

LEE KONG CHIAN
SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE



NANYANG
TECHNOLOGICAL
UNIVERSITY
SINGAPORE

Imperial College
London

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF **THE ACADEMIC RESPIRATORY INITIATIVE FOR PULMONARY HEALTH (TARIPH)**

GUEST-OF-HONOUR

Associate Professor Benjamin Ong
Director of Medical Services, Ministry of Health

Monday, 19 March 2018
Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine
Novena Campus
Toh Kian Chui Annex, Lecture Theatre
11 Mandalay Road, Singapore 308232

Dear colleagues,

When it comes to respiratory diseases, Singaporeans can in many ways be seen as outliers against the backdrop of evidence built on data from Caucasian patient populations. Smoking may be the leading cause for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), yet one in three Singaporean patients with this often fatal condition is a non-smoker, a rate that is higher than in the US or UK. Other common chronic respiratory diseases – from asthma to bronchiectasis – also affect Singaporeans differently from Caucasian patients.


Taking on the challenge to understand the unique characteristics of lung diseases in Singapore and improve prevention, treatment and services, the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCMedicine), a joint medical school by Nanyang Technological University (NTU Singapore) and Imperial College London, established The Academic Respiratory Initiative for Pulmonary Health (TARIPH). A nationwide initiative, TARIPH will help Singaporeans breathe more easily by uniting academics, scientists, clinicians, engineers and patients to relevant research from bench to bedside.

Launched with more than 30 investigators from local and international institutions already on board, projects under TARIPH will generate evidence on how respiratory illnesses present and develop in local patient populations to benefit Singaporeans with respiratory diseases. They will be informed by our rapidly ageing population, lifestyles and unique environment.

I am heartened that TARIPH investigators come from diverse backgrounds, ranging from physiology, engineering to data analytics, epidemiology and clinical medicine, and represent all stages of the bench-to-bedside chain, starting with academia and ending in primary care.

Through TARIPH, I believe we can improve the lung health of Singaporeans and transform the broader Singapore research landscape.

Yours Sincerely



James Best
Dean, Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine



Dear friends, colleagues and collaborators,


We are honoured to be tasked with the academic leadership of TARIPH, a unique research initiative focused on improving the lung health of Singaporeans. The strategic aim of TARIPH is to align academic expertise in respiratory research for the benefit of patients. To do this effectively we must ensure that TARIPH remains centred on patients, people and perseverance toward a shared goal that is focused on seamless integration of interdisciplinary teams to address important scientific questions at both the bench and bedside. The success of TARIPH is critically anchored on the participation of our local respiratory health community and like-minded international experts in our programme.

“Research exists for patients and not vice-versa” and we must never lose sight of the foundations upon which TARIPH has been established – to perform cutting-edge world-class respiratory research for Singaporeans built on strong, collaborative and interdisciplinary partnerships.

We look forward to an exciting journey together.



Asst Prof Sanjay Chotirmall
Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine
Co-Academic Lead, TARIPH



Assoc Prof Fabian Lim
Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine
Co-Academic Lead, TARIPH



9:00am – 9:05am	Introduction
9:05am – 9:15am	Welcome Address Prof Lionel LEE <i>Executive Vice-Dean, Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore</i>
9:15am – 9:25am	Welcome Address by Guest-of-Honour Assoc Prof Benjamin ONG <i>Director of Medical Services, Ministry of Health, Singapore</i>
9:25am – 9:35am	Launch of The Academic Respiratory Initiative for Pulmonary Health (TARIPH)
9:35am – 9:45am	Signing of Memorandum-of-Understanding by Nanyang Technological University Singapore, National University of Singapore, University of Newcastle, University of British Columbia, Karolinska Institutet and Imperial College London
9:45am – 10:00am	Academic Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine from the Trenches Prof LIM Tow Keang <i>Professor and Senior Consultant, Department of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, National University Hospital, National University of Singapore</i>
10:00am – 10:10am	Severe Asthma in Singapore: Uniquely Different? Adj Assoc Prof Mariko KOH <i>Director, Clinical Trials and Research Centre, Singapore General Hospital Senior Consultant, Department of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, Singapore General Hospital Adjunct Associate Professor, Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore</i>
10:10am – 10:20am	COPD: Not a 'Cigarette Only' Pulmonary Disease Adj Assoc Prof Augustine TEE <i>Head & Senior Consultant, Department of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine Chief, Division of Medicine, Changi General Hospital</i>
10:20am – 10:30am	Asian Phenotypes of Lung Disease: Our Need for an Academic Approach Asst Prof Sanjay CHOTIRMALL <i>Assistant Professor of Molecular Medicine, Principal Investigator, Translational Respiratory Research, Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore</i>
10:30am – 10:40am	Why Are Singaporeans Highly Atopic? Assoc Prof CHEW Fook Tim <i>Vice-Dean (Faculty of Science), Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore</i>
10:40am – 10:50am	Managing Respiratory Diseases in Primary Care: A Continuum from Prevention to Palliation Adj Assoc Prof TAN Ngiap Chuan <i>Director, Department of Research, SingHealth Polyclinics Vice-Chair (Research), SingHealth-Duke NUS Family Medicine Academic Clinical Programme</i>
10:50am – 11:00am	Back to the Future: Respiratory Medicine in 2030 Adj Assoc Prof John ABISHEGANADEN <i>Head & Senior Consultant, Department of Respiratory & Critical Care Medicine Clinical Director, Case Management Unit, Tan Tock Seng Hospital</i>
11:00am – 11:15am	Coffee Break @ Lecture Theatre foyer

“We learn. We grow. We advance. Together.”

Adj Assoc Prof Mariko KOH
Director, Clinical Trials and Research Centre, Singapore General Hospital
Senior Consultant, Department of Respiratory & Critical Care Medicine, Singapore General Hospital
Adjunct Associate Professor, Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore

“Lung health is poised to be the next significant medical condition in this generation, after cancer and cardiometabolic disease. The formation of TARIPH is timely, to position Singapore at the frontiers of research, advancing the science of respiratory diseases, and most importantly benefiting the patients that we care for.”

Adj Assoc Prof Augustine TEE
Head & Senior Consultant, Department of Respiratory & Critical Care Medicine
Chief, Division of Medicine, Changi General Hospital

“I look forward to having close collaborations with the wider community through TARIPH as I think there is collective strength and synergy in the expertise and experiences brought about by the various groups and individuals here.”

Assoc Prof CHEW Fook Tim
Vice Dean (Faculty of Science), Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore

“TARIPH will be the crucible for seamless integrative research between family physicians and pulmonologists to identify key factors that will successfully improve the pulmonary health of the population.”

Adj Assoc Prof TAN Ngiap Chuan
Director, Department of Research, SingHealth Polyclinics
Vice-Chair (Research), SingHealth-Duke NUS Family Medicine Academic Clinical Programme

“I am happy to participate in and support this new initiative. Having TARIPH will provide a platform to help link appropriate LKCMedicine and NTU Singapore faculty and clinicians across Singapore, and establish centres of excellence with each other to promote collaborative efforts that focus on research in pulmonary health and disease. This will be good for Singapore, as we see an urgent need to focus on population health issues from a Respiratory lens.”

Adj Assoc Prof John ABISHEGANADEN
Head & Senior Consultant, Department of Respiratory & Critical Care Medicine
Clinical Director, Case Management Unit, Tan Tock Seng Hospital

About TARIPH

The Academic Respiratory Initiative for Pulmonary Health (TARIPH) at LKCMedicine aims to perform collaborative interdisciplinary research focused on respiratory health and disease. It aims to improve the understanding of factors that affect respiratory status in Singapore and through research, optimise prevention and treatment strategies for disease. TARIPH encourages individuals, groups, academic institutions, clinical sites and industrial partners all of whom share a common interest in respiratory academia to work more closely together. By providing a strong research platform, it will encompass basic, translational and clinical arms.

TARIPH will harness existing academic and clinical strengths to synergise national efforts to improve lung health and provide a collective manifesto to (1) improve respiratory health through research by better understanding its unique features, health, economic and social consequences in Singapore; (2) educate and inform the public, our patients, clinicians and scientists about the importance of respiratory disease prevention and (3) support major grant applications at an individual, group and/or programmatic level by promoting collaboration across Singapore.