

PRESS RELEASE

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BIGGER, BRIGHTER, BETTER HUMAN ANATOMY TEACHING FACILITY AT NUS CATERS TO MORE STUDENTS



Medical students taking their pledge of respect for the Silent Mentors (cadavers) at their first practical class in the new Anatomy Hall on August 2015.

Singapore, 17 March 2016 – The study of human anatomical structures has been made easier and more comfortable for NUS medical students and staff, thanks to the improved teaching and learning facilities at the Department of Anatomy of the National University of Singapore’s Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine.

With more medical, dental, nursing, pharmacy and life science undergraduate students using its facilities to study human tissue and organ structures over the years, the Department embarked on six months of extensive renovations of its

three-decades old teaching facility in February last year. They were opened today by the Minister for Health, Mr Gan Kim Yong.

The refurbished Human Anatomy Teaching Facility now includes an enlarged, well-ventilated hall for anatomy prosection classes, during which visuals of dissected specimens can be projected on large TV screens, with commentary delivered via an enhanced audio-visual system. The hall and the new dissection and embalming rooms were upholstered with anti-slip flooring and improved lighting. New-generation trolleys with facilities for connection to efficient downdraft suction systems that minimise exposure to formalin means students and staff are able to work comfortably in the facility, which now includes a completely refurbished mortuary to accommodate more cadavers.

A new reception area for families and loved ones of deceased body donors and other visitors completes the list of works carried out to modernise and upgrade the facility, which is located on the ground floor of the Anatomy Building in the NUS Medicine campus on Lower Kent Ridge Road.

All in, the refurbished facility has expanded its teaching space by 16 per cent from the original 1,050 square metres and can now more comfortably accommodate the 800 Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Pharmacy and Life Sciences undergraduate students attending Human Anatomy practicals as well as residents and specialists participating in workshops there, said Prof Bay Boon Huat, the Department's Head.

"We separated the dissection and embalming areas from the general teaching area, so that specimen preparation could be carried out in a better work environment for our prosectors. The works are timely, because our student numbers have gone up over the years and we want to provide them and our staff with a more conducive learning and teaching environment.

"The human body is the most essential tool when it comes to learning anatomy. When students work with cadavers, they are able to keenly appreciate the three-dimensional relationships between different body systems, regions and organs. While computer-aided learning has its benefits, many pedagogical studies have shown that practical experience with cadavers remains superior. We are truly grateful to our body donors and their families, because their gifts ensure that our students will continue to receive the in-depth, hands-on training that is so essential for their undergraduate and postgraduate professional development."

Today's opening of the Human Anatomy Teaching Facility was followed by the opening of the 7th Asia-Pacific International Congress of Anatomists. The three-day event is attended by an audience of more than 300 Anatomy teachers and researchers from more than 30 countries.

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About National University of Singapore (NUS)

A leading global university centred in Asia, the National University of Singapore (NUS) is Singapore's flagship university, which offers a global approach to education and research, with a focus on Asian perspectives and expertise.

NUS has 17 faculties and schools across three campuses. Its transformative education includes a broad-based curriculum underscored by multi-disciplinary courses and cross-faculty enrichment. Over 38,000 students from 100 countries enrich the community with their diverse social and cultural perspectives.

NUS has three Research Centres of Excellence (RCE) and 26 university-level research institutes and centres. It is also a partner in Singapore's fifth RCE. NUS shares a close affiliation with 16 national-level research institutes and centres. Research activities are strategic and robust, and NUS is well-known for its research strengths in engineering, life sciences and biomedicine, social sciences and natural sciences. It also strives to create a supportive and innovative environment to promote creative enterprise within its community.

For more information on NUS, please visit www.nus.edu.sg.

About NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine

Established in 1905, the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (NUS Medicine) is the first institution of higher learning in Singapore and the genesis of the National University of Singapore.

The School offers one of the finest undergraduate medical programmes in the Asia-Pacific region. The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2015-2016 by Subject list NUS Medicine as Asia's leading medical school, while

the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by Subject 2015 placed NUS Medicine 21st globally.

The School admits 300 students to its medical undergraduate degree programme annually. Its principal missions are to educate and train the next generation of healthcare professionals, and foster research that will help to transform the practice of medicine.

Its 18 departments in the basic sciences and clinical specialties work closely with the Centre for Biomedical Ethics and the Centre for Medical Education to ensure that teaching and research are aligned and relevant to Singapore's healthcare needs.

The School is also a member of the National University Health System (NUHS), an integrated academic health system which comprises the National University Hospital (NUH), the National University Cancer Institute, Singapore (NCIS), the National University Heart Centre, Singapore (NUHCS), the NUS Faculty of Dentistry and the NUS Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health.

For more information on NUS Medicine, please visit www.medicine.nus.edu.sg/