



NEWS RELEASE

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NTU Singapore appoints veteran public servant Ms Chan Lai Fung as new medical school chair and university's board member

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore's (NTU Singapore) Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCMedicine) will see a leadership change at the helm when the School's founding Chairman, **Mr Lim Chuan Poh**, steps down on 1 January 2025.

Ms Chan Lai Fung will be appointed Chairman-designate from 1 October 2024. Ms Chan, who has served 36 years in the Singapore Public Service, will be concurrently appointed as a member of the NTU Board of Trustees, where she will play a key role in the governance of both the university and medical school.

Ms Chan brings to LKCMedicine diverse expertise and experience from having held various positions across several ministries and agencies from 1987 to 2023, when she retired from the administrative service in October. During this period, Ms Chan was appointed Permanent Secretary across 18 years, in portfolios that included Law, Finance, Education, Research, and Science and Innovation.

She takes over from Mr Lim who has also previously held various leadership roles in the public service, including Chief of Defence Force, Permanent Secretary for Education, and Chairman of the Agency for Science, Technology & Research (A*STAR). Mr Lim has led LKCMedicine since 2010 when it was first announced that a new medical school has been established by NTU in partnership with Imperial College London.

LKCMedicine has since graduated more than 720 young doctors who are now serving in hospitals across Singapore and is ranked amongst the top 100 for medical schools on the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings.

NTU President **Professor Ho Teck Hua** said: "Chuan Poh's steady hand in guiding LKCMedicine since the school's inception has led to it becoming a premier medical school that trains the next generation of skilled and professional doctors who put patients at the centre of their care. His foresight and vision in encouraging cutting-edge pedagogies, such as team-based learning, were instrumental in establishing

Singapore's youngest medical school as a modern, progressive institution for the future of medicine. We thank Chuan Poh for his invaluable service to LKCMedicine."

"We are also excited to welcome Lai Fung as LKCMedicine's new Chair and member of the NTU Board of Trustees. Lai Fung's contributions over decades of public service, along with her passion for education, research and innovation, place NTU in good stead for the future ahead. We look forward to her leadership and guidance in strengthening both NTU and LKCMedicine as a leading global university and a transformative medical school, respectively."

NTU Senior Vice-President (Health and Life Sciences) and LKCMedicine Dean Distinguished University **Professor Joseph Sung** said: "It has been a privilege working closely with Chuan Poh as he guided our School through the pivotal moments in our young history. In seeing through the start-up stage, the consolidation phase, and now the transition of the School from a joint medical school to a solely NTU medical school, Chuan Poh has played a leading role in developing NTU LKCMedicine into a world-class institution, while growing the pipeline of academic and scientific talent at LKCMedicine. I welcome Lai Fung as the School's new Chairman, and I am confident that with her depth of expertise and of experience, she will take the School to an exciting new chapter."

Contributions of LKCMedicine's founding chairman

Mr Lim, who served 38 years in the Public Service, said he looks forward to Ms Chan helming LKCMedicine. He said: "Lai Fung's record of excellent service and stewardship is well recognised. I am confident that NTU LKCMedicine will reach new heights in redefining medicine and transforming healthcare under her oversight and guidance. At the same time, I want to thank all the past and present Governing Board members, leadership and staff of LKCMedicine, NTU, Imperial, National Healthcare Group, as well as the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health for their contributions and support in bringing LKCMedicine to where it is today."

Mr Lim has been a member of NTU's Board since 2003 and is currently Chairman of Singapore Food Agency and ST Logistics Pte Ltd.

Under his leadership, Mr Lim steered LKCMedicine through significant milestones. He was instrumental in setting the strategic directions and organisational development of LKCMedicine as a joint medical school between NTU and Imperial. He supported the School's push for cutting-edge medical education and implementation of team-based learning, which was the first-of-its-kind pedagogy for an undergraduate medical school in Singapore at that time.

His counsel contributed to the School's MBBS programme being internationally benchmarked, with a reputation for being innovative, highly student-centric and

producing doctors who put patients at the centre of what they do.

Mr Lim oversaw the seamless transition of LKCMedicine from a joint medical school to an NTU medical school in August 2024, ahead of the planned completion of a successful partnership between NTU and Imperial in 2028. Throughout LKCMedicine's journey, Mr Lim remained a firm advocate of the School's mission of advancing the practice and science of medicine through education and research for the good of humanity.

Veteran public servant with established track record in diverse portfolios

On her new appointment, **Ms Chan**, who is currently Deputy Chairman at NTUC Health, said: "It is exciting to be part of a young medical school that has achieved so much in such a short period of time. I look forward to working with the management team to continue to build on the outstanding foundation laid by Chuan Poh."

Throughout her career, Ms Chan has spearheaded projects with significant impact on various communities and industries. In her first Permanent Secretary appointment in the Ministry of Law in 2005, Ms Chan oversaw the setting up of Singapore's second law school and the country's first dedicated international arbitration centre.

When appointed Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education in 2012, Ms Chan continued to drive fundamental changes such as the replacement of the Primary School Leaving Education (PSLE) T-score system. She also oversaw the establishment of MOE Kindergartens, the National Institute of Early Childhood Development, and the Singapore University of Social Sciences as an Autonomous University.

Ms Chan played a pivotal role in the development of the Research, Innovation and Enterprise (RIE) 2025 Plan, and led cross-agency efforts to strengthen the public sector's science and technology capabilities. This was achieved from 2019 to 2023 when she held concurrent roles as Permanent Secretary of National Research & Development and Science & Technology Policy and Plans Office, Prime Minister's Office, and Chairman of A*STAR.

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About Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

A research-intensive public university, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore) has 35,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students in the Business, Computing & Data Science, Engineering, Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences, Medicine, Science, and Graduate colleges.

NTU is also home to world-renowned autonomous institutes – the National Institute of Education, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies and Singapore Centre for Environmental Life Sciences Engineering – and various leading research centres such as the Earth Observatory of Singapore, Nanyang Environment & Water Research Institute 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, NTU has achieved 100% Green Mark Platinum certification for all its eligible building projects. 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