medicine, Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences, and Graduate colleges.

NTU is also home to world-renowned 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).

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.

Ranked amongst the world's top universities, the University's main campus is also frequently listed among the world's most beautiful. Known for its sustainability, over 95% of its building projects are certified Green Mark Platinum. Apart from its main campus, NTU also has a medical campus in Novena, Singapore's healthcare district.

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

### **About Imperial College London**

Imperial College London is a global top ten university with a world-class reputation. The College's 22,000 students and 8,000 staff are working to solve the biggest challenges in science, medicine, engineering and business. The Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021 found that it has a greater proportion of world-leading research than any other UK university, it was named University of the Year 2022 according to The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide, University of the Year for Student Experience 2022 by the Good University Guide, and awarded a Queen's Anniversary Prize for its COVID-19 response. <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/>