



NEWS RELEASE

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NTU Singapore's medical school sets up Distinguished Visitor programme and lecture series with anonymous S\$500,000 gift

S\$1 million raised in total with Singapore government matching

A Singaporean who wishes to remain anonymous has made a S\$500,000 gift to **Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore)'s Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCMedicine)** in support of the medical school's mission to transform medical education and advance healthcare research in Singapore.

The donor, who works in the finance sector, was impressed with the immense progress NTU Singapore's medical school has made in its first decade under its former dean Professor James Best's leadership, and hopes his donation will turn into a gift of knowledge for the NTU community. With matching by the Singapore government, the total gift is S\$1 million.

With this gift, NTU LKCMedicine will set up the **LKCMedicine 10th Anniversary (2020) Distinguished Visitor programme**, which will bring in Nobel and Lasker laureates, and other renowned scientists to Singapore to engage with the NTU community and address thought-provoking issues in medicine.

Aside from engaging with the NTU community, these Distinguished Visitors will also conduct a public lecture as part of the new **James Best Distinguished Lecture Series**, named after NTU LKCMedicine's former dean from 2014 to 2021.

At an event today to launch the Distinguished Visitor programme, **NTU President Professor Subra Suresh** thanked the anonymous donor for his contribution. In a pre-recorded welcome address Prof Suresh said: "The University is grateful for his contribution and his strong belief in this initiative and its potentially immense impact. His gift makes it possible for NTU and the LKCMedicine community to engage with renowned experts who are eminent leaders and movers in their fields."

The donor, who was present at the launch event, said: "Being such a young medical school, LKCMedicine has impressed me with its achievements over the past decade. My personal interactions with its then-Dean Prof James Best over the years served to

reinforce this, and that is why I decided to make this gift in its 10th anniversary year. I am hopeful that the gift will bring to LKCMedicine world renowned medical luminaries who will not only enrich the research environment of the School, but also inspire both faculty and students towards reaching for ever greater heights of achievement.”

Tapping on the expertise of renowned scientists

The **LKCMedicine 10th Anniversary (2020) Distinguished Visitor programme**, formally launched today, was initiated in 2020 to mark NTU LKCMedicine’s first decade and its transformation into one of the top 100 medical schools in the world, according to the QS World University Rankings.

Two Distinguished Visitors will be nominated each year to interact, network, and share their expertise with the University’s faculty, students, and the wider community.

Also launched under this programme is the **James Best Distinguished Lecture Series**, which was named after the former Dean of NTU LKCMedicine to honour his efforts in steering the medical school to international acclaim during his seven-year term. Now a Visiting Professor at NTU LKCMedicine, Prof Best kicked off the programme as the first Distinguished Visitor and speaker.

In his inaugural lecture on 19 March titled “Preserving the Art and Furthering the Science of Medicine”, he highlighted the role of medical schools as agents of influence for the future of medicine. Prof Best said: “Medical schools play many important roles, including producing the next generation of doctors. They contribute greatly to improve the health of society, both locally and globally. The multiple roles that medical schools play do not just anticipate the future of medicine, but shape the future of medicine.”

The next Distinguished Visitor to arrive in Singapore later this year is **Professor Barry Marshall**, Nobel laureate and Clinical Professor and Co-Director of the Marshall Centre for Infectious Diseases Research and Training at the University of Western Australia in Perth.

He shares the 2005 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine with pathologist J. Robin Warren for their discovery that stomach ulcers are an infectious disease caused by bacteria.

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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 last 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.

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.