



NHG COLLABORATES WITH TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Joint Programme MOU for Clinician Scientist Development and Serious Gaming Student Internship Programme MOA inked

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

To further develop budding Clinician Scientists (CS) and fund their research work, the National Healthcare Group (NHG) and the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on a **Joint Programme for Clinician Scientist Development** at the Opening Ceremony of the Singapore Health and Biomedical Congress (SHBC) 2018. This MOU reaffirms the NHG-NTU commitment to develop a strong pipeline of Clinician Scientists, and promotes Singapore's reputation as a global hub for biomedical research.

Mr Gan Kim Yong, Minister for Health, was the Guest-of-Honour for the event.

GROOMING MORE CLINICIAN SCIENTISTS

The care needs of Singaporeans are challenging due to our ageing population, higher incidence of frailty, and rising prevalence of complex chronic diseases. Having a good understanding of how the human body works, and translating this medical knowledge into research and novel applications for clinical practice, can enable our population to improve their health status and to live well through proactive and preventive care.

Professor Lim Tock Han, Deputy Group CEO (Education & Research), NHG, said, "Clinician Scientists serve as a crucial conduit between laboratory and clinical research leading to better patient care. NHG is the primary clinical training partner for NTU's Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCMedicine), and we have jointly developed a comprehensive research career development roadmap for our Clinician Scientists. This begins from the early stage of their clinical career to when they become full-fledged Clinician Scientists, well-equipped to participate in national talent development schemes such as the National Medical Research Council (NMRC) Awards. Today's MOU formalises our partnership to further grow NHG's research talents in niche areas such as metabolic diseases, including diabetes, infectious disease, skin disorders, mental health, geriatrics, and wellness in Population Health."

NHG's Clinician Scientists' passion and pursuit of scientific excellence and discoveries have benefitted patients. An example is a research study on employing non-invasive imaging technology to screen for abnormal blood vessels in the eye, led by Associate Professor Colin Tan, Senior Consultant, Department of Ophthalmology, Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH) and Assistant Professor at LKCMedicine. Assoc/Professor Tan's study focuses on using Optical

Coherence Tomography Angiography for screening and diagnosing Polypoidal Choroidal Vasculopathy (PCV), an eye condition common among the Asian population which may cause blindness in older adults. Results have shown that this non-invasive method allows for safer and faster screening and monitoring of the condition, thus leading to improved delivery of treatment for PCV and better patient care outcome.

NHG PARTNERS POLYTECHNICS AND ITE TO NURTURE YOUNG HEALTHCARE INNOVATORS

Students from the Polytechnics and the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) in Singapore will soon play a key role in transforming the delivery of care through Serious Gaming. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to establish the **ALIVE-POLY-ITE Student Internship Programme** was signed today by NHG, NTU, five Polytechnics: Nanyang Polytechnic, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Republic Polytechnic, Temasek Polytechnic, and Singapore Polytechnic, and ITE.

The ALIVE-POLY-ITE Student Internship Programme seeks out potential students from Polytechnics and ITE, with relevant diploma studies and expertise in games design/storytelling, graphics design and IT infrastructure, to take up internships with the gAmeS for heaLth InnoVations centRE (ALIVE) – a joint collaboration between NHG and NTU.

ALIVE will provide healthcare experts to co-develop Serious Games prototypes with the students. A monthly allowance will be given to the student interns for the duration of their internships.

Professor James Best, Dean of LKCMedicine, said, “The potential of Serious Games and simulation to positively impact health is tremendous, and is likely to be effective at any stage of life, and of relevance given Singapore’s rapidly ageing population. I look forward to discovering students with a passion for developing Serious Games, and working with them and our partners on prototypes that will help Singaporeans make healthy choices and live healthier lifestyles.”

Ms Jeanne Liew, Principal and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Nanyang Polytechnic, the lead institution for the internship programme, said, “This is a timely initiative and we are pleased to leverage on our experience with digital media and motion graphics to lead the collaboration. We have seen how Serious Gamification can potentially help alleviate some challenges in the healthcare sector by delivering timely information and engaging therapy to patients. The programme will give talented students invaluable industry experience, where they can apply their skills and work hand in hand with professionals and experts to solve real challenges in healthcare.”

Professor Lim Tock Han, Deputy Group CEO (Education & Research), NHG, said, “Through this first of its kind partnership with the Polytechnics, ITE and NTU, NHG hopes to tap our young generation’s creative minds and energy for healthcare innovation. We are excited to provide professional healthcare expertise to students to develop Serious Games prototypes through ALIVE. This multi-party collaboration is part of our on-going efforts to ride on the momentum of technological advances and challenging disruptions, to reshape, co-create, explore, discover

and translate ideas into user-friendly solutions for better health outcomes and population wellness.”

Both signing ceremonies were held today during SHBC’s Opening Ceremony at the Max Atria @Singapore Expo.

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About National Healthcare Group

The National Healthcare Group (NHG) is a leader in public healthcare in Singapore, recognised at home and abroad for the quality of its medical expertise and facilities. Care is provided through an integrated network of six primary care polyclinics, acute care and tertiary hospitals, national specialty centres and business divisions. Together they bring a rich legacy of medical expertise to our philosophy of integrated patient-centred care.

NHG’s vision is ‘Adding Years of Healthy Life’. This vision goes beyond merely healing the sick to the more difficult and infinitely more rewarding task of preventing illness and preserving health and quality of life. With some 18,000 staff, NHG aims to provide care that is patient-centric, accessible, seamless, comprehensive, appropriate and cost-effective.

As the Regional Health System (RHS) for Central Singapore, it is vital for NHG to partner and collaborate with stakeholders, community advisors, and voluntary welfare organisations. Together with our patients, their families and caregivers, we aim to deliver integrated healthcare services and programmes that help in Adding Years of Healthy Life to all concerned.

More information is available at www.nhg.com.sg.

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, set up 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 12th in the world, NTU has been placed the world's top young university for the past five 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 comprising more than 230 buildings, of which 95% are certified Green Mark Platinum. Apart from its main campus, NTU also has a campus in Singapore's healthcare district.

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

About Nanyang Polytechnic

Established as an institution of higher learning in 1992, Nanyang Polytechnic's (NYP) seven academic schools offer quality education and training through more than 40 full-time diploma courses. NYP also has a full suite of continuing education (CET) options for lifelong learning, ranging from specialist and advanced diplomas, to SkillsFuture modules and courses. NYP's Asian Culinary Institute and the Singapore Institute of Retail Studies are CET institutes set up in partnership with SkillsFuture Singapore to champion and transform Singapore's F&B and retail sectors respectively.

Through its strong network of industry connections, NYP empowers learners for work and life through relevant curricula and deep capabilities. NYP strives to be the innovative polytechnic, creating a nexus of future-ready learners, ready to take on new challenges and contribute to growth and sustainability. Nanyang Polytechnic is a recipient of Singapore's top organisational and business excellence awards: the Singapore Quality Award, the Innovation Excellence Award and the People Excellence Award.

GLOSSARY

林卓汉副教授 副集团首席执行官 (医学教育和研究) 国立健保集团	Professor Lim Tock Han Deputy Group CEO (Education & Research) National Healthcare Group
詹姆斯·贝斯特教授 李光前医学院院长	Professor James Best Dean Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine
刘珍妮 院长兼总裁 南洋理工学院	Jeanne Liew Principal & Chief Executive Officer Nanyang Polytechnic
新加坡卫生与生物医学大会	Singapore Health & Biomedical Congress
临床科学家	Clinician Scientist
南洋理工大学	Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
李光前医学院	Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine
医疗游戏创新中心	gAmes for heaLth InnoVations centrE (ALIVE)
南洋理工学院	Nanyang Polytechnic
义安理工学院	Ngee Ann Polytechnic
共和理工学院	Republic Polytechnic
淡马锡理工学院	Temasek Polytechnic
新加坡理工学院	Singapore Polytechnic
工艺教育学院	Institute of Technical Education